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**For information or to volunteer:**

Email us at [newsletter@tenthdems.org](mailto:newsletter@tenthdems.org)  
 Or visit our website at [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)  
 Or call us at 847.266.VOTE (8683)  
 Or write to Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Chair,  
 Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015

**Editor:** Barbara Altman

**Editorial Staff:** Joan Attenberg,  
 Lauren Beth Gash, Adrienne Kirshbaum,  
 Steve Sheffey, Allan Sperling

**Contributors:** Steven Gan, Carol Hillsberg,  
 Nels Howard, Eleonora di Liscia,  
 Dottie Palombo, Laurie Kaplan Singh

**Photos:** Steve Rosenzweig

**Design:** Charles Troy

**Distribution:** Ravi Ganapathy, Glenn Stier

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# Voting Rights—Fifty Years Later

By Carol Hillsberg

Just over 50 years ago, hundreds of volunteers traveled to Mississippi as part of Freedom Summer, a project to register black voters in the South. At that time, 6.7 percent of African Americans were registered to vote in that state -- not a single one in Mississippi's Neshoba County. It was there on June 21, 1964, in the town of Philadelphia, that members of the Ku Klux Klan, including the county's deputy sheriff, murdered three young civil rights workers, Andy Goodman, Mickey Schwerner, and James Chaney.

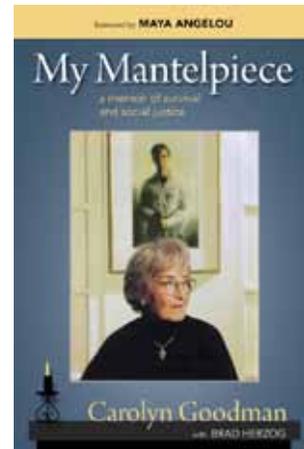
The tragedy of these deaths resonated across the United States, in part because two of the victims, Andy Goodman and Mickey Schwerner, were white. Only one of the victims, James Chaney, was African American.

In her recently published memoir co-authored

by Brad Herzog, Carolyn Goodman, Andy's mother, gives an intimate account of this very public tragedy. In *My Mantelpiece: A Memoir of Survival and Social Justice*, Goodman writes, "Andy and his companions became symbols of the intransigence of the South and the righteousness of the cause."

In the foreword to Goodman's memoir, Maya Angelou describes the three young murder victims as "unmitigated heroes" who "had

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# www.tenthdems.org Tenth News

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## THE BRAD BEAT: A Vote for Compassion

By Eleonora di Liscia



When faced with the influx of young children fleeing violence in Central America, some unaccompanied by even one parent, House Republicans responded to White House pleas for aid by passing a bill that would undermine the White House's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. (The program, known as DACA, allows certain immigrants who came here as children without documentation to apply for renewable two-year stays.) But not with Brad Schneider's vote.

"The ongoing flood of unaccompanied minors fleeing their home countries and seeking refuge in the United States is a growing humanitarian crisis demanding urgent Congressional action," Brad said. "The U.S. has an obligation to ensure that efforts to address this crisis do not ignore the brutal realities that exist in Central America or force vulnerable children back into circumstances where they face persecution, abuse and even death. We must also ensure that our process for evaluating individual refugee claims reflects the principles, values and compassion at the core of our national identity and sadly, this measure fails to meet that crucial standard."

In his first term in office, Brad himself has consistently demonstrated the compassion underlying progressive values.

Having heard the stories of some long-term unemployed in the 10th District, Brad pushed for better job training and got key provisions passed in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Act

contains elements from Brad's own AMERICA Works Act and the Learn Act. And he has spoken out and voted for extending benefits to the long-term unemployed.

Caring about the challenges veterans face when returning home, Brad introduced the GI Internship Program Act to create a new internship option for post 9/11 GI bill recipients. A veteran can use his or her GI bill stipend to intern with a business.

"Matching veterans with businesses is a win-win that can help businesses bridge the skills gap and expand opportunities for our veterans," Schneider said.

Brad fought for the LGBT community by opposing the Defense of Marriage Act and helping to introduce bills that would end discrimination in the workplace and at school. He also helped introduce a bill to allow same-sex partners to receive the same social security benefits as heterosexual couples.

Brad appreciates the importance to a woman of being in control of her own body. He cosponsored the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. And he cosponsored a bill that would reverse the Supreme Court's *Hobby Lobby* decision, which enabled for-profit corporate employers to deny health insurance coverage for certain contraceptives based on the shareholders' religious beliefs.

And Brad has voted against the Ryan budget, which would have cut Pell Grants and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, slashed environmental protections and revived Medicare vouchers. ■

★ PHOTOS FROM THE AUGUST 17 MEET THE CANDIDATE EVENT ARE ON PAGES 3-5. ★

# Robert Dold's Voting Record in Congress Shows That He Is No Friend of the Environment

Congress Watch

The 2014 Congressional race is coming into full swing, and Republican candidate Robert Dold is running hard to recapture the seat he held in the House of Representatives from January 2011 to January 2013. In order to align his image with the values of the 10th District, Dold likely will try to portray himself as a champion of environmental protections (although, to date, his campaign's website does not mention the environment). Fortunately, 10th District voters do not need to rely upon campaign rhetoric to know where the candidates stand. Democratic Congressman Brad Schneider and his opponent both have voting records in Congress.

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) rated Congressman Brad Schneider's votes in 2013 as 96 percent favorable to the environment and has endorsed his bid for reelection. Brad also has been endorsed by the other leading environmental advocacy organization, the Sierra Club.

"Brad Schneider knows that protecting our environment and moving to cleaner energy sources is not only the right thing for our future, but also a great way to create good jobs and improve our economy right now," said Jack Darin, Director of the Sierra Club, Illinois chapter. "Schneider is working to protect our precious Lake Michigan from pollution, and promote solutions to climate change that benefit our communities. We need his leadership in Washington, and we are proud to recommend him to all voters in the 10th District who want to protect our environment for our families and our future."

In stark contrast, when Brad's opponent served in Congress, the Sierra Club gave him an F rating. Similarly, in its 2011 Scorecard, LCV gave then-Congressman Dold a 34 percent rating. In fact, the LCV characterized the 112th Congress that Dold served in as "the most anti-environment House of Representatives in the nation's history."

While a member of that anti-environment Republican majority in the House, Dold toed the party line and voted in lockstep with Tea Party climate-change deniers as they waged an unprecedented assault on the environment, at the expense of public health and the sustainability of the planet. Dold voted for legislation that sought to undermine science, to deny the cost of carbon pollution, to weaken the Environmental Protection Agency's authority, to defund programs that protect air, water, wildlife, forests, and other delicate ecosystems, and to subsidize dirty fossil fuels while cutting funding for renewable and more efficient energy. For more detailed analyses of Dold's anti-environment votes, see the "Congress Watch" columns in the September and July 2012 issues of *Tenth News* at <http://www.tenthdems.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/201209NL.pdf> and <http://www.tenthdems.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/201207NL.pdf>.

If voters ignore the rhetoric and examine both candidates' records, the choice this November could not be simpler. Those of us who are concerned about the future of our planet will enthusiastically vote to return Representative Brad Schneider to Congress. ■



## "I'm So Disappointed in Obama...." II

By Eleonora di Liscia

Some of my friends do not seem to have gotten the message.

When I wrote this column before (*Tenth News*, January 2014), I specifically stated that if I heard one more person say they were disappointed in Obama, I would hurt them.

Well, my friends keep risking their lives by telling me about their disappointment. Although at least they have been smart enough to say these things while remaining out of arm's reach.

So I have to ask: Why are you so disappointed in Obama? Because he isn't a dictator so he is not ramming our progressive agenda down Republican throats only to have it later overturned by the Republican-dominated Supreme Court? Did you fail junior high civics?

Presidents in America are not dictators. Presidents are responsible for executing the law, which is why they head up what is called the executive branch. The Congress has to make the laws. Congress legislates. That's why it's called the legislature.

It's not totally that cut-and-dried, but that is the gist of it.

And one part of the legislature—the Republican-led House—wants to make sure that Obama accomplishes absolutely nothing, and Republicans have the votes to make that happen.

Similarly, Republicans in the other branch—the Senate—have filibustered to prevent bills from coming to the floor for a vote even when they later vote unanimously to approve the same bill. And ever since Harry Reid modified the filibuster rule so that executive branch nominees could come up for a vote and vacancies could be filled, Republicans have been playing a new game called "withholding unanimous consent." This discourtesy ensures that a confirmation that ordinarily would be accomplished in minutes instead takes four days. But no time is wasted, since Republicans are making sure that no legislation is going to be passed, anyway.

So let's try to figure out just why you're so disappointed.

Are you disappointed that we passed a flawed but something-to-build-on healthcare law? Maybe you're even among those who say, "He should have gotten single payer or the public option." Well,

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Lt. Governor Sheila Simon, Running for Illinois State Comptroller, Mingles with the Crowd Before Her Presentation at Our Meet the Candidate Forum on August 17, and Poses for Photos Afterwards







# The House vs. President Obama – A Wasteful Political Stunt

By Steven Gan

During the 2012 Presidential campaign, we heard over and over from GOP (Gotta Oppose the President) candidates and their right-wing cohorts in Congress that President Obama would be “a one-term President.” After President Obama’s reelection, this idea morphed into a GOP cause célèbre to try to negate his presidency.

Toward that end, Republicans have paralyzed Congress by opposing virtually any legislation President Obama proposes or even supports. As a consequence, the President has stated on several occasions that his only option is to exercise the full authority available to him as the nation’s chief executive. Most recently, since Congress failed to act to address the plight of children from Central America who have entered the United States without permission, I am elated that President Obama has stated his intention to exercise executive authority to do so, as he did in 2012 when he instituted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Under DACA, the Department of Homeland Security has halted deportation of certain undocumented immigrants who were under age 16 when they entered the United States and granted them work permits.

But now that President Obama is moving forward in this and other arenas, Republicans claim that he has overstepped his authority and will waste valuable time, energy, and resources in attempting to stop him and undermine his administration, including exploring impeachment.

The United States Constitution states in Article II, Section 4: “The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

I don’t understand how the President’s taking action on immigration reform would fall into the categories of “Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors,” except that when the GOP’s only goal is to undermine the office of this Democratic president, this could make total sense in their world.

Back in mid-June, when Speaker John Boehner began to rally House Republicans to vote to sue President Obama over his use of executive orders, Boehner didn’t really outline which executive orders he would sue over, but he was certain that he would be suing. Many thought the real goal was to transform the proposed lawsuit and craft it into a plan to impeach President Obama.

In response, the Democrats’ congressional campaign apparatus pulled in an impressive \$2.1 million in online donations over a four-day period towards the end of July, largely propelled by speculation that House Republicans might pursue the impeachment of President Obama.

This caused Boehner to do a complete about-face; he proclaimed that the GOP would not be pursuing the impeachment of the President. Not only that. Boehner announced that this whole impeachment idea was the Democrats’ strategy all along. Still, House Republicans have passed a resolution authorizing paying outside attorneys to help the House pursue a federal lawsuit against the President.

Are you confused?

With all this game playing by the GOP Members of Congress, the many important and urgent issues facing this country have been pushed to the sidelines. Instead, the American taxpayer is footing the bill for Republicans’ political maneuvering. ■

## Chicago Area Political Item Collectors to Meet in Deerfield



By Dottie Palombo

The Chicago Area Political Item Collectors (CAPIC) is holding its Fall Meeting on Sunday, October 5th, at Waybright Student Center, Trinity International University, 2065 Half Day Road (aka Illinois Route 22), Deerfield, from noon to 3:00 p.m. CAPIC members and friends will get together to admire, trade, and sell memorabilia from political campaigns current, recent, and middle to late 19th century. There will be buttons, posters, bumper stickers, other political ephemera, as well as special displays and presentations. One member will show his collection of abolitionist newspapers and, at 1:30, offer a short talk and Q & A session.

Tenth Dems also will have a table that will feature its most recent candidate and issue materials as well as buttons going back to 2004.

A number of people in the 10th District accumulate political material. Some may have buttons acquired at an event and tossed into a drawer. Others may have preserved a closet full of items from Adlai Stevenson’s two presidential campaigns. And then there are the serious collectors, people with floor-to-ceiling shelving housing carefully labeled and catalogued material.

Whatever one’s level of interest, the Fall Meeting will stimulate curiosity and perhaps inspire the addition of new items to a collection.

The event is family friendly; admission and parking are free and school-age children are welcome. For additional information, or to reserve a display table (\$10 each), contact Dottie at 847 432 0957 or [ddpCAPIC@aol.com](mailto:ddpCAPIC@aol.com). ■

# Legislators Who Work for the People



By  
Nels Howard

Earlier this month, as House Speaker John Boehner was getting headlines with his talk of suing the President and all the hints of impeachment that implied, I thought about the many months that the Republicans in Congress have frittered away on unproductive activity. And I thought about how their ongoing obstructionism and truly stupid behavior give a bad name to every person holding a political office at any level of government. And that got me thinking how unfair that is to all those officeholders who are trying to make a positive difference.

The reality is that, despite all the game playing by politicians like John Boehner and his political equivalents across the country, good laws still do get written. They just aren't laws that produce big headlines. They're simply laws that do something to make life safer or fairer or more promising for all of us.

Blockbuster laws are rare. It's the "smaller" bills passed in Washington or Springfield or Cook or Lake County that keep the legislative process vital; laws that, without fanfare, improve things incrementally. And the best of this legislation is written by legislators who have chosen to be in politics for the right reasons. Not for power or wealth or prestige -- and certainly not for glamour if they're spending big chunks of each year in Springfield.

Those conscientious officeholders are devoting their time and energy toward developing specific bills simply because they believe their work can make life better in the long run for all of us.

A good example of such public service is our 17th District State Representative Laura Fine.

Laura's being challenged in November by a Tea Party Republican whose right-wing supporters thrive on the cynicism and distrust of government that Boehner's Congress has nurtured. