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Tenth Dems Founding Chair Honored by Waukegan Township

Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Tenth Dems Founding Chair, was honored at Waukegan Township's National Women's History Month luncheon on March 21. The event celebrated "women of character, courage & commitment." Waukegan Township recognized Gash for her "exemplary leadership and outstanding commitment to serving others in her community." See more photos on page 9.



Tenth News

www.tenthdems.org

JUNE 2014 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 11, Edition 6

Community Connection Anticipates a Busy Summer and Fall

by Barbara Altman

With this year's Poetry/Prose Competition and Awards Ceremony behind us, now is a good time to report on some of the ongoing events occurring at the Tenth Dems Community Connection office in Waukegan.

Job Interview Workshop



We continue to collaborate with Waukegan Township's Infinity & Beyond program, which helps ex-offenders and other difficult-to-employ citizens acquire the skills necessary to obtain and keep a paying job. We are in our fifth year of conducting a monthly, interactive, 90-minute Job Interview Workshop. The workshop covers what to do in preparation for the interview, during the

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Community Connection Hosts Meeting of Democratic Township Organization Chairs



The afternoon of May 17, prior to that evening's ArtWauk, the Tenth Dems Community Connection office was the site of a working meeting of the chairs of Democratic Township Organizations within Lake County. Nearly every Lake County township with precincts within the 10th District was represented at this kick-off meeting for the fall elections. **TD**

Republican Sen. Mark Kirk Continues to Oppose Living Wage for U.S. Workers

Congress Watch

Illinois Senator Mark Kirk has again turned his back on low-income Americans, voting with his party's leaders on April 30 to block consideration of the Minimum Wage Fairness Act (MWFA), a measure aimed at gradually increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

Sponsored by Democratic Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, the MWFA proposed to increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour, where it has remained stagnant since 2009, to \$10.10 an hour in three steps; to make future adjustments to keep pace with inflation; and to extend for another two years an increase in the limit on investment expense that firms are allowed to immediately deduct from taxable income.

The MWFA needed 60 votes to advance to an up-or-down Senate vote. But with only one Republican, Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, crossing the aisle and voting to allow it to proceed to a full Senate debate, the measure failed 54-42. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who, of course, supports the wage increase, took the procedural step of voting against the bill so as to be able under Senate rules to reintroduce it at a later time.

Republicans say they oppose the modest minimum wage hike because they fear it would cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and slow the already weak economic recovery. But there is no historical evidence that increases in the minimum wage cost jobs. Rather, significant evidence suggests the relatively small and gradual proposed increase to \$10.10 an hour would have overwhelming positive effects.

As Princeton economist and *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman explained in a February 17, 2013 column (http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/18/opinion/krugman-raise-that-wage.html?_r=0), the minimum wage is among the most highly-scrutinized variables in all of economics. "The great preponderance of evidence points to little if any negative effect of minimum wage increases on employment," Krugman wrote. Rather, the main effect of a higher minimum wage is an increase in the income of the lowest paid American workers. Krugman points out that since these workers tend to immediately spend the extra income on basic necessities, pouring the money right back into the economy, the net effect of a mini-

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THE BRAD BEAT:

Brad Schneider Stands Firm Against Ryan Budget

by Eleonora di Liscia

Republicans really like Rep. Paul Ryan, their young, hotshot ideas man. And what is Ryan's hotshot idea? The Ryan Budget. It's straight out of Little Shop of Horrors. The movie featured a bloodsucking plant, and

Ryan proposes a bloodsucking budget.

The way the Ryan Budget works is pretty simple: It just strips away the funding for most of the fundamental progressive reforms from the last century. Need food stamps because your long-term unemployment insurance ran out due to Republican gamesmanship? Too bad. Can't pay skyrocketing college tuition? We're slashing the Pell Grant and dropping tax credits to defray college costs. But you may not have to worry about college since we're also slashing Head Start. Looking forward to Medicare? Think vouchers.

So far during Brad's first term, the Little Shop of Horrors budget has come up for a vote two times. Each time, Brad has voted no.

"I have now voted twice against it," Brad said. "If he brings it a third time, I'll vote a third time against it."

