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

## We Did It!

We won. Big. On November 6, the country reelected President Obama and the 10th Congressional District elected Brad Schneider. For the first time in decades our district will be represented by a Democrat in Congress. But that's not all. Our Democrats celebrated a host of other victories as multiple candidates defeated their Republican opponents. Together we all stood up to the extreme rhetoric and ineffective policies put forth by so many Republicans who believed they had a permanent lock on elections in our area. And we can all celebrate the success that resulted from our efforts.

Tenth Dems worked hard to support Democratic candidates with financial, organizational, and other assistance, but the sweeping success truly belongs to the volunteers, activists, campaign workers and candidates themselves



*Congressman-Elect Brad Schneider.*

— who braved the rigors of an election and the attacks of their opposition so they could serve their community in elective office. And we commend the hard work and sacrifice of every Democratic candidate who bravely stood for election — win or lose — and those who worked hard on their behalf.

We're very grateful for the continued support of

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# Tenth News

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NOVEMBER 2012 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter—Special Edition

## Fall Fundraiser, Finney Fire Up Dems

*Melinda Bush, Ravi Ganapathy, Jeanne Dauray, and Chuck Knight Honored*

By Kim Rodriguez

MSNBC contributor Karen Finney gave the keynote speech at the Tenth Congressional Democrats' 2012 Awards Dinner on Saturday night, October 20 at the Embassy Suites, Deerfield. The event recognized the contributions of Tenth Dems volunteers who really made a difference in the past year.

Democratic candidates from Brad Schneider to Andrea Schleifer inspired attendees by speaking at the event.

Involvement and courage—these are the qualities that help win elections. The volunteers who were honored on October 20 showed plenty of both.

Jeanne Marie Dauray earned the Tenth Dems Leadership Award for her tireless organizing for Democratic candidates and causes. She has held phone banks, knocked on doors, and hosted house-party fundraisers at her home in Round Lake. Jeanne has organized successful Tenth Dems University forums, most recently on women's healthcare. She leads by example, working to create a better society through democratic participation for everyone's benefit. Dauray hails from a long line of women activists including her mother, Mary Jean Kelley, a former lobbyist.



Ravi Ganapathy received the George Rosenblit Volunteer of the Year Award. What does this award mean to him? Humbly, he said he doesn't feel as if he does enough. After becoming frustrated with Bush-era policies, Ravi felt it was his duty to keep the promise of our country's

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## We Did It! *continued from page 1*

Democrats throughout the 10th District who have made our efforts possible. With their help, Tenth Dems has worked to elect Democratic candidates at the local, state, and national levels by coordinating campaign and election activities, recruiting and organizing volunteers, informing the public about important issues, providing direct financial support to candidates, and independently advertising on candidates' behalf.

In 2012 alone, Tenth Dems:

- Raised over \$135,000 to fund its 2012 campaign activities and contribute directly to local Democratic candidates
- Organized and implemented a district-wide Voter Protection Legal Team, recruiting over 60 attorneys and placing them at polling places to combat the aggressive efforts by Republicans to prevent or discourage people from voting
- Gave thousands of hours of volunteer support to our candidates
- Spent thousands of dollars to fund independent advertising on behalf of Democratic candidates
- Gave free publicity to candidates, spreading the word to activists and to voters who may never have heard about their campaign events and about their need for campaign help – broadening their support and volunteer base
- Provided candidates free advice and guidance on their campaigns, with targeting, networking and general campaign support
- Brought numerous volunteers into the political process, and many of them worked hard as managers and volunteers for local campaigns

Tenth Dems began eight years ago with the firm belief that voters in our district would support Democratic candidates because we knew members of our party share their values, work ethic, and dedication to improving the quality of life in our community. That confidence was emphatically justified on November 6.

Democratic candidates and their supporters invested their time, resources and energy to win in areas that were once considered locks for Republicans. We look forward to electing even more Democrats and to the strong leadership they will continue to provide for years to come.

We thank our volunteers, donors, and candidates for all they do. ■



Top, from left: Newly elected legislators Melinda Bush, Julie Morrison, Scott Drury, and Carol Sente; State Representative and newly elected State Senator Daniel Biss; newly elected Lake County Board member Steve Mandel. Above, we thank the generous hosts who made the Fall Fundraiser possible. Our report of the event continues on the following pages, followed by many more pages of photos.



