

<i>In This Issue:</i>	
Wheeling Dems Slate	1
A Modest Proposal.....	1
Congress Watch	2
Have Republicans	3
Seen the Light?.....	3
If You're a Republican	4
Writing Contest.....	4
Obamacare.....	5
Other Than Your Mother	6
Pajama Game	7
Photo Spread	8-9

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Wheeling Dems Field Full Slate of Township Candidates

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles featuring township slates. You can read about the Democratic slates for Moraine, Northfield, and West Deerfield Townships in the January 2013 issue of the Tenth News (<http://www.tenthdems.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/201301NL.pdf>).

The Wheeling Township Democratic Party has assembled a full slate of candidates for the April 9 township elections. Wheeling Township Democrats are among the few non-incumbent groups in the area to file a full slate for all eight open township positions. The Democratic nominees are:



Fred Arenas for Township Supervisor: A veteran of the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, as well as a retired airline pilot, Arenas has lived in Arlington Heights for more than 30 years.



Marc Adelman for Township Clerk: A longtime Arlington Heights resident, Adelman is actively engaged in Jewish social issues and was an

advocate for Westgate neighborhood residents after the July 2011 flood.



Don Bussey for Township Assessor: An Arlington Heights resident, Bussey currently operates his own business, including supervising staff and helping property owners appeal

their property taxes.

continued on page 2



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APRIL 2013 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 10, Edition 4

A Modest Proposal for April Fools: Don't Bother Voting

by Barbara Altman

Across the 10th District candidates are running for school boards, park district boards, city councils, township offices, and even mayor. Early voting began March 25, and elections are April 9.

Really? Shouldn't there be a limit on how many times a citizen can be asked to vote in a given year? Voting takes effort, after all, and if you already voted in November, why should you have to do it again barely six months later? Besides, it's really difficult to become informed about the issues in municipal and township elections. Why should anyone have to go to a League of Women Voters forum or candidate coffee, especially when it could start snowing at any moment? Sure, *Downton Abbey's* done for the season, but NCAA basketball is deep into March Madness, so we all still have busy TV schedules to maintain. And speaking of TV, obviously no one

thinks these elections are important or there would be a constant barrage of TV ads to help us decide how to vote. You need those TV spots, or at least a robo-call or two, to tell you what's wrong with certain candidates—so that you can decide to vote for their opponents.

Listen, friends and family of candidates will make the effort to get out and vote. So why should you have to bother? A popular candidate with a big family doesn't need your vote, too.

Anyway, it doesn't matter who runs your park district if no one in your family uses the facilities, just as it doesn't matter who oversees your schools if you don't have any children attending. And what does a township trustee do, anyway?

continued on page 3



Vote for Democratic Slates on April 9!

At a January 26, 2013 reception honoring former State Sen. Susan Garrett, former State Rep. Karen May, and former Lake County Board member Anne Flanigan Bassi, Bassi, who is now running for Moraine Township Supervisor, is pictured with the rest of the Moraine Township Democratic slate (l. to r.: Cindy Wolfson, Olga Gomez Aguilar, Gail Feiger Brown, Anne Flanigan Bassi, Dwayne Douglas, Amy Zisook, Cynthia Plouché).

SEE PAGES 8-9, INSIDE, FOR MANY MORE PHOTOS FROM THE RECEPTION HONORING SUSAN GARRETT, KAREN MAY, AND ANNE BASSI.

Kirk Still a Reliable Republican Soldier (But Not a Good Representative of the People of Illinois)

Go to Mark Kirk's official Senate website, and you'll see images of a centrist Republican working across the aisle with Democrats. Go to the Senate's official website, and you'll see that Sen. Kirk is just another obstructionist right-wing Republican working diligently to block the President's agenda.

As any educated reader of *Tenth News* knows, Republicans in the 112th Congress used the filibuster to make the need for super majorities business-as-usual in the Senate. The 113th Congress has proven to be no different. Last month, we pointed out that Sen. Kirk is very much a part of this problem. He supported the filibuster that delayed Chuck Hagel's confirmation as Secretary of Defense.