"Budgets are about priorities, and this budget simply flies in the face of our core values," Brad continued. "It hurts our middle class, our students, and our seniors. Instead of moving our country forward and focusing on ways to grow the economy, this budget guts education funding, ends the Medicare guarantee, and puts the burden on those who can afford it the least. I stand in strong opposition to the misguided priorities of the Ryan Budget."

Now, let's look at what Robert Dold did when he was in office. A loyal Republican, Dold voted for the Ryan Budget at every opportunity. The score during Dold's term? Bloodsucking plant 2; seniors, students, and the middle class 0.

In November, 10th Congressional District voters will face a clear choice: If you like the Ryan Budget, bring back Robert Dold. If you don't, stick with Brad Schneider.

In addition to consistently opposing the Ryan Budget, Brad

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The Almost Perfect Dumb-pocalypse

by Jack Altschuler

For decades, we have had a most efficient, self-reinforcing cycle in our politics of incrementally allowing more and more money into our political infrastructure. As we did that, the Big Money Interests have gained incrementally more influence over our laws, our bureaucracy, and our courts to drive ever-larger piles of cash into the hands of those same Big Money Interests. That has made it easier for them to throw even more cash into the political infrastructure, which has driven more legislation and correspondingly more cash to the Big Money Interests.

That cycle is the destruction of our democracy (origin: Greek “demos” – the people; “kratia” – power, rule), because it takes power away from the people. The Big Money Interests simply focus on themselves and all that cash and they lubricate the machinery of elections and government for their hand-picked politicians, so our politicians do the bidding of the Big Money Interests. That means that our legislators are not focused on the needs of ordinary Americans, so our problems get worse.

Maybe you think that the murders at Fort Hood and Sandy Hook Elementary School are problems.

Maybe you think that your spouse being unable to secure full-time employment is a problem.

Maybe you think that despoliation of the environment by oil spills and toxic fracking chemicals leaked into our fresh water supplies is a problem.

Maybe you think that making it more difficult for some Americans to vote is a problem.

You’re right – those are problems. And our Big Money-influenced politics is the reason these problems continue to get worse.

The *Citizens United* decision allowed unlimited and undisclosed corporate and individual money to flood our election process through Political Action Committees (PACs) and similar



organizations. Now the McCutcheon decision has unleashed nearly unlimited personal funds for direct campaign contributions, so we have The Almost Perfect Dumb-pocalypse. All that is needed to make it The Perfect Dumb-pocalypse is another airhead Supreme Court decision that prohibits laws setting a maximum donation to a single candidate in a single election.

But that may not happen, because our Supreme Court thinks that unlimited donations to a single candidate might look like bribery. Actually, it’s the only thing the Court thinks of as political bribery. Maybe we should give new eyeglasses to those on the 5 side of all those democracy-killing, hope-and-trust-destroying 5-4 decisions so that the Supremes can begin to see reality more clearly. **TD**

Candidate for Lake County Sheriff Saves Family from Floodwaters

Jason Patt, the Democratic candidate for Lake County Sheriff, has protected the public for over 17 years as a law enforcement officer, including an eight-year stint in the U.S. Navy and a tour in Iraq. On May 12, Jason proved to be a hero much closer to home.

When heavy rains caused flash floods in many parts of the north and northwest suburbs, Jason risked his own life to rescue a family of five. Jason noticed their car quickly becoming submerged in floodwaters. Selflessly, he repeatedly jumped into the rising waters to pull each family member to safety.

This remarkable experience confirmed what we knew about Jason: he has the courage, integrity and composure we so desperately need leading the Sheriff’s office. Now we look forward to helping Jason Patt as he runs for Lake County Sheriff. **TD**



College Dems Convention Reignites Passion for Politics

by Michelle Patino

On a recent spring day, I arrived at a very quiet Bloomington-Normal. This being my first convention with the College Democrats of Illinois (CDIL), I was unsure of what to expect, but I surely was not disappointed.

The moment I walked into the Hansen Student Center at Illinois Wesleyan, I heard loud and excited discussions about campaigning, reelections, internships in D.C, canvassing, and the like. Although I had never met any of the other delegates, I felt right at home in the bustling life of Democratic politics.