## Fundraiser *continued from page 1*

founding fathers moving forward for future generations. Ravi has photographed innumerable Tenth Dems events and taken formal portraits for various candidates. He is also a critical member of the *Tenth News* editorial team; among other things, Ravi helps ensure that every edition of the *Tenth News* is posted on our website and arrives timely in subscribers' email boxes.

The Tenth Dems Founders' Award was presented posthumously to Chuck Knight, a longtime activist and an original founder of Tenth Dems. Chuck's widow, Claudia Lovelette, tearfully accepted the award. Chuck wrote the organization's guidelines and was a longtime member of the Executive Committee. He personally spearheaded the planning and opening of the Tenth Dems Community Connection Center in Waukegan, with the important mission that "politics should be about more than just elections; it should be about making our community a better place in which to live."

An attorney by profession, Chuck was a tremendous team leader who came early and stayed late. There would be no Tenth Dems Community Connection Center without him. The Founders' Award recognizes him as a person who worked very hard to provide help to the people who needed it most. Tenth Dems will always be grateful to Chuck Knight and to his family for his humanitarian vision and generosity.

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*Top, left to right, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash with Sen. and Mrs. Art Berman; Claire Montenegro, Mike Batey, and Marissa Bohrer. Second row: Meeting and greeting as folks arrive. Right, above: The program begins as, below, Pam Knowles and Carol Kraines continue to check in new arrivals.*



## Fundraiser *continued from page 3*

Melinda Willen Bush, running for Illinois Senate in the 31st District (and now senator-elect), received the Mikva Political Courage Award. As a member of the Lake County Board, Melinda has focused her work on creating good-paying jobs and improving the economy. When faced with cronyism and corruption at the Lake County and Forest Preserve Boards, Melinda called for substantial ethics reform – winning real changes that allowed public oversight and forced consistent review of their practices. She fought hard for, and was instrumental in creating, Rollins Savanna, Lake County's second largest forest preserve.

"Courage is about standing up for what we believe in, for what we know is right," Bush said, as she accepted her award. To illustrate the point, Bush invoked audience participation. First, she asked people to stand as examples of courage if they were running or had run for office. About a third of the room took to its feet. Next, she asked those who had canvassed or fundraised or worked on a political campaign to stand. Many more rose from their seats. And finally, Bush instructed, "If you are a family member of a candidate, please stand." Virtually no one remained seated.

Bush then paraphrased a famous quote by President John Kennedy from his book, *Profiles in Courage*: "For in a democracy, every citizen, regardless of his interest in politics, 'holds office;' every one of us is

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*Top, left to right, Mike and Nancy Batey offer an array of buttons; Allen and Doris Wagner and Phyllis Goldman help with set-up; Sharon Sanders and Kim Rodriguez take a moment to relax; Paula Castleton, Terry Blaurock, and Claire Vickman get ready for sign-in. Right: Luis Rivas, Jr., chats with Chris Kennedy; Hon. and Mrs. Mark Walker.*





## Fundraiser *continued from page 4*

in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities. We, the people, are the boss, and we will get the kind of political leadership, be it good or bad, that we demand and deserve.”

As is the case at all Tenth Dems events, current elected officials and former office-holders present were identified and greeted with enthusiastic applause. All currently running for office were given a chance to speak, including Brad Schneider, who is now the 10th District’s Congressman-elect. Schneider expressed everyone’s wish for a comprehensive Democratic victory across the United States, from the presidency to local school boards.

Keynote speaker Karen Finney, an MSNBC contributor, worked with Hillary Clinton and helped Gov. Howard Dean, former DNC chair, in implementing his famous 50-state strategy, which captured the Presidency and Senate and House majorities in 2008. In her speech, Finney told us that progress is possible. She explained Karl Rove’s “anger points” strategy, which plays on fears. Republicans, she said, are desperately evoking a distorted past out of fear, refusing to foster change, and holding back progress. Fox News amplified the anger points messaging successfully in 2010, Finney explained, but is now failing in 2012, because GOP positioning is out of sync with the public’s values and needs. Finney cited the Susan G. Komen Foundation’s attempt to defund Planned Parenthood as one of many GOP misfires. President Obama had correctly identified