Well, he's done it again. This time, Kirk voted on March 6 to deny an up-or-down vote to one of President Obama's nominees to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. There are currently four vacancies on this preeminent federal Court of Appeals, and not one of President Obama's nominees to this court has been affirmed since he took office in January 2009. Not one.

This particular nominee, Caitlin Halligan, is a former New York State Solicitor General. Holding a bachelor's degree from Princeton and a law degree from Georgetown, where she served on the editorial board of the law review, Halligan has been recognized to be highly qualified for the judiciary by even the most right-wing senators. After opposing cloture, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) issued a statement that included this acknowledgment of Halligan's qualifications: "She is a skilled litigator with a distinguished career, but..."

The opposition to Halligan is vintage right-wing paranoia. She is anathema to the gun lobby because in 2003 her office supported then New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's attempt to hold gun manufacturers legally liable for the devastation wrought by their products. Halligan is opposed by so-called "pro-life" groups for similar reasons.

So why did Mark Kirk join Ted Cruz in filibustering Caitlin Halligan's nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals? Hasn't Sen. Kirk disavowed any connection to the gun lobby? Doesn't he hold himself out as pro-choice? Why would a moderate Republican who favors bipartisanship filibuster a highly qualified judicial nominee?

For Congress Watch, the answer to these questions is obvious. Sen. Kirk talks like the centrist he must be, if he has any expectation of holding statewide office in Illinois. But when words turn to action, Mark Kirk uses his vote in the Senate – the vote he was sent to D.C. to cast on behalf of the people of Illinois – to further the radical, right-wing, Republican agenda. Mark Kirk joined with Ted Cruz and the rest of the Senate Republican caucus to filibuster Caitlin Halligan's nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals simply because the Republican leadership decided to block Obama's nominations to the all-important D.C. Circuit. And, above all, Mark Kirk is a good and loyal Republican. ■



Wheeling Dems Field Full Slate of Township Candidates

continued from page 1



Mike MacDonald for Township Highway Commissioner: An energy consultant holding a degree in mechanical engineering, MacDonald previously ran for Illinois State Representative and has been a resident of Buffalo Grove for more than 20 years.

For Township Trustees:



Siobhan White is a long-time resident of Arlington Heights and has served on the village Housing Commission plus various charities and other local organizations including Hope Now (now known as Journeys).



Kim Simmons has resided in Arlington Heights since 1998. She is an election judge and has also been involved in local civic issues for a number of years.



Robert Boros is a recently retired design engineer who has resided in Mt. Prospect for the last 27 years. He is an active volunteer in the community.



Nikos Tsonis was raised in Wheeling and returned in 2011 after earning his degree at Yale and practicing law in Boston. He currently operates his own local law firm and is actively engaged in issues facing Greek Americans.

"We live in challenging economic times: real wages are flat; non-farm payrolls are anemic; and after heart-wrenching losses, home values have only begun to stabilize," said Township Assessor candidate Don Bussey, a small business owner. "There are common-sense, practical solutions for efficient, sustainable township services in the 21st century. We want to engage taxpayers in conversation about our ideas for a smart, effective township government that delivers more for less to the citizens, residents and taxpayers." ■

Late-breaking news:

On March 21, in another largely party-line vote, Kirk supported adoption of the radical Ryan budget.

A Modest Proposal for April Fools: Don't Bother Voting

continued from page 1

Okay, maybe you're one of those people who vote in every election just because they can, and you can't break the habit. In that case, make it easy on yourself. Most of your neighbors are pretty smart. Take a drive around your neighborhood and count yard signs. Give a candidate a point for each sign you see. Deduct two points whenever a candidate's sign is planted in the yard of an annoying neighbor. Then tally up the points and deductions and, voila, you've figured out who gets your vote.

Whatever you do, don't pay any attention to party affiliation. Sure, there are some Democratic slates this year, but when it comes to local elections, there's really no difference between Republicans and Democrats, is there? And many local races are non-partisan, anyway. It would take some effort to find out which purportedly non-affiliated candidates have ties to which party.

Yes, it's true that Tenth Dems will do that research for you and let you know how often a candidate votes and whether a candidate has pulled Democratic or Republican ballots in past primaries. But you should take pride in being an independent thinker. We're only talking about municipal and township elections, after all. No one elected to these local offices would ever consider running again for countywide, statewide, or national office, would they? We all know there's no such thing as ambition in politics.

Anyway, since there's no real difference between Republicans and Democrats, party affiliation wouldn't really tell you much about a candidate's values. If you learned that a candidate for city council made big contributions to, say, Joe Walsh's 2012 congressional

campaign, that wouldn't give you a clue as to what positions that candidate would take on municipal or township issues, would it?

You certainly don't want to learn too much about any of the people who are running for these offices. If you did, you might decide to actively support one of them. Then, you might be tempted to volunteer to canvass voters by phone or, even more time-consuming, by walking neighborhoods. You might even decide to donate money or host a meet-and-greet. Certainly, if you're reading this newsletter you know that grassroots organizing is a waste of time. Just ask Barack Obama.

What's the worst that could happen after local elections? Remember those low-turnout elections that catapulted Republicans to state offices in neighboring states like Michigan and Wisconsin? So what if the current Republican domination of these and a majority of other state governments has weakened the labor movement, infringed on a woman's right to choose, and by such ploys as cutting back on early voting and instituting voter ID requirements, has threatened the ability of many poor, disabled, elderly, and otherwise disadvantaged citizens to exercise their right to vote? Clearly, going out and voting in local elections can't change anything, and supporting Democrats in local elections won't make any difference.

So act like a real April Fool. Don't participate in electoral madness. Don't educate yourself about the candidates. Don't volunteer. And, above all, don't vote. ■

Have Republicans Seen the Light?

by Joe Dubaniewicz

Consider these planks from a Republican Party platform.

"Our government was created by the people for all the people, and it must serve no less a purpose."

ALL the people! Forget last year's ridiculous pontifications by Mitt Romney and others dividing America into virtuous "creators" (like themselves) and worthless "moochers" (like you and me). This platform abounds with commitments to the common good.

"America does not prosper," it proudly proclaims, "unless all Americans prosper."

"Labor is the United States. The men and women, who with their minds, their hearts and hands, create the wealth that is shared in this country – they are America."

Holy Koch brothers, share the wealth?

"The protection of the right of workers to organize into unions and to bargain collectively is the firm and permanent policy of this party platform."

Eat your heart out, Scott Walker, and you other labor-bashing GOP governors!

This Republican platform also supports the postal service, the United Nations, equal rights for women, expanding our national parks, "vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws," and raising the minimum wage. And it lauds Social Security and other programs that promote the general welfare.

"We are proud of and shall continue our far-reaching and sound advances in matters of basic human needs—expansion of social security—broadened coverage in unemployment insurance—improved housing—and better health protection for all our people. We are determined that our government remain warmly responsive to the urgent social and economic problems of our people."

These quotes are from a Republican Party Platform, you ask? Really?

Well, yes. It's the platform Eisenhower ran on in 1956. ("Republican Party Platform of 1956," <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=25838> \t "_blank" The American Presidency Project)

Too bad today's Republicans don't study history.

—Based on a Memo by Jim Hightower, 3/6/2013 (<http://www.nationalmemo.com/lets-adopt-these-planks-from-gops-national-platform/>) ■

If You're a Republican, I'm Sorry; If You're Conservative, We Have Room for You

by Dave Rauen

The current state of the Republican Party reminds me of the bully from high school at the 10th reunion. The years haven't been kind, and the bully no longer sits at the "cool kids' lunch table." His long hair and athletic physique have given way to a receding hairline and pot belly. You see him from across the gymnasium, but you're not looking to engage him in conversation. The only thing he has to talk about is the glory days.

This is much the way I think of today's Republican Party. It's weathered and tired and has nothing new to say.

The problem was identified by many Republicans even before they lost the presidential election. In June, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush questioned how President Reagan would fit with the current version of the GOP. Another former Florida governor, Charlie Crist, recently switched parties to become a Democrat, expressing, among other things, discontent with the leadership of the Republican Party. In February 2012, Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) stepped down, citing Washington's "atmosphere of polarization" as the reason.

Current Republican office-holders have been expressing similar concerns about their party since before the election. "The demographics race we're losing badly. We're not generating enough angry white guys to stay in business for the long term," said Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) this past August. Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-LA) recently angered some of his party's right wing by saying, "We've got to stop being the stupid party." And Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA) is currently in his fourth rebranding effort in four years! None of his efforts have gained any traction.

The GOP's current dysfunction is evident. The question then becomes: What was the GOP's function? What value did Republicans bring to our government that we are not getting now? David Stockman, who served as budget director under President Reagan said, "The Republican Party has totally abdicated its job in our democracy, which is to act as the guardian of fiscal discipline and responsibility." Stockman is on to something. Sadly, Senator Graham does not realize that policies, not demographics are hurting his party.

Stockman posits that fiscal conservatism was abandoned under the second Bush administration. Faux deficit hawks, such as Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), rubber-stamped spending increases and revenue decreases for President Bush. Yet Ryan and his ilk won't seek a balanced, commonsense approach to deficit reduction now. This is being irresponsible, not fiscally conservative.

We see similar results of Republican dysfunction right here in the Illinois 10th District. Newly elected State Senator Julie Morrison won her 2012 race as a Democrat. She became a Democrat in 2008 when she felt that the Republican Party left her on important issues, including women's health and gun violence (ahead of her time?). Julie ran for State Senate after 14 years as the West Deerfield Township Supervisor, during which she balanced the budget and showed that she cared about issues that mattered to her constituents. Congressman Brad Schneider won a hard-fought primary race in which questions were raised about whether he was "enough of a Democrat." But Brad's "pragmatic

progressivism" does not at all detract from his being a Democrat, and all of us rejoice in finally having a Democrat as the 10th District's representative in Congress.

How long will it take fiscal conservatives in the rest of the country to realize what elected officials like Crist and Morrison already have? As the Republican Party moves further to the right, voters should not do the same. Where fiscal conservatism is concerned, the space abdicated by the GOP has been filled by Democrats.

The extreme right has taken control of the GOP, especially in Congress, and has stalled our government. Former Congressman Robert Dold argued that he was the most moderate of the Republicans in the 112th Congress because he only voted with his party between 80 and 90 percent of the time. That's nearly perfect alignment with an extreme, obstructionist agenda! At least the voters of the 10th District realized that being among the best of the worst is nowhere near good enough.

Many people in the 10th District who have long considered themselves Republicans are rethinking this association, and a good number are becoming Democrats. The Republican brand has lost what luster it once may have had. The Democratic tent is big. All are welcome. ■

Announcing the 2013 Community Connection Writing Contest

The Third Annual Community Connection Poetry and Prose Contest is now underway. This annual competition provides an excellent opportunity for high school students to express themselves and share their writing.

Our theme this year is "Dreaming." Throughout history dreams have inspired, alarmed, and challenged us to become more than what we are, to act for change, and to make the world a more beautiful place. Contestants are asked to share their dreams, their visions for the future, and their aspirations for the world they are inheriting.

This year's competition is open to all students currently enrolled in high school (public or private) in Benton, northern Shields (North Chicago), Warren, Waukegan, and Zion Townships. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Deadline for submissions of poetry and prose is April 25, 2013. Contest rules and application forms are available for download at www.tenthdems.org. Participants will read their submissions aloud at the Third Annual Poetry/Prose Slam & Award Night, scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Volunteers are still needed for many aspects of this program. For more information, please contact Laura Tomskey at LauraTomskey@TenthDems.org.

Even if you can't volunteer, SAVE THE DATE, Thursday evening, May 16, 2013. Then come out and be amazed, emotionally touched, and deeply inspired by our young writers. ■

Are Health Insurance Premiums Higher? The Truth About Obamacare

by Eleonora di Liscia

"The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" Since the advent of Obamacare, Republican critics have been predicting doom. Now, with some health insurers increasing premiums by double digits, it does seem to be raining. But is the sky really falling? And if so, is Obamacare to blame?

These are not simple questions with simple answers. The short answers are: "To some extent;" "Not so much;" "It depends on where you live;" and, "Did you think you were getting a free lunch?" For one thing, it's important to understand that many provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—the legislation known as "Obamacare"—do not apply to group insurance plans in effect before March 23, 2010, i.e., grandfathered plans, as long as those plans aren't materially altered. Even more important, health insurance rates must be viewed in historical perspective.

But the bottom line is that we're all better off in a post-Obamacare America than we were when insurers could deny coverage based on preexisting conditions, when many of us were chained to jobs we hated by the prospect of losing our health insurance, and when lifetime limits on coverage made catastrophic illness a prelude to bankruptcy.

The Ghost of Rate Increases Past

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation performs an annual survey on health insurance. According to Kaiser, health insurance costs for workers have doubled since 2002, but most of that increase came before 2007. In 2002, rates increased 13-14 percent. From 2000 to 2004 rates rose an average of 10 percent or more a year, then from five to 5.5 percent from 2007 to 2009, until bottoming at a three percent rise in 2009-10. When rates jumped nine percent for 2010-11, right after Obamacare was enacted, Republicans screamed, "We told you so."

Why did the rates jump in 2010-11? Partly because 2009-10's increase had been so low, partly from rising healthcare costs, and, yes, partly because of the ACA. According to FactCheck.org, one to three percent of the nine percent increase might have been due to the ACA. (<http://www.factcheck.org/2011/10/factchecking-health-insurance-premiums>.)

Why? Because those increased benefits you now enjoy cost money. For example, insurers must cover children up to age 26 on their parents' policies, including children with preexisting conditions, and preventive care must be covered without any out-of-pocket from you. Insurers also are required to increase annual coverage limits.

Still, in 2011-2012, rate increases slowed again to less than four percent, as health insurers enjoyed their biggest post-recession profit margins for six quarters straight. (<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705396894/Health-insurance-companies-profits-increase-after-affordable-care-act.html?pg=all>.) "It's a year of very moderate increases in premiums and health care costs," Drew Altman, chief executive and president of Kaiser told *The New York Times*. ([\[premiums-rise-modestly-report-says.html?_r=0\]\(http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/12/business/health-care-premiums-rise-modestly-report-says.html?_r=0\).\) Among other things, because of the recession healthcare spending remained relatively low, as people put off visiting the doctor or having elective procedures.](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/12/business/health-care-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The Ghost of Rate Increases Present

In spite of these reduced costs, rate increase requests in 2013 appear to be going wild. How wild varies from state to state. At least four Illinois companies have requested increases up to 25 percent. (<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20130122/NEWS03/130129961/health-insurers-propose-double-digit-rate-hikes>). Many small group plans in Illinois, however, are expected to raise rates by only five to seven percent

The 10 Percent Solution and The Safety Valve

The ACA requires insurance regulators to review rate increases above 10 percent on non-grandfathered plans. Extra scrutiny from the review process has caused some insurance companies to lower or even drop their requests for rate increases. Kaiser estimates that rate review lowered premiums in 20 percent of cases.

What the ACA does not do is give all regulators teeth to deny increases. Insurance regulators' authority varies from state to state. Thirty-seven states have enacted laws allowing regulators the power to refuse or roll back a request by a health insurer for a rate hike.

Unfortunately, Illinois is not one of those states. (<http://insurance.illinois.gov/hirc/RateReviewFAQs.pdf>.) Illinois may examine a rate increase, but there is no authority to deny an increase. By contrast, New York does have the power and in 2013 cut increases for individual policies from 9.5 to 4.5 percent. We need to press for laws giving Illinois regulators power to reject an increase. Alternatively, we need federal legislation that arms state regulators with this power.

But what may be the ACA's saving grace is its provision on medical loss ratios. If your insurer does not spend 80 percent of premiums on healthcare, it must rebate the difference to customers. Some experts speculate that actuaries are overestimating appropriate rate increases because they would rather refund the overage than risk operating at a loss. In 2011, insurers rebated \$1.1 billion to customers and cut administrative overhead costs by another \$350 million, according to a Commonwealth Fund study.

The Hardest Thing to Predict is the Future

Until the entire law is implemented by the end of 2014, it is hard to say exactly what will happen to premiums. By 2014, everyone will be required to carry health insurance or pay a penalty. And enlarging the pool is intended to lower costs.

However, some experts point out that once the universal mandate kicks in premiums will become more costly for younger and healthier people. Younger people now can buy cheaper plans with

continued on page 6

Other Than Your Mother

by Jack Altschuler

President Obama laid out offers to curb government spending two years ago by declaring that he is open to discussions around cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, much to the dismay of most Democrats and to left-of-center Americans of all stripes. The programs have been on the table, yet Republicans have been complaining since then that “the President has not offered a single spending cut.” House Speaker John Boehner, talking out of the far right side of his mouth, has repeatedly declared this to be so, as has Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Weren’t they in those negotiating meetings that they both attended at the White House?

The Republican leaders’ denials of reality are a mini-example of the Republican Big Lie strategy. They repeat a falsehood enough times that people begin to believe that it is true. Even the rank-and-file Republicans in Congress have come to believe the “no spending cuts on the table” lie is true. Many of them have not heard directly from their leaders about the doings in those negotiating meetings with the President and apparently they don’t read newspapers or watch the news on TV, either (with the possible exception of the one station that won’t inform them accurately).

That does not change reality, though, and if you live in a fact-based world where $2 + 2 = 4$ and up and down are not the same things, you’ll recognize the Big Lie for what it is. Boehner and McConnell protestations notwithstanding, President Obama really did lay two big ones on the table two years ago.

Related to that is a recent comment by failed presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who said, “What we’ve seen is a – the President out campaigning to the American people, doing rallies around the country, flying around the country and berating Republicans and blaming and pointing.”

That’s an update of the attempt to diminish Obama by John McCain and Sarah Palin during the 2008 presidential campaign. They blasted him for giving great speeches at big rallies. That is what Saxby Chambliss (R- GA) did to Max Cleland (D-GA (ret.)) during the 2002 Senate campaign when he questioned Cleland’s patriotism. Cleland lost both legs and an arm in Viet Nam, while Chambliss was getting deferments from military service and partying in civilian life. But that didn’t stop Chambliss from his dishonest attacks.

Similar to Chambliss, George W. Bush attacked the patriotism of John McCain during the 2000 Republican primary and that of John Kerry in the 2004 general election. I guess he is sensitive about the fun he had flying jets around Texas and doing a lot of drinking with his buddies while those other guys were out risking their lives for their country.

The ploy is to attack a rival’s strength, to diminish his advantages by accusation. That is what Romney, McCain, Chambliss, and Bush did, and it is exactly what Republican leaders and other Republican mouthpieces have been doing to President Obama all along. Now Obama is making his case to the American people and is succeeding, so the Congressional Republicans are attacking him, accusing him of failure and saying that he should be in DC schmoozing them—the same people who deny reality.

Obama, they say, should be having Republicans over to the White House for movie night. He should be phoning them directly, each and every one of them, so that they feel important. Then they wouldn’t claim that they don’t know about the budget cuts he’s placed on the table because they would have heard about them directly from the President. President Obama did not reach out to each and every one of them personally and their feelings were hurt.

So in March he took them out to dinner at a nice restaurant. Now they feel special. They’re all puffed up with self-importance.

Well, here’s a news flash for Republican legislators: Other than your mother, nobody cares if your feelings were hurt. We didn’t send you to Washington so that you would be stroked and told how important you are or so that you would be patted on the head and made to feel special. We hired you to do a job, and that job does not include paralyzing the United States of America. And it does not include undermining international trust in our country. Get over yourselves. We’re not here for you—you’re there for us.

Are your feelings hurt? Do you feel like you haven’t received enough special attention? We don’t care. Not a bit. Come to think of it, your mother likes her Medicare and she probably doesn’t care, either. ■

Are Health Insurance Premiums Higher? The Truth About Obamacare

continued from page 5

high deductibles and few benefits. The ACA may require them to pay more by purchasing plans with better benefits and lower deductibles. Still, the law provides subsidies and tax credits for those who can’t afford to pay, and as of October, people can shop for affordable insurance on the newly created exchanges. And plans for older, sicker people should become more affordable as younger, healthier people pay more into the system.

While it’s true that the President said health insurance was supposed to save families money, premiums may not be as cheap as he predicted or as we would like -- even though there is good reason to believe that even now premiums are lower than they would be without the law.

There’s No Free Lunch (Especially One This Good)

Consider this: Once the entire law is in effect, you will always have health insurance. You will not have to worry about losing your job and losing your COBRA before you find another job (assuming you could have afforded COBRA rates in the first place). You will not have to worry that your diabetic or asthmatic child is uninsurable. You will not have to worry that your healthcare benefits will be exhausted after years of treatment for cancer or heart disease, leaving you sick and penniless. You will not be faced with divorcing a sick spouse to protect your assets after insurance terminates.

Isn’t that worth it? ■

Please Join Us for an Evening of Theatre, Food and Friendship...with a little politics thrown in for good measure

THE MUSIC THEATRE COMPANY



Enjoy The Music Theatre Company's production of *The Pajama Game* at a special reduced price

Based on the novel *7½ Cents* by Richard Bissell, the multi-award-winning musical, *The Pajama Game*, tells the tale of love in the midst of a labor dispute.

It features the unforgettable music of Adler and Ross including "Hey There," "Hernando's Hideaway," and "Steam Heat."

Stripped down to its essence to reveal the heart of its story, The Company's production is a clever, truthful and poignant musical for our times.

Saturday

April 27, 2013

8:00PM

The Pajama Game

at The Music Theatre Company

1850 Green Bay Rd., Highland Park IL 60035

HOST LEVELS:

- Theatre-goer \$35**
(\$5 discount off box office price)
- Actor \$100**
- Costume Designer \$250**
- Director \$500**
- Producer \$1000**

Join us directly after the show for a Talk-Back with Illinois Labor History Society President Larry Spivack, Music Theatre Company Founder Jessica Redish, and others.

For an additional \$25, join us at 6:30PM for a pre-show prix fixe dinner at Benjamin's Restaurant

1849 Second Street, Highland Park, IL 60035

Price includes appetizer, entrée and dessert. Add \$5 more for a glass of wine.

Tax and tip not included. You will be responsible for paying the restaurant directly.



For more information or to RSVP, visit <http://tenthdems.org/RSVP>, call 847-266-VOTE (8683) or email events@tenthdems.org

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(Above, from top to bottom:) Honorees Susan Garrett, Karen May, and Anne Bassi display their plaques with event organizers Tracy Jacobson, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, and Ross Nickow. (Below, from left to right:) Nickow kicks off the program; State Sen. Julie Morrison, State Rep. Scott Drury, and Mayor Rotering of Highland Park address the gathering.



More than 100 Democrats packed a Highland Park living room on January 26 to hear newly elected 10th District U.S. Congressman Brad Schneider, State Senator Julie Morrison, and State Representative Scott Drury. Just weeks into their first term in office, the three Democrats appeared at the Moraine Township Democratic Organization event honoring former State Senator Susan Garrett, former State Rep. Karen May, and former Lake County Board member Anne Bassi, all of whom recently retired from these positions after years of service to the Moraine community. ■



Rep. Schneider addresses the gathering.



(Above:) Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, chair of Moraine Township Democrats, displays a photo board honoring the late Michael Simkin; (Left:) Host Chuck Frank greets his guests while Gash and Waukegan Township Supervisor Patricia Jones look on; (Below:) Cong. Schneider, former State Senator Susan Garrett, former State Representative Karen May, Joe Adler, and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering listen attentively.





Event chairs Tracy Jacobson and Ross Nickow go over some last-minute logistics with Karen McCormick, vice chair, Moraine Township Democrats.



Jacobson, Nickow, Gash, and Frank go over the evening's agenda.



Nancy Chausow Shafer, secretary, Moraine Township Democrats, chats with Congressman Brad Schneider. Highland Park Councilman Dan Kaufman, Illinois State Senator Julie Morrison, and Joe Adler are visible in the background.



Karyn Davidman and Scott Linn, with event host Chuck Frank.



(Above, from left to right:) Ross Nickow; Cong. Schneider with host Chuck Frank; Cathy Levitt, Judge Mark Levitt, and Elliott Hartstein enjoy the proceedings; Garrett enjoys the proceedings.

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