The weekend consisted of a variety of workshops, speeches, opportunities for critical thinking, and really good food. The first workshop I attended was about conducting an effective voter registration drive. The presentation was given by the president of the CDIL, Alex Halaska, a fellow Illini. We participants



The author, Michelle Patino, pictured above with State Senator Mike Frerichs, Democratic candidate for Illinois State Treasurer (wearing black dress), and, below that, with Governor Pat Quinn, was a Tenth Dems intern in 2012. Michelle continues to be active with Tenth Dems as a volunteer organizer.

recalled our experiences at previous drives and brainstormed ways to make them more attractive, accessible, and efficient to prospective voters.



Since I started college this year, I have not had much time to dedicate to volunteering, but after attending this particular workshop, I was inspired to reenter – and quickly! – the world of political activism. This summer, I hope to organize registration drives back in my hometown; after all, the elections in November are crucial, and if we don't bring out the voters we will have failed to help those who want to help us.

The second workshop I attended was a panel entitled “Running for Local Office.” The panelists offered advice about running for office and being involved in politics in general, sharing hardships encountered, funny stories, and favorite moments. If prior to this session I had no desire to run, today I can say that I at least consider the possibility. Seeing the energy, zeal, and passion of these young activists and politicians reminded me why I was there in the first place – to make a difference.

Following the workshops, we heard from Governor Pat Quinn, Senator Dick Durbin, State Senator Mike Frerichs, and Dennis Anderson, candidate for Congress from the 14th District. They each shared their ideas, hopes, and concerns for the forthcoming election and reminded us that they are counting on us college students to make sure that our friends and family are registered to vote.

I know firsthand the importance of every vote with Brad Schneider's victory in 2012, and I, for one, do not want another close call. **TD**

We Democrats Need the Tea Party

by Steven Gan

I know perfectly well what you're thinking: "Are you crazy? Why on earth would you think for a moment that we, the Democrats, the party of inclusion and compassion, need a cold-hearted political force in this country like the Tea Party?"

Well, let me tell you that I haven't lost any of my marbles; I meant what I said and said what I meant. And I'll say it again: "We Democrats need the Tea Party."

As you will painfully recall, it was only about eight months ago that Ted Cruz, the Tea Party Republican senator from the big red (but slowly turning purple) State of Texas, was able to bring our government to its knees with his well-orchestrated government shutdown. He didn't do this alone, of course. He had the full backing of some right-wing cohorts, such as Senators Rand Paul (R-KY), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Mike Lee (R-UT), and a full cast of other Republican politicians who live in fear of losing the support of the Tea Party.

Just to be clear, when I talk about the Tea Party, I'm referring to the Tea Party Caucus. This is a caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate that was launched in July 2010 and initially chaired by the failed presidential candidate and soon-to-retire Minnesota Congresswoman, Republican Michele Bachmann. The caucus was dedicated to promoting what it called fiscal responsibility, adherence to a cramped interpretation of the Constitution, and limited government. The idea of a Tea Party Caucus originated with Sen. Rand Paul when he was campaigning for his current seat.

Now back to Ted Cruz. When Sen. Cruz and his cronies went on their rampage to shut down the government, they were



surprised by the pushback and outrage from some members of their own party. Two Republican politicians in particular, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Rep. Peter King (R-NY), were very vocal about their displeasure with the extreme positions of Ted Cruz and other Tea Party Republicans. In fact, John McCain's characterization of both Cruz and Paul, well before the government shutdown, as "wacko birds" is well known. For his part, Rep. King labeled Sen. Cruz "a fraud."

It was Peter King's response to the shutdown that really caught my eye. The hawkish King, a possible contender for the White House in 2016, launched his own Political Action Committee, called "American Leadership Now," in early December 2013 to push back on the Tea Party. According to King, he started this PAC to counter Cruz and Paul: "It's a vehicle that will enable me to go around the country to try to find like-minded Republicans who do not support a government shutdown, who do not support Ted Cruz's whole idea of a government shutdown, of Rand Paul being isolationist." (<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/peter-king-pac-2016-election-101204.html#ixzz2ngt4wJG0>)

So why do we Democrats need the Tea Party?