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*Top, left to right, Jack Strom, Brad Schneider, and Scott Drury; Dan Seals and Steve Sheffey; Sierra Club Illinois Chapter Exec. Dir. Jack Darin honors the late Chuck Knight. Center, right, Fmr. Lake County Board Member Carol Spielman and Betty-Ann Moore, Fmr. Chair of Lake County Democrats. Right, interns Marissa Bohrer and Michelle Patino-Flores; Hon. Karen McCormick.*





Top, left to right: Adrienne and Ron Kirshbaum; Ravi Ganapathy and his wife, Jaya Jagadeesan. Second row, left to right, Madeleine and Harvey Plonsker; Hon. Mark Levitt and Patricia Fix.

## Fundraiser

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that family planning is a 21st Century economic bread-and-butter issue -- for women and men.

"The more the GOP claims the War on Women does not exist, the more they confirm that, yes, there is a war on women," she said. "The GOP and Fox News were shocked by the backlash, which they didn't expect."

Finney concluded her remarks by reminding us that "there's a process to change; it takes time. We are used to getting things instantly. Change requires us to get involved."

To illustrate her point, Finney invoked her own history. At the time that her blonde mother and African-American father were married, their marriage was illegal in both of their home states, which would be unthinkable today. ■



### KAREN FINNEY, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

A leading Democratic strategist, MSNBC Political Analyst and columnist for *The Hill*, Karen Finney works with political and corporate clients in the U.S. and globally in the areas of political and communication strategy, message development, crisis communications, branding, and public affairs.

Karen's more than 20 years in national politics include four presidential campaigns, the Clinton White House and a New York Senate race. She was the first African-American spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee. Karen

has also worked in the public and private sectors to improve public education.

As spokeswoman and Communications Director for the Democratic National Committee, Karen helped guide the DNC's communications and media strategy for Howard Dean's "50 State Strategy" to rebrand the Democratic Party, the successful 2006 congressional elections and DNC strategy for the 2008 presidential campaign. During the Clinton Administration, Karen served as Deputy Press Secretary to First Lady Hillary Rodham

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**KAREN FINNEY, KEYNOTE SPEAKER** *continued from page 6*

Clinton and as Deputy Director of Presidential Scheduling for President Bill Clinton. Karen traveled to all 62 counties in New York State as a Press Secretary for Hillary Clinton's successful bid for the U.S. Senate in 2000. During the general election in 2004, she traveled with Elizabeth Edwards as her Communications Director.

It was her interest in improving public education that first got her involved in politics, having worked as a teaching assistant in a minimum-security facility for pregnant teenagers in Los Angeles after graduating from UCLA. In the private sector she worked for Scholastic Inc., one of America's leading children's media and education companies. As Chief of Staff to the Chairman, CEO and President, and Director of Business Development, Karen led a number of branding campaigns, Internet strategy and strategic partnership development around literacy programs. Karen also served as the chief spokesperson and Communications Director for New York City Schools.

Karen has served on the boards of the Women's Leadership Forum Network, NY, Teach for America, NY and the Women's Vote Center. Currently she serves on the board of NARAL Pro-Choice America. Karen is a regular contributor to Politico, TheGrio.com, Washington Watch on TV One, and the POTUS channel on Sirius XM satellite radio. ■



*Posing with Keynote Speaker Karen Finney, left, from top, Jack Altschuler; Former Tenth Dems Field Director David Bonner; Ravi Ganapathy, Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, Hon. Karen McCormick, Brad Schneider, Melinda Bush, Marguerite Hampton, Sharon Narrod, David Bonner, Marissa Bohrer, Jeanne Dauray, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash; Melinda Bush and her husband, Andy. Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Adrienne Kirshbaum. Right, from top, Tina Sellers, Marguerite Hampton, and Aurie Pennick; Kim Rodriguez and Jeanne Marie Dauray; Laurie, Karen, and Melinda.*





Top row, Ravi Ganapathy acknowledges his selection as George Rosenblit Volunteer of the Year and poses with last year's honoree, Terry Blaurock. Second row, Jeanne Marie Dauray acknowledges her leadership award and poses with previous honoree Sharon Sanders. Bottom row, Judge Andy Schleifer and Jack Darin look on as Adrienne Kirshbaum reads the plaque and Claudia Lovelette accepts the Founder's Award in honor of her late husband Chuck Knight. Melinda Bush acknowledges the Mikva Political Courage Award. Claudia Lovelette, at right, expresses her gratitude.

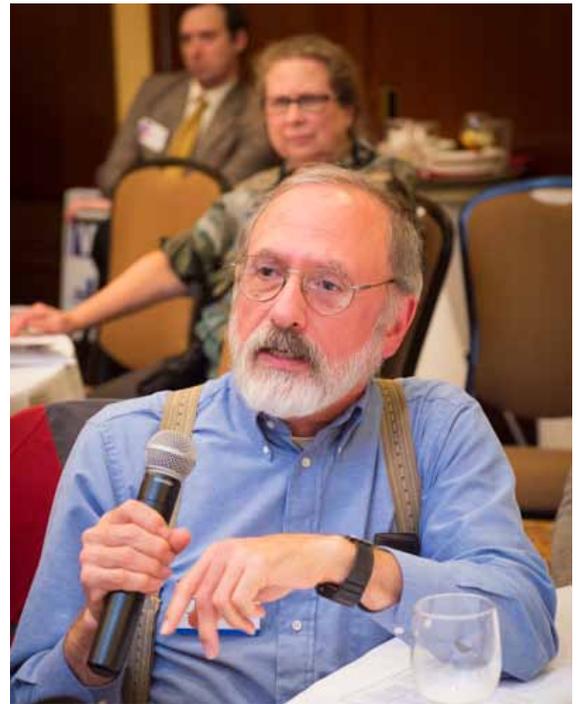




Top left, Michelle Patino-Flores. Second and third rows, left to right, top to bottom, volunteers at work: Susan Lee and Malcolm Litowitz; Karen Singer and Claire Montenegro; Tina Sellers announces elected officials; Kim Rodriguez addresses the crowd; David Bonner speaks about the importance of the Community Connection office and honors the late Chuck Knight.



*Top row, 8th District State Central Committeewoman Nancy Shepherdson; Fmr. State Rep. and Fmr. Mayor of Highland Park Dan Pierce. Second Row, Judge Andy Schleifer; Judge Nancy Waites; Lake County Democratic Party Chair and Senator Terry Link; Third row: Brad Schneider, Claudia Lovelette, and Karen Finney; Lauren Beth Gash and Aurie Pennick.*



*Left, top to bottom, Brian Dupuis; Jennifer Bishop Jenkins; David Bonner and Brad Schneider. Right, top to bottom, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash and Gregg Garmisa; Jack Strom, AFLCIO; Hon. Lauren Beth Gash.*





*Left, top to bottom, West Deerfield Township Trustee Ron Schwartz; Brad and Julie Schneider; Paula Castleton and Marcy Maller. Right, top to bottom, Luis Rivas, Jr.; Ilya Sheyman and Sharon Narrod; Judge Andy Schleifer; Julie Morrison.*



*Left to right, top to bottom: Scott Drury and aide, Emma Kaplan; Brad Schneider, Stephen Bero, and Terry Hall; Sen. Terry Link, Patricia Fix, and Keith West; Fmr. State Rep. and Fmr. Mayor of Highland Park Dan Pierce and Sen. Art Berman; Terry Blaurock; Hon. Betty-Ann Moore and Carol Spielman.*



*James and Jeanne Daurey; Judge Andy Schleifer.*



*Dan Pierce; Dan Seals.*



*Claudia Lovelette; Dan Pierce.*



*Senator Terry Link; table centerpiece designed by Sharon Sanders.*





Top to bottom, left to right, Chris and Lisa Kennedy; Julie Morrison; Sen. Terry Link; Mayor Dan Pierce congratulates Ravi Ganapathy; Ravi, David, Jaya, Terry, and Karen; Tenth Dems vice-chair Steve Sheffey; Daniel Biss.





Top two rows, left to right, Nancy Chausow Shafer and Lauren Beth Gash; Hon. Karen McCormick, cardboard Barack Obama, Jeanne Marie Dauray, and Sharon Sanders; Hon. Lauren Beth Gash; Karen Finney and Marguerite Hampton. Bottom row, images of Karen Finney.

Next page, top row, Scott Drury; Carol Sente; Steve Mandel. Bottom, Congressman-Elect Brad Schneider with Karen Finney.



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