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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

# Tenth Dems to Welcome Senator Amy Klobuchar and to Honor Our Own

by Kimberly Rodriguez

The Tenth Dems will host the Annual Fundraiser and Volunteer of the Year Award Dinner at the Highland Park Country Club on Sunday, September 18. The keynote speaker will be Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

Who is Senator Amy Klobuchar? *The Washington Post* has described U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar as a “rising star,” and *The New York Times* included her in a list of the 17 women most likely to become the first female President of the United States. Serving in Minnesota’s Senate delegation with fellow Democratic Senator Al Franken, she is widely noted for her exceptional work in bringing innovative agendas to Congress. This is not an event you want to miss!



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# Tenth News

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SEPTEMBER 2011 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 8, Edition 9

## Dold, House Republicans Sacrifice Tens of Thousands of Jobs and Billions in Revenues on Altar of “Union-Busting”

As the debt-ceiling crisis took center stage this summer, another stalemate between House Republicans and Senate Democrats was in progress, this one over the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. Congress’ failure to extend the legislation that authorizes the existence of this agency caused the FAA to partially shut down for two weeks, from July 22 to August 6. The impasse forced the FAA to furlough more than 4,000 workers; required airport safety inspectors to work without pay and shoulder their own on-the-job travel expenses; and brought to a halt FAA construction projects nationwide, furloughing as many as 70,000 construction workers. In stripping the FAA of its ability to collect taxes, the standstill also cost the government more than \$100 million in lost revenue (money the airlines have mostly pocketed).



The stalemate was over an anti-union provision in the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011 (FAA Reauthorization Act) that passed the House on April 1, 2011 with the support of 10th District Congressman Robert Dold. The provision specifically is aimed at reversing the 2010 National Mediation Board (NMB) decision that requires union elections to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast. Previously, under the

1926 Railway Labor Act, workers who did not cast a vote in a representation election automatically were counted as “no” votes.

“There are, of course, several reasons why a person may not vote in an election, and it makes no sense to automatically and arbitrarily assign a ‘no’ vote to all non-voters,” explained Edward Wytkind, president of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department. “The

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SEE INSIDE FOR NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY CONNECTION AND A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE SHOOTINGS IN NORWAY





## Congress Watch *continued from page 1*

deck has been stacked against workers for too long with many union elections being invalidated by unfair rules that required super majority participation—a standard found nowhere else in our democracy. The new rules put an end to the practice of counting all non-voting employees as ‘no’ votes.”

Because the NMB ruling makes it easier for workers to organize and form unions, Republicans and corporations have fought relentlessly to block the ruling. In May 2010, the Air Transport Association (ATA) and 10 of the airline industry group’s members filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to block the NMB ruling. The court upheld the new rule, denying the ATA’s request for an injunction. In rejecting the airline industry’s challenge, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Friedman said that the National Mediation Board was fully within its rights to change the rules and the agency demonstrated “that the change is essential.”

Four months later, Senate Republicans put forth a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the NMB rule. The resolution failed on September 23, with both Illinois senators Dick Durbin and Roland Burris voting against it. The hijacking of the FAA Reauthorization Act is the latest Republican attempt to overturn the NMB fair election rule.

“Republican leaders are doing the bidding of a few airline CEOs who refuse to allow the [FAA Reauthorization Act] to move forward unless it eviscerates fair union election rules,” Wytkind said. To be sure, a major force behind the congressional standoff has been Delta Airlines—one of the few airlines without a strong labor union. Delta has been lobbying aggressively to overturn the NMB ruling which makes it easier for workers to organize and form unions. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the airline spent \$1.6 million on lobbying in the first half of 2011, alone.

Complicating matters, Representative John Mica (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee, added a second poison pill to the FAA Reauthorization Act, ending federal subsidies to the Essential Air Services Program (EAS), which funds air service for 13 small rural airports, including airports used by prominent Senate Democrats, including Majority Leader Harry Reid. Mica himself has admitted the amendment is a ploy to force the Senate to accept the full House bill, including the provision that proposes to overturn the NMB ruling.

“It’s just a tool to try to motivate some action and get this resolved,” he said, disavowing all responsibility for the fallout of the shutdown. “It will be the responsibility of the other body that doesn’t take this up and pass it,” he said. “They will be furloughing people and putting people out of jobs.”

Jay Rockefeller (D-W. Va.), chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, however, has said Mica’s attempt to punish the Senate by hurting small community air service has backfired. “It only guarantees the Senate will reject the FAA extension.” The Senate version of the reauthorization bill does not include the anti-union provision. And President Obama has vowed to veto any bill that eliminates workers’ right to a democratic election.

After most members of Congress had already left town for the August break, Republicans yielded, at least temporarily, to pressure from President Obama; the House and the Senate reached a deal to pass a short-term extension of the FAA operating authority through mid-September when Congress resumes. The temporary measure doesn’t resolve the significant differences that caused the standoff. These remain to be addressed when Congress reconvenes in the fall. But, for now, the deal allows furloughed workers—FAA employees as well as construction workers employed by contractors—to return to their jobs. The deal also prevents the government from losing more airline tax revenues, which could exceed \$1 billion while Congress is on vacation. **TD**

## Grassroots Prevail Over Astroturf in Wisconsin

*by Barbara Altman*

Democrats can take a great deal of pride in the results of this summer’s Wisconsin recall elections. All three threatened Democratic state legislators turned back Republican recall efforts while Democrats unseated two Republican senators.

Predictably, Illinois’ Republican U.S. Senator Mark Kirk tried to spin this Democratic triumph as a defeat, commenting at an August 10 press conference, “The organized far left was dealt a critical blow.” *Highland Park News*, p. 17 (Aug. 19, 2011). Kirk thereby managed to squeeze two falsehoods into a simple nine-word sentence. Driven not by the “far left” but by popular outrage at the radical far-right agenda of Governor Scott Walker, the recall elections succeeded in stopping the Walker juggernaut by reducing the Republican margin in the state senate to a single seat.

In fact, although Kirk and his party would pretend otherwise, the successful recall of two Republican state legislators in Wisconsin was a monumental accomplishment. Because Wisconsin law does not allow an officeholder to be recalled until he has served at least one year, none of the Republicans swept into office in 2010, including Walker himself, was subject to recall. Rather, all six Republicans defending their seats were elected in 2008, the year that Wisconsin voters overwhelmingly favored Democrats statewide, awarding the Obama/Biden ticket more than 56 percent of their votes. Tenth Dems can take particular pride in our northern neighbors’ accomplishment, as scores of volunteers gave over their weekends to telephone calls and door-to-door canvassing on behalf of Wisconsin Democrats. **TD**

# You Have to Ask Me First

by Jack Altschuler



My dad was a fighter pilot in WWII, and I grew up hearing stories about flying. Like most veterans, he was reluctant to talk about the war itself, so his stories were about airplanes, flying, and the men he knew.

I recall a story he told about a pilot who was reckless, who drew himself and others into dangerous situations more than once. Dad said that he finally told the guy that if he wanted to get himself killed, that was his business, but if he wanted to take Dad with him, he better ask permission first. There's a connection from that to what has been happening in Washington for quite a while.

There are three dozen Tea Party extremists in Washington who are sure that they are right. They demand that they get their way, and they take no prisoners. They're tough and uncompromising and seem to believe that their extremist behavior is a virtue. Some of them are there because they "primaried" a mainstream Republican and sent him packing. That sent a clear message to the rest of the mainstream Republicans that they'd better cave in to Tea Party demands or they, too, would be "primaried." Because keeping their jobs is what is of greatest importance to those mainstream Republicans, they obediently and consistently cave.

That has left one entire side of the House of Representatives polarized and unwilling to compromise on anything. For them, there is no price too high, no consequence too awful; they must have their way. Such is the perfection of their blinders.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the obligations of the United States of America, there are dire consequences for failing to honor those obligations and, bizarre as it may seem, some of those extremists threatened to cause default. They courted those dire consequences, and some even wished for them.

Default is a terrible thing that carries with it many consequences. Just ask an American whose house was foreclosed. Or ask one of the 99-ers what happened to their car.

But when a country defaults, the consequences are much bigger than a house or a car, and the consequences last a lot longer. The default of an entire nation is the equivalent of a person jumping off a tall building. For a brief lesson in sovereign suicide, have a look at the former Soviet Union, with emphasis on "former." Note that there is also an unintended parallel with them over our adventure in Afghanistan.

But, back to the main point.

So, there they were, the three dozen Tea Party members, poised on the edge of the roof of that tall building, threatening to jump. The mainstream Republicans were standing behind them and wore the manacles they had placed on their own wrists, and they were chained to the suicidal three dozen. Behind them stood an entire country. The three dozen and the mainstream Republicans had managed to threaten, bully, demean, and temper tantrum the country into allowing chains to be placed around every citizen over the issue of the debt ceiling. The three dozen and the mainstream Republicans had said that they didn't care about paying America's bills that had already been run up. Either they got everything they wanted and none of what they didn't want or they would jump, taking everyone with them to their collective death.

The old saying is that the behavior you tolerate is the behavior you get, and the entire nation got a death-defying dose of the behavior it had tolerated for far too long. The bullies were ready to jump and, what with the country not having stood firm against the extremists before then, the bullies got their way.

Except for this: If the bullies want to kill themselves, that's okay with me. However, before they'd try to take me and my country with them, they better ask for permission – and they won't get it.

Dad taught me that. He was a pretty smart guy. **TD**

# In Search of Monsters to Destroy

by Ron Levitsky

It's rare to find people practicing what they preach, especially in government. Therefore, I was gratified to learn that President Obama's military action against Libya was initiated, to a great extent, by Samantha Power. Power was a journalist who wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Problem From Hell – the United States in an Age of Genocide*. In it, she condemns U.S. foreign policy for consistently ignoring the major genocides of the twentieth century. A few years ago at a social studies conference, I heard Power speak movingly of the need for our government to actively oppose genocide wherever it occurs in the world. Currently, Power serves as President Obama's National Security Special Advisor on Human Rights. It has been widely reported that she and U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice persuaded Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to urge Obama to take action against Libya's dictator, Muammar al-Gaddafi.

There is no doubt that Gaddafi is a brutal tyrant, responsible in the past for international terrorism, most notably the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and for decades of brutality against his own people. And, unlike President George W. Bush's nearly unilateral war on Iraq, this military action has been supported by a far broader coalition of U.N. member states. In fact, the U.N. issued a "responsibility to protect" ("R to P"), which includes a no-fly zone over Libya and an arms embargo, because Gaddafi has been murdering his own people while attempting to stem the tide within his own nation of democratic protests that have swept the Middle East. As Professor Michael Doyle has noted in a recent *Foreign Affairs* publication, *The New Arab Revolt*, this "R to P" actually stretches the U.N. charter by intervening in the internal affairs of a nation.

For someone disappointed by President Bill Clinton's tardiness in building a NATO coalition against Serbia's genocide of Bosnians and horrified by yet another genocide in Sudan, I should be jubilant over this apparent change in U.S. policy.

Why then am I worried?

First, I've grown cynical over our nation trying to manage the leadership of other nations. We conveniently forget that Saddam Hussein was "our guy" in the 1980s when Iraq fought a 10-year war against the newly theocratic and anti-American Iran. Osama bin Laden was our guy when the CIA helped to arm the mujahedeen against the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan. For a long time, so were Manuel Noriega in Panama, the Duvaliers in Haiti, and Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Do we really know that, if Gaddafi is overthrown with our help, the new leaders of Libya will be any better? Is our guy Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan really the model we want other nations to follow?

Second, isn't there the possibility that U.S./U.N. airstrikes will actually cause more deaths of innocent civilians? On June 23, 2009, a U.S. drone attack in Pakistan struck a funeral procession and killed at least 80 people. Yet NATO commanders want more drones over Libya. As one NATO officer was quoted in a recent *Chicago Tribune* article, "It's getting more difficult to find stuff to blow up." The article also noted that Gaddafi's soldiers are using civilian facilities to carry out their attacks. While drones may feed more accurate intelligence to our forces, they may also lead



to attacks that include "collateral damage" – innocent civilians.

Third, for decades there has been a disconnect between how the United States views itself versus its image in the rest of the world. In the past, many throughout the world responded positively to Woodrow Wilson's desire to make the world safe for democracy or FDR's Good Neighbor Policy toward Latin America. But that was before the Cold War and the CIA-sponsored overthrow of legitimate governments in Guatemala, Iran, and the Dominican Republic among others. Recently, *The Economist* reported a poll by James Zogby's Arab American Institute taken in the Arab world, where President Obama's approval rating is 10 percent or less. The countries surveyed indicated that "American interference" is rated number one under "obstacles to peace and stability."

While President George W. Bush spoke of bringing democracy to Iraq and President Obama speaks of ousting Gaddafi — which is not part of the U.N. resolution — others note the vast oil reserves in both countries. In his harsh criticism of U.S. foreign policy, *Dismantling the Empire*, Chalmers Johnson reminds us that, "The United States possesses less than five percent of global population but consumes about one-quarter of all global resources, including petroleum." Quoting military analyst Charles Maier, Johnson refers to our vast network of foreign military bases (761, not including those in Iraq and Afghanistan), at a cost of over \$100 billion per year, as our "Empire of Consumption." Given the history of U.S. intervention, why would anyone believe that the U.S. is so altruistic as to intervene solely to bring democracy to a foreign shore?

Fourth, the manner in which President Obama intervened in Libya exemplifies what historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. has warned as the growing power of the executive branch. In *War and the American Presidency*, Schlesinger states, "War ... nourishes the imperial presidency."

President Obama intervened militarily in Libya without the consent of Congress, to which the Constitution gives the sole power to declare war. Unlike our own Civil War, events in Libya certainly did not place the U.S. in a state of emergency. Like the presidents before him from both parties, Obama violated the War Powers Act, which allows the President to use military force unilaterally only when the nation is in imminent danger. As Congressman Dennis Kucinich stated on the floor of

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# Don't Be Mad at Congress—Be Mad at Robert Dold

by Steve Sheffey

It's a cliché but it's true: most Americans hate Congress but love their Member of Congress. That's why approval ratings for Congress are consistently low while 95 percent of incumbents get reelected.

If you're mad at how Congress has handled the debt-ceiling crisis, get mad at Rep. Robert Dold (R-Kenilworth). If you want to change Congress, start by changing your congressman.

On July 27, Dold meekly went along with Speaker John Boehner and voted for Boehner's debt-ceiling plan. Here's how *The New York Times* described the bill Dold voted for: "[The Boehner plan] is irredeemably awful. It calls for cutting \$1.2 trillion in discretionary spending over 10 years and would only raise the debt limit until early next year. Then it calls for a second round of spending cuts, \$1.8 trillion, which must be enacted before the debt limit is raised again.

"Because the first round of cuts would eviscerate discretionary programs — and because the plan does not count the anticipated \$1 trillion in war savings — the second round of cuts would need to come from Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and other safety-net programs. To get cuts that deep in 10 years would require cutting the benefits of current retirees and beneficiaries or gutting health care reform, or savaging the safety net for low-income Americans, or some combination of the three."

The balanced budget provisions that Boehner added made the bill even worse public policy. Dold claimed he would have voted for the Boehner bill even without the balanced budget provisions; Dold doesn't even realize he's saying that he would have voted for a terrible bill, and making it worse by adding a balanced budget amendment did not give him pause.

These are the key facts, according to *Time* correspondent Michael Grunwald: "President Obama inherited a \$1.2 trillion budget deficit. And: Republican leaders supported the tax cuts and wars that (along with the recession, another pre-Obama phenomenon) created that deficit. Also, Republicans engineered this crisis by attaching unprecedented ideological demands to a routine measure, allowing the U.S. to pay its bills. Finally, Obama and the Democrats keep meeting those demands—for spending cuts, then for more spending cuts, and even for nothing but spending cuts—but Republicans keep holding out for more."

The debt-ceiling crisis was manufactured by the Republicans to advance a far right-wing agenda they never otherwise could have pushed on the American people. Thanks to Republican recklessness, the integrity of the United States is now in question. Of course people will wonder if America will pay its bills. A major political party threatened just that, if it didn't get its way.

Republicans are capable of holding the country hostage because they have a majority in the House. Party affiliation matters, but it doesn't trump everything. If Dold had the guts to stand up to Boehner and stand up for what the 10th District believes instead of what Kenilworth believes, then we'd have a good argument to vote the person, not the party.

But when a member of Congress, time and time again, follows his party when it matters, then the answer is not to get mad at a generic Congress but to get mad at the specific congressman who is voting the wrong way.

When Dold voted for H.R. 3 (the Republican anti-choice bill) on May 4, EMILY's List President Stephanie Shriock said that "Dold showed his true colors by standing with his Republican leaders and against the women of Illinois. Dold may have run on job creation, but he has done nothing to create jobs since getting to Washington. Instead, he's done plenty to take away women's freedoms and their opportunities to keep themselves and their families healthy."

Shriock was right. By voting for Boehner's bill and its irresponsible cuts, Dold showed how little he really cares about job creation. Dold can utter all the platitudes he wants about job creation and a "big bold bipartisan plan" (note the clever alliteration). He needs to own his votes, and he proved in July that we can count on Dold to vote with Boehner, not with us.

If you're mad at Dold, don't call Dold's office to complain. Unless your name is John Boehner, he won't listen.

Instead, call Brad Schneider at 847-748-3788 or call Ilya Sheyman at 224-216-2653. Brad and Ilya are the Democratic candidates running to replace Dold. Tell them you're mad at Dold, and you want to do something about it. They'll listen, and with our help, one of them will defeat Dold in 2012 and help restore sanity to Washington. **TD**



# For Lake County State's Attorney

## Meet Chris Kennedy

by Jeanne Marie Dauray

Chris Kennedy, experienced attorney, father of three, advocate for children with autism and disabilities, member of District 70 school board, little league coach, and long time resident of Libertyville, is running as a Democrat for Lake County State's Attorney. His calm, straightforward, and unassuming manner is refreshing in a person who is obviously not only full of energy, but also an effective agent for change



in the world around us. Even in conversation with Mr. Kennedy, it quickly becomes clear that he is always paying attention and that details do not elude him, which is perhaps how he manages to be so effective in the many roles he pursues.

Chris grew up in the New York area where his father was a Teamster with the New York City Sanitation Department and his mother was a teacher; however, while Chris was in college, his mother was hired by Abbott Laboratories, and the entire family relocated to Libertyville. Shortly thereafter, he was awarded a scholarship to John Marshall Law School. It was during his time at John Marshall that Chris met a classmate who would eventually become his wife, Lisa Sanders of Glenview.

Early on, Chris knew that he wanted to be a prosecutor, and he interned with the U.S. Attorney's office. However, upon graduation from law school, there was a hiring freeze, and so Chris decided to accept an offer at the Lake County State's Attorney office. During those first four years of practice, he worked in every criminal division (skipping juvenile), spent significant time in the felony trial courtroom, and was quickly promoted. Chris said of the experience, "I loved being a prosecutor, doing justice for innocent victims, protecting people ... I feel I can do more good there than in any other role."

By 1998, Chris became disillusioned with the way the State's Attorney's office was run and decided to move to a small law firm in Chicago doing civil litigation. As a lead trial attorney, he won two verdicts where over \$10 million were at stake. In 2004 he and a partner decided to open their own firm, Kennedy, Pierson & Strachan LLP, in Lake Forest. While dealing primarily with civil litigation, Chris also handled some employment law cases, including a political retaliation case against a prominent Republican elected official in Lake County, which is still pending. However, as Chris discussed his career, it quickly became obvious that his real passion is still for his work at the State's Attorney's office.

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## Meet Scott Drury

by Adrienne Kirshbaum



Though this is his first foray into electoral politics, Scott Drury, a Democrat running for Lake County State's Attorney in the March 2012 primary election, is well prepared for the job.

For the last seven and a half years, he has worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago under Patrick J. Fitzgerald. Unlike others who use public service as a stepping-stone to enter into private practice, Scott did

the opposite. He gave up a successful career in private practice in order to serve the public as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and in this position he worked tirelessly to bring justice to the Northern District of Illinois (which includes Lake County). But he was troubled by a justice system in Lake County that allowed innocent people to go to jail without holding anyone accountable. Not one for inaction, Scott has given up the career that he loved in order to fix Lake County's broken justice system.

Scott knows that the State's Attorney's office needs a complete cultural change. His independence and his proven track record demonstrate that he can bring about the change needed to restore justice to Lake County. In the words of a juror on one of his cases, "The general consensus [on the jury] was that Scott was an outstanding example of how we want our government represented."

During his years as a federal prosecutor, Scott vigorously fought for justice. He worked on and tried some of the office's most complex cases, obtaining convictions against corrupt public officials, millionaire scam artists, violent criminals, pedophiles, and drug dealers. Through actions, not words, he sent the message that no one is above the law.

Scott also made sure that criminals were required to forfeit their ill-gotten gains to the government, providing an added source of revenue. He will bring that experience to Lake County, turning the State's Attorney's office into a revenue generator; and he would like to see that money used to lower taxes and provide for needed programs. Another strength that Scott would bring to the office is his dedication to victims' rights. As a federal prosecutor, he routinely sought victim restitution from defendants and offered victims professional counseling services when necessary.

Scott grew up in Highland Park and currently lives in the Town of Fort Sheridan/Highwood with his wife and two children. He is a product of District 113's excellent educational system. After receiving his diploma from Highland Park High School in 1991, Scott headed west to the University of California, Berkeley,

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August has been a busy month for the Community Connection office. Since serving as an official Cooling Center in July, we have experienced an upsurge during our regular office hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, of walk-in visitors looking for assistance or coming to check out this Community Connection office they've been hearing so much about.

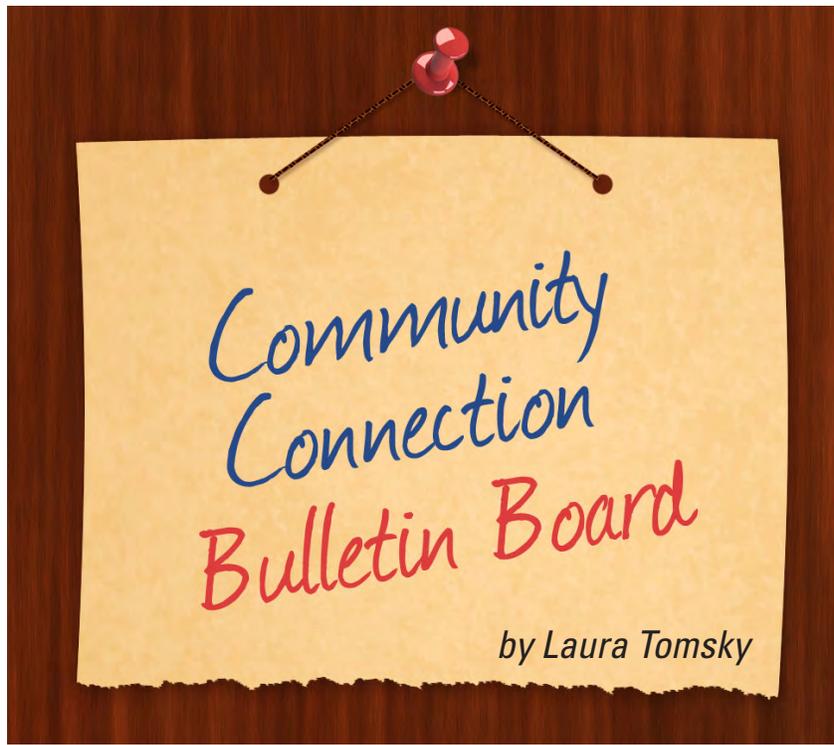
On August 2, we hosted our first in a series of monthly Free Movie Events. The group that came to enjoy the film *Taxi*, a comedy starring Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon, were also treated to free popcorn and lemonade. Thank you to Aryn Rose and Samantha Thomas for serving as our projectionists and ushers!

The Free Movie Event is scheduled to take place the first Thursday of every month to help increase Community Connection's visibility in the community, and to provide a safe and fun environment for people to get together.

I hope you will join us on September 1st at 6:30pm, for our next movie event featuring a "Back to School" theme. We will be showing the movie *Stand and Deliver*, based on the true story of Jaime Escalante, a high school teacher who inspired his dropout-prone students to learn calculus.

Many families in the Waukegan and North Chicago area are still in need of supplies for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in coordinating an effort to collect and distribute school supplies at our next movie event, please contact Laura Tomsy at 847-871-7049 or [Laura@TenthDems.org](mailto:Laura@TenthDems.org). Volunteers are also needed at Movie Night events for setting up, greeting our guests, and helping with refreshments.

On August 13 the Community Connection took part in the Waukegan Main Street and Sidewalk Sale by hosting an Open House and

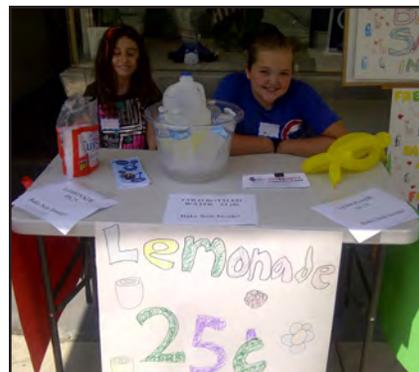


Bake Sale. The Main Street movement, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has helped cities and towns all over the country to focus on the revitalization of their downtown neighborhoods. This partnership has helped Waukegan Main Street to lead the way toward a more vibrant downtown that is drawing people and activities back to its core. Because politics isn't just about elections, part of the core mission of the Tenth Dems Community Connection is to work with local organizations, business and governmental offices to raise awareness of the many offerings of downtown

Waukegan. Revitalization of this area will have a healthy social and economic impact on this and surrounding communities. For more information about Waukegan Main Street please visit: <http://www.waukeganmainstreet.org>

Thank you to all the wonderful Tenth Dems volunteers who supplied a host of delectable treats. The event was well attended but abruptly ended by a large storm front that moved in to rain out the later part of the day, scattering shoppers, many of whom took refuge in our office until the storm passed.

Several families brought their children in to enjoy



the free games, face painting, and balloon animals we offered. Many of our visitors have asked to come back for our help with issues regarding housing, education, and a variety of other community needs.

We were happy to welcome one of our newest volunteers, Jonathan, who has first-hand experience with what the Community Connection office has to offer. When the big storm in July, which took out the power for nearly a week, also tore the roof off of Jonathan's apartment in Waukegan, he found himself in need of

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# Tolerance and Love Amongst Nations

by Max Boton

I felt unprepared. I needed more than an instant to adjust to what had just opened in front of me. I swallowed a gallon of spit, leaned forward, and even looked away for a brief moment trying to gather my thoughts. On July 22, as usual, I had opened up my laptop computer and navigated to my favorite news website. I guess I was expecting a picture of Obama and Boehner or something equally mundane. Instead, the entire page featured the events that had just occurred in Oslo and Utoeya Island in Norway that day.

It takes an insanely sick individual to target children; the scale of his crime led me to believe that the man who did this did not feel any emotion before, during, or after the attack. However, even despite the extreme severity of these attacks, I know that the Norwegian people will respond with calmness and clear minds. The time that my roommate and I spent living in Scandinavia confidently led me to this belief. The man who committed this massacre was obsessed with the notion that one day the values of his people would disappear amidst an onslaught of Muslim immigration. However, if we gaze into Scandinavian culture and recent political history, it is easy to see that most Norwegians' ideology is almost completely opposite to that of the perpetrator.

I studied in Copenhagen, Denmark for four months my junior year of college. My Danish politics professor taught that many of the cultural characteristics of Danish society are very similar to those of Sweden and Norway. For instance, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway have long been made up of one dominant ethnicity. This is in direct contrast to the United States. From the founding of America, this nation has been a multicultural mosaic whereas Norway has a population of about five million people, most of whom are ethnic Norwegians. However, in recent decades, Norway has become a popular destination for migrants. Last year, my roommate spent two weeks in Norway for a leadership and adventure program in the great Norwegian outdoors. While visiting the cities, he noticed the very visible presence of immigration in Norway. He told me upon his return, "I was actually curious about how Norwegians felt about immigrants." We taught one another about our journeys and, later, consoled each other after hearing of this tragedy.

In recent decades, Europe has seen an increased rate of immigration, wandering refugees, and oppressed peoples in search of asylum. The Social-Democratic or Labor parties that have long been in control of Scandinavian governments have



established very generous immigration policies that have made these countries some of the most favored destinations for those who are looking for a better place to live. One main reason these Scandinavian countries are such popular destinations for foreigners is the social safety net that their citizens are afforded. Denmark, Sweden, and Norway pride themselves on having well developed and effective benefit systems that all citizens can depend on. Quality healthcare, transportation, childcare, and other services are provided by the government at an efficient cost. However, these benefits can survive only if most of the population works and can pay into the system through income or other taxes. With greater numbers of immigrants and foreigners looking to settle in Norway, and amidst a struggling world economy, many people are finding themselves without work. The unemployed are forced to depend on government benefits, but they do not have the ability to contribute to the programs financially, creating additional strain. Thus it is easy to see how many ethnic Norwegians whose families have lived in Norway for thousands of years may become frustrated with a growing foreign population that is competing for some of the same jobs that they have held for generations. However, the relaxed immigration policies of Scandinavia have historically been supported by most of the population. The favorite tagline of my former Danish politics professor Jacob Buksti is "It's about Social Trust, Stupid!" He would explain to us that as long as people are working, whether as corporate executives or convenience store employees, they do not mind supporting generous social benefits. Scandinavia is the prototype of Social-Democratic states. He said that the rich and the poor would use the same hospitals, childcare facilities, and other benefits provided by the government. There is no doubt that these programs contribute to Scandinavia's being the home of some of the happiest people in the world!

I am an unflappable optimist. Rarely, can anyone convince me that the economy will never rise again, and every summer I believe the Cubs have a shot at the World Series. I know that most people, including the Muslim population living in Norway, will find jobs when the economy begins to grow, integrate peacefully within the native culture, and be able raise their children in a safe and loving environment. The governments in Scandinavia have already provided benefits that help foreigners stay on their feet until they find a job and can pay into the system. Norwegians should not

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# Yes, We Did!

by Eleonora di Liscia

## *The Obama Record on Gay Rights*

Sometimes change comes in with bells and whistles, demanding notice of its presence like a big brass band. It's signing the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell or refusing to defend the Defense of Marriage Act.

Sometimes change comes in on the patter of quiet, little feet, unheeded and unheard until its presence fills the room. It's giving gays the right to participate in the many services and programs that straight people take for granted. It's accessing services for victims of violent crime or being allowed to sit at a dying partner's hospital bedside.

So much of the time, progressives are looking for that big, splashy legislative kind of change. But what President Obama does within the executive branch can be just as important in a quiet way. And these changes can be swiftly undone by an incoming Republican, if we do not appreciate their import.

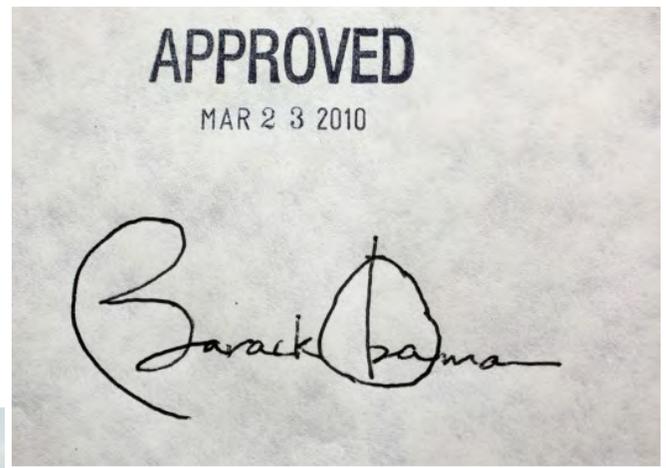
Here are some highlights of what Obama and the Democrats have achieved for gay rights. Yes, there has been criticism that the change has been too slow or too piecemeal, but imagine getting any of this under President McCain or keeping it under President Perry:

**THE SPLASHY STUFF:** You, undoubtedly, already know about the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Also in the limelight was Obama's decision not to fight challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act. The Act, passed by a Republican congress in 1996, bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, even if legal in a given state, and from extending the benefits enjoyed by heterosexual couples to same sex marriages. (<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/feb/23/nation/la-na-obama-gay-marriage-20110224>) According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the ACLU stated that Obama's decision would pave the way to declare all forms of discrimination unconstitutional. (<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/feb/23/nation/la-na-obama-gay-marriage-20110224>)

Also, on the splashier side, on October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which is the first civil rights legislation to provide federal protections against crimes based on gender identity or sexual orientation. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-reception-commemorating-enactment-matthew-shepard-and-james-byrd->)

**AT THE WHITE HOUSE:** On June 17, 2009, Obama expanded federal benefits to same-sex domestic partners of federal employees to the extent permitted by law. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/fact-sheet-presidential-memorandum-federal-benefits-and-non-discrimination>) These benefits include access to long-term-care insurance and family leave to care for partners and non-adopted, non-biological children. For foreign workers, it allows domestic partners to be included in medical evacuations and in allotting space for living quarters abroad.

On May 26, 2011, the Department of Justice offered grant money to develop services for crime victims tailored to lesbians, gays, bi-



sexuals, and transgenders (LGBT). (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/05/26/defending-rights-lgbtq-community>) Obama also proclaimed June, 2011, as LGBT Pride Month. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/31/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon>) As part of this, the White House hosted Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander LGBT youth to hear their stories and incorporate their needs into federal anti-bullying and HIV prevention programs. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/05/25/celebrating-lgbt-pride-aapi-heritage-month>)

In June 2011, Obama issued policy guidance for states to offer same-sex couples the same protections in Medicaid planning as possessed by heterosexual couples, such as the ability to keep their homes. (<http://www.washingtonblade.com/2011/06/10/exclusive-obama-extends-protections-to-gay-couples-under-medicaid/>)

Obama also nominated several openly gay officials to his administration, such as David Huebner, ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa.

**AND OVERSEAS:** Under Obama, the U.S. spearheaded efforts to foster United Nations' recognition of LGBT rights. On March 22, 2011, 85 countries joined the U.S. in condemning human rights vio-

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## **Klobuchar** *continued from page 1*

Amy Klobuchar was elected to the United State Senate in 2006, and she is the first woman Minnesotans chose to represent them in the Senate. Since arriving in the Senate, Klobuchar has been a strong advocate for middle-class families and Democratic values on the critical issues facing our nation.

Klobuchar currently is chair of the Commerce Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation and Export Promotion. She also serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; the Judiciary Committee; the Joint Economic Committee; and the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. She has worked to help small businesses, farmers, job creators, students, and families with legislation to create economic opportunities that will keep the American middle class employed and economically strong for the future.

Klobuchar has defined her record through legislation on many

important issues such as congressional ethics; Medicare cost reform; consumer health; product safety laws; consumer financial protections; elder care; women's health, particularly breast cancer prevention for younger women; child safety; infrastructure renewal and regional planning; sustainable energy; veterans' benefits; American innovation, and job creation.

Among the highlights of bills that Klobuchar has introduced or co-sponsored:

- Introduced the American Innovation Act for turning university-developed technologies into jobs for the future.
- Passed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (2010), which provides tax credits for small businesses that hire new workers.
- Sponsored an amendment to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), banning government regulators from accepting industry-paid travel from the organizations they are supposed to regulate. This bill became law in August 2008.
- Introduced Americans Giving Care to Elders Act, providing tax credits for families caring for aging family members.
- Introduced several bills regarding adoption: The International Adoption Simplification Act, Supporting Adoptive Families Act, and the Adoption Fairness Act. These bills intend to make international adoptions easier, less costly, and more emotionally supportive for families.

Senator Klobuchar was her high school's valedictorian, and she graduated *magna cum laude* from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School. She worked as a prosecutor for the Minnesota County Attorney's Office. She and her husband, John Beasley, have a teenaged daughter.

Tenth Dems keynote speakers tend to be memorable and always interesting. This will be an evening of celebrating the career of the Hon. Susan Garrett, recognizing Terry Blaurock as the Volunteer of the Year, and energizing activism for 2012 elections.

Hope to see you there! **TD**

## **Scott Drury** *continued from page 6*

where he graduated with high honors. While in college, he spent a summer working as an intern-investigator for the prestigious Public Defender of Washington, D.C., helping to prepare the defenses of indigent criminal defendants.

After finishing college, he studied law at Northwestern University, graduating *cum laude*. During law school, Scott volunteered his time teaching children in Chicago's juvenile detention center about their legal rights and the criminal justice system.

Scott is actively involved in his community and is thought of as a leader. He coaches youth baseball, has coached youth soccer, and sets a good example for his children by actively working to keep his community a family-friendly place. In doing so, he has spoken out against well-funded corporate lobbyists. He knows his positions aren't always popular, but he thinks it is important to do the right thing. He promises to take that same attitude to the Lake County State's Attorney's office, if he is elected.

As a federal prosecutor, Scott conducted training for the United States Postal Inspection Service, an agency that investigates fraud and other white-collar crimes. Now, he is an adjunct professor at the Northwestern University School of Law, teaching trial advocacy. In his position, he is able to stress to his students the importance of acting ethically, even if doing so does not lead to the desired result.

Scott Drury strives to be a public servant, not a public official. He has always sought to serve the public that has allowed him the privilege of working on its behalf. As State's Attorney, he will use his energy and experience to prosecute real criminals, make Lake County safe, and put an end to the wasteful culture that works against taxpayers. He wants to restore justice for all the residents of Lake County. That's why you should consider supporting him for the office of State's Attorney.

To learn more about Scott Drury and his candidacy, go to [www.drury2012.com](http://www.drury2012.com). **TD**

## Monsters *continued from page 4*

the House of Representatives, "In two years, we have moved from President Bush's doctrine of preventive war to President Obama's assertion of the right to go to war without even the pretext of a threat to our nation. ... The Administration deliberately avoided coming to Congress and furthermore rejects the principle that Congress has any role in this matter. ... This is a clear and arrogant violation of our Constitution."

Finally, what does a state of constant war do to our national character? In 1961 President Kennedy said that "there cannot be an American solution to every world problem." Yet, Chalmers Johnson refers to a Federation of American Scientists list of over two hundred American overseas military operations from the end of World War II through 9/11/2001. If I were still teaching eighth grade, my students, since entering kindergarten, would have known nothing but war. As bad as that is, what is worse is how our children are desensitized. With drones doing the dirty work for us in Libya, war is reduced to a computer game. And how do we explain to our children why we kill to bring democracy to one dictatorship like Libya, while coddling others like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan? How long can we attempt to be like ancient Rome – a republic at home while an empire abroad fueled by constant war – before we end up like Rome?

On July 4, 1821, John Quincy Adams, perhaps our greatest Secretary of State, said, "Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will [America's] heart, her benedictions and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. ... She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom."

If we ever expect the rest of the world to admire us, not for our material wealth, but for ideals of liberty and justice, it would be wise to heed the words of this American statesman who, like Samantha Power, practiced what he preached. **TD**

## Tolerance *continued from page 8*

react in fear to the message of one insane individual and tighten their borders, but instead they should keep their borders and hearts open to hard-working people who just want a better life.

All indications are that they will continue to do so. At the first funeral held for the victims, the Norwegian Prime Minister said simply, "We're going to answer hatred with love."

While studying in Denmark, I came across a word that had no immediate English translation. The word is *Hygge* (Hoogah as pronounced in English). The Norwegian equivalent is *Hyggelig*. Over the four months I lived in Scandinavia, I was able to articulate a definition. *Hyggelig* is a place or a time when one is surrounded by good friends, in a comfortable environment, where everyone is worry-free and all minds are at peace. I know from my experience in Denmark and my roommate's experience in Norway that Scandinavians will not surrender to hatred or fear, and that, just like the Prime Minister, they will surround themselves with *Hyggelig*. **TD**

**The author is a 2011 Tenth Dems intern.**

## Chris Kennedy *continued from page 6*

Throughout his law career Chris has also done a fair amount of advocacy. One of his lesser-known roles has been as an election-day lawyer whose primary function is to protect people's right to vote, something that Chris states is, "relevant—this is what the State's Attorney's Office should do." Perhaps of greater public knowledge is his work for children with autism and other disabilities, an issue one can tell is close to his heart as he and Lisa have a daughter with both autism and epilepsy. Over the past decade, Chris has been involved with the passage of numerous state laws that have created greater access to programs that serve children with disabilities. He has organized hearings throughout the state and worked across both sides of the aisle to accomplish this since, as he said, "Disability is a nonpartisan issue." In recognition of his efforts, Chris received the Autism Hero Award in 2007 from the Chicago Southside Chapter of the Autism Society of America and the award for Outstanding Leadership in 2006 from the Autism Society of Illinois. Some of the laws now in place because of Chris's work enhance police training in dealing with those with autism and other disabilities, and ensure additional monitoring in order to prevent abuse and neglect in facilities serving persons with developmental disabilities.

There is one more thing that makes Chris's daughter unique, and that is her middle name, Hillary. Hillary Johnson was a cousin of Chris's. When she was 24 years old and a graduate student in Memphis, she went out for groceries one night and was kidnapped and murdered. The loss and tragedy of these events back in 1999 have obviously changed Chris, and they reflect in his run for office. He talked about how the murderer, who eventually confessed, had been previously convicted of rape and sentenced to 25 years. He had armed robbery convictions, was suspected in two other murders, was found guilty of another sex offense, and escaped from prison, yet was still given early release, which is the very thing that gave this man access to Hillary.

As Chris finishes telling me all of this, he says, "The criminal justice system dropped the ball, and I won't let that happen." I believe him. Our conversation then turns to the questionable handling of DNA evidence in the Lake County State's Attorney's office currently, and he responds with his plans for changes in the office as well as saying, "I won't waste time chasing a notion that is wrong or have actual evidence and not allow it to change my mind. There are very real consequences to not doing your job well as a prosecutor, and they are enormous. I will always be looking for chances to do a better job."

As we finish the interview, I can honestly say that I am impressed with Chris Kennedy, both as a candidate and as a fellow human being. He has worked hard, he has not taken any opportunity given to him for granted, he has allowed the tragedies and hardships of his life to shape him in such a way as to make him not just a better person but also an actual force for good. And I believe it is that energy, that passion for the job, that continuous call to advocate for those most vulnerable among us, that force for good within him that will make him an excellent State's Attorney for Lake County.

To learn more about Chris Kennedy and his candidacy, go to [www.chriskennedy2012.com](http://www.chriskennedy2012.com). **TD**

## Community Connection *continued from page 7*

emergency and longer term housing. Aryn Rose and other volunteers at the Community Connection office worked to connect him with local services and organizations that could help out. Jonathan is settling into his new apartment and has started volunteering his help at the Community Connection office. He was one of our main volunteers on Saturday, greeting visitors and selling baked goods at our Open House! Jonathan's story is a great example of how a community can work together to solve problems and how the Tenth Dems Community Connection can help make our world a more peaceful, healthy and inclusive place to live, one neighbor at a time.

### **There is much to be done; we need your continued help and support. Would you:**

- Dedicate a few hours a week to help us extend regular office hours and add more open days?
- Volunteer for an event committee?
- Join the Literacy & Reading program?
- Work with local students on College Preparedness and Applications?

## Yes, We Did! *continued from page 9*

lations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The U.S. had earlier offered an amendment to ensure that "sexual orientation" was covered by a U.N. resolution against extrajudicial execution. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/12/21/statement-press-secretary-adoption-us-sponsored-amendment-ensure-gays-an>) According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Obama's support for U.N. action marks a change from the prior Bush administration, which had sidestepped the issue. (<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/mar/23/nation/la-na-obama-gays-20110323>)

During a recent trip to Brazil, Obama and President Rousseff created a special position to monitor LGBT rights issues at the Organization of American States (<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/mar/23/nation/la-na-obama-gays-20110323>)

**AND ON THE HUMAN SIDE:** President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and other White House officials contributed videos to "It Gets Better," a project aimed at providing hope and comfort to LGBT youth who have been bullied or harassed. (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/civil-rights/it-gets-better>)

For more information on Obama's progress, check out the "Obama Administration's Commitment to Winning the Future for the LGBT Community" factsheet at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/lgbtfactsheet.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/lgbtfactsheet.pdf).

As you think about these accomplishments, ask yourself what will happen if we do not work for Obama's reelection and any one of the current crop of Republican candidates wins the White House. **TD**



- Assist with afterschool homework or tutoring?
- Help Main Street Revitalization projects?
- Work an information booth at a Farmers Market?
- Be a ComCon Liaison and attend events of local organizations?
- Donate non-perishable food items such as energy bars and nutritious drinks; paper products such as napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, paper cups; or bottled water?

### **Upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:**

Steering Committee Meeting – Every Tuesday 4:00 – 5:30pm

### **Immediate Volunteer Openings:**

Tuesdays between 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Thursdays between 10:00am – 2:00pm

Saturdays between 11:00am – 2:00pm

Help us extend our office hours or add to the days we are open. Let us know when you are free to help out, and we can pair you up with another volunteer and provide training! For more information and to join our dedicated Community Connection volunteers, please contact Laura Tomsy, Executive Director at 847-871-7049 or [Laura@TenthDems.org](mailto:Laura@TenthDems.org)

Thank you! Together we can make a difference in our community and in our world. **TD**

## **Let's Talk Politics!** *Join the discussion!*

**WHERE:** Northbrook Public Library,  
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook

**WHEN:** Monday evening, September 27, at 7:00 p.m.

**This is your opportunity to engage in some intelligent political conversation with other well-informed Democrats. Opinions are welcome.**

**Advance registration is advised, so go to [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org) or call 847.266.VOTE (8683)**



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