As the chorus of those more moderate Republicans who are disenchanted with the Tea Party's extremist views increases, this rift will impede the Republican Party's ability to remain unified behind political goals and candidates. In other words, the more the Tea Party digs in its heels and remains unrealistic and uncompromising in its political and economic demands, the more divided the Republican Party will remain. This, in turn, should improve the chances that Democratic members of both houses of Congress will hold their seats and that new Democratic candidates will be elected – even in Texas. **TD**

Brad Beat *continued from page 2*

recently cohosted a roundtable on "keeping Medicare healthy." His object was not only to highlight the issue, but also to hear what constituents had to say. The talk was given in conjunction with the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare along with Democratic Congresswomen from neighboring districts, Reps. Tammy Duckworth and Jan Schakowsky.

"Underlying these programs is the deeply rooted belief that all seniors, the people who supported our families and developed our communities, deserve the dignity of a secure retirement and

affordable healthcare," said Brad. "While we must address rising healthcare costs that threaten Medicare's long-term sustainability, I will defend the Medicare guarantee so that no seniors will ever have to choose between heating their homes and maintaining their health."

As long as the Republican Party controls the House of Representatives, the Ryan Budget will come up for a vote year after year. We need a Congressman like Brad Schneider to keep beating back that bloodsucking plant. **TD**

Community Connection *continued from page 1*

interview, and after the interview, as follow-up. It concludes with two scenarios that the presenters act out. In the first scenario, the candidate arrives late to the interview and makes every other mistake possible. We then rerun the interview, and a candidate with the exact same resumé, who obviously benefited from a Job Interview Workshop like ours, aces it.

This workshop is best presented by two volunteers, which is essential if the mock interview scenarios are to be played out. Our volunteer ranks have recently been depleted by moves and family emergencies, so if you have experience with hiring and think you would enjoy “teaching” this workshop, which is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the second Tuesday of the month, we would welcome new presenters. Contact leadership@tenthdems.org for more information.

New Job Retention Workshop

ComCon’s Job Interview Workshop has been quite successful, and many participants have aced their interviews and gone to work. Unhappily, too many of those hired subsequently quit their jobs or are let go. To address this problem, Waukegan Township has asked us to create a Job Retention Workshop; and we’ve recently constructed a curriculum. The plan is to alternate the workshops and teach job retention skills one month and job interview skills the next.

Again, volunteers are needed for this new enterprise. Contact leadership@tenthdems.org for more information, or to volunteer.

ArtWauk

The third Saturday of each month, Waukegan vendors open their doors to the community from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Art galleries welcome visitors with light refreshments and even live music; restaurants feature special menus; and theatres mount special shows. Tenth Dems participates, as well. We open the doors of Community Connection, serve snacks, and offer information about candidates and community services. Photos from our most recent ArtWauk, on May 17, may be found on this page.

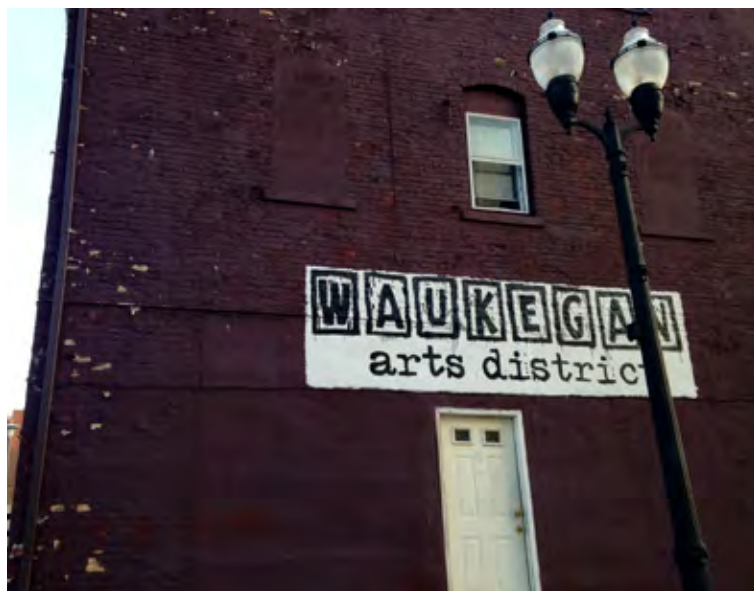


Community Garden

ComCon has a plot in Waukegan’s community garden, just down the street on S. Genesee Street. Watch this space in the coming months for details and photos.

Campaign Activities

If you haven’t been to the Community Connection office, you may find yourself there sooner than you thought. We are making our space available to Democratic candidates for such campaign activities as phone banking, volunteer training, canvassing, and much more, as the fall elections get closer. Watch Tenth Dems’ Weekly Events emails for details of such volunteer opportunities. **TD**



When Women Succeed, America Succeeds

by Marguerite Hampton

Empowered. Electrified. This describes the crowd of more than 1,600 that filled the Chicago Hilton and Towers ballroom on May 5. These women and men gathered to support Tenth Dems' neighbor, 9th District Representative Jan Schakowsky, at her 13th Annual **Ultimate Women's Power Lunch**.



This year's speakers included Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Texas gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis, and keynote speaker Lizz Winstead, co-creator of *The Daily Show*. Overall, the program honored "Sheroes" – women and men who share a commitment to women's rights and other progressive values. The ballroom was filled with Sheroes, including several tables of Tenth Dems.

At the start of the proceedings, Rep. Schakowsky acknowledged the more than 80 elected officials present. In the interest of time, she prefaced the introductions with a brief training in the art of



clapping just one time after each name was called. The audience got into the swing, laughing as the room resounded with the sound of one unison handclap for every official recognized.

Rep. Schakowsky placed no such limitation on the audience's response to the speakers, and all received thunderous applause. Themes of remarks focused on issues critical to Democrats and the importance of the upcoming November election. If we do

not allow the pundits' pontificating to dissuade Democrats from voting, and we continue our fight for voters' and women's rights, Democrats can retake the House of Representatives and retain the majority in the U.S. Senate and Illinois statewide offices.



First, Rep. Schakowsky delivered a powerful message on the importance of voting: "Elections really matter, especially for women." She emphasized that turnout is key and that when Democrats vote, they win. As an example, she noted that there are 53 million unmarried women in the U.S. and nearly 50 percent of



them didn't vote in 2010, the last midterm election. If women had voted in a higher percentage, Democrats would have retained their majority in the House. Schakowsky announced that, as a demonstration of their commitment to increase turnout and women's issues, during the summer Democratic congresswomen will be taking a "When Women Succeed, America Succeeds" agenda on the road.

Next, Texas State Senator Wendy Davis, who gained fame when she filibustered a repressive bill that since has led to the closure of the bulk of clinics in Texas that provide reproductive health

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Power Lunch *continued from page 7*

services to women, inspired the audience with her story. She now is running for Governor of Texas. In her words, her filibuster for women's rights gave the "power of discovery" to the voiceless.

Briefly taking the podium, Governor Quinn reiterated his commitment to a minimum wage increase, closing the wage gap, and implementing the Affordable Care Act. He vowed to continue to devote all his time to fighting for Illinois' women and families.

When Lizz Winstead took to the stage, the audience was primed to hear her speech. She weaved a tapestry of the events that laid the foundation of her unwavering commitment to women and progressive values. Ms. Winstead began by telling how she returned to Minnesota, where she grew up, to complete her book. While there, she saw a news segment reporting the first votes of the 112th Congress and the newly Republican-controlled House, which included "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act" and the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act." Springing into action to thwart this type of retrogressive legislation, Winstead



started her "Planned Parenthood: I Am Here for You" tour. What began as a few fundraisers to benefit Planned Parenthood has now blossomed into a way of life for the writer and comedienne. So far, Winstead has completed over 40 shows, raising money to support healthcare for women and to provide a platform to share women's stories. **TD**

Congress Watch *continued from page 2*

mum wage hike on the economy actually is stimulative.

Also, according to Krugman, "Increasing the minimum wage isn't just good economics. It's also good politics," because the majority of American voters support increasing the minimum wage, including a majority of Republican women (but not men). While concern over a negative effect, like potential job losses, might be justified if the proposed increase were significantly higher—to, say, \$20 an hour—what the Democrats have placed on the table poses no such risk, Krugman says.

So why then do today's Republicans oppose a modest and gradual increase in the minimum wage? The sad but true answer is, quite simply, that Republicans in both chambers of Congress today represent the huge corporations and business owners that fund their political campaigns, and not the American people. As their opposition to a minimum wage increase and other economic positions make crystal clear, Republicans are more than willing to help these special interests maximize their profits on

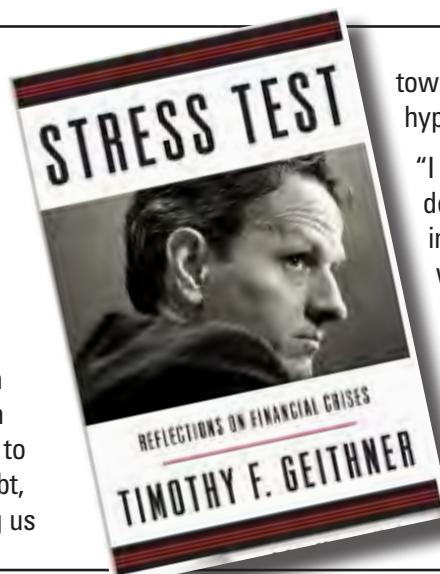
the backs of the lowest paid American workers.

"This is a moral issue," Harry Reid said. "It's about whether or not it's right for people who work 40 hours a week to get a fair shot at being able to provide for their families."

Unfortunately, Illinois' junior senator Mark Kirk has neither the moral compass nor the courage to stand up to his party's leaders and fight for what is right and fair for Illinois and the nation. Although he won't be on the ballot until 2016, his protégé will be on this November's ballot, trying to wrest the 10th District's Congressional seat from incumbent Democrat Brad Schneider. Given the Senate Republicans' response to a gradual rise in the minimum wage to \$10.10, we know how the bill would fare in a Republican House. It behooves all of us who believe that any full-time salaried American worker should be able to provide for a family to devote ourselves to reelecting Democratic legislators like Sen. Dick Durbin and Rep. Brad Schneider, who share such values (and to defeating Republican politicians like Mark Kirk and Robert Dold, who do not). **TD**

From former Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner's new book, *Stress Test*, yet another reason Mark Kirk has no business being in the U.S. Senate:

"I remember on my first trip to Beijing as secretary, an embassy official called to tell me that Mark Kirk of Illinois, one of the few nominally moderate Republicans left in Congress [then in House; elected Senator in 2010], had just held an unusual meeting with Chinese officials. Kirk had advised them not to buy Treasuries or other U.S. government debt, warning them that our spending was driving us



toward default, and that the Fed was creating hyperinflation.

"I couldn't believe it. Not only were those fears delusional, but he was undermining American interests on foreign soil. I called him on his way out of China to explain that there was this noble tradition in politics that you don't criticize the United States while you're abroad – and you definitely shouldn't say we're going to default on our debts. But partisan politics no longer seemed to stop at the water's edge." (pp. 364-65)

Lauren Beth Gash honored at Waukegan Township's National Women's History Month luncheon



Long Overdue: The Paycheck Fairness Act

In May, Illinois Democratic Women (IDW) invited Tenth Dems Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash to write the featured guest blog for its website. This article is reprinted from IDW's home page.

When President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935, it was a first step. Future lawmakers tweaked the Act, which became the most successful anti-poverty program in history.

When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963, he called it a “first step” and said that more remained to be done. Unfortunately, in the intervening 50 years, precious little has been done. In 2012, women still earn substantially less: 23 percent less for white, 36 percent less for African-American, and 46 percent less for Hispanic women.

The first bill President Obama signed, The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act (which the Bush Administration had blocked), was a step in the right direction. It extended the time limit to sue for pay discrimination.

The Paycheck Fairness Act addresses the shortcomings of the Equal Pay Act. Republicans in Congress say they support equal pay for equal work, but when it comes to enforcing that thought, they sing a different tune. Republicans generally don't like anything that requires corporations to treat workers fairly. So naturally, they oppose an Act that would actually put teeth into existing law.

The Paycheck Fairness Act gives women a number of enforcement tools to get the pay they deserve. It allows women to sue for damages, stiffens penalties for equal pay violations, forces employers to show that differing wages are based on factors besides gender, and bars retaliation against workers who disclose their own wages or question their employer.

It's ridiculous that in this day and age women must still fight this battle. But fight it, we must. We need people in Congress who will fight WITH us, not against us.

For example, the 10th Congressional District in Illinois must reelect first-term Democrat Brad Schneider. In 2012 Brad won his seat against incumbent Tea Party-supported Robert Dold and became the first Democratic Congressman in 30+ years to represent the 10th District. But Dold has returned for a rematch, and women cannot afford Dold.

The choice is stark.

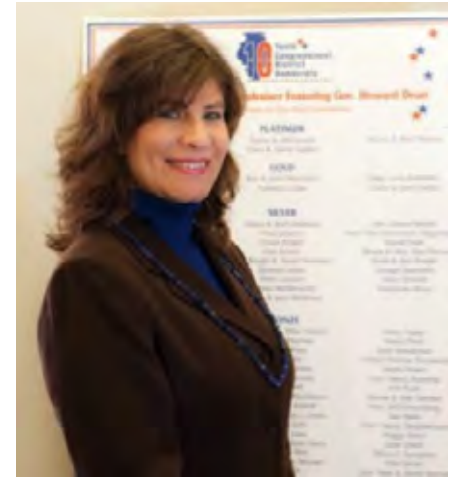
Congressman Brad Schneider sponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act. And he is cosponsoring the Reauthorization Violence Against Women Act. And he is steadfast in supporting a woman's right to choose. Dold claimed he's pro-choice, but Dold voted for the 2011 Protect Life Act, AKA the “Let Women Die Act,” which would have allowed hospitals to refuse an abortion even to save a woman's life.

Republicans have done all they can to block the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Historically, turnout among Democrats is significantly lower in non-Presidential election years, and that's how Republicans skulk in to take Democratic values hostage. We cannot let that happen. To keep moving forward, we need to vote for Democrats like Brad Schneider who share our values and will fight for us.

About Hon. Lauren Beth Gash

Hon. Lauren Beth Gash is an attorney, Commissioner with the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and a member of North Shore LAW. She served four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives. While there, she chaired the Judiciary Committee and worked with then-State Senator Barack Obama on several pieces of legislation. She was also Vice-Chair of the Elections and Campaign Reform Committee.



Lauren is a former volunteer attorney at Prairie State Legal Services. Previously, she worked in Washington, D.C. and served on the staffs of both U.S. Senators Alan Dixon and Paul Simon. Lauren is the Chair of the Moraine Township Democrats and a Vice-Chair of the Lake County Democrats.

Lauren founded and is the Chair of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats (Tenth Dems), a grassroots organization dedicated to building a strong Democratic infrastructure in Chicago's northern and northwestern suburbs. The group's Tenth Dems University regularly hosts nationally recognized leaders, and its new office, the Community Connection, helps local residents, putting into action the Connection's motto that “Politics should be about more than just elections – it should be about working together to build stronger communities.”

Gash is a life-long community organizer who has founded and/or served on numerous not-for-profit boards, including the League of Women Voters, PTA, and the Anti-Defamation League. Lauren was elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and was a member of the Electoral College on behalf of the President in 2008 and 2012.

Gash earned her law degree in 1987 at Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as Associate Editor of the American Criminal Law Review. A 1982 Clark University graduate, she majored in psychology. Gash lives in Lake County, Illinois and is married with two adult children. **TD**

Mark your calendars!



If the snow is gone for good, can the Fourth of July be far away? Please mark your calendars for July 3 and 4 when communities within the 10th Congressional District will be sponsoring Independence Day parades. Democratic elected officials and candidates will be marching in as many of these parades as they can, and they will need our support. If you'd like to volunteer to help organize Tenth Dems' participation in this year's Independence Day parades, you may email volunteers@tenthdems.org to sign up.



SAVE THE DATE!

When: Sunday, July 20, 4:00 p.m.

Where: Ravinia Festival

What: An Evening of Lerner and Loewe with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, choruses, and vocalists

Fellow Democrats make for a fun night at Ravinia Festival. Summer wouldn't be the same without a night on the lawn, so enjoy it with Tenth Dems. The performance starts at 5:00, and will include selections from *My Fair Lady*, *Gigi*, *Brigadoon*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Camelot*.

We'll picnic on the lawn together as we enjoy this glorious Broadway music. Details, including cost, to follow.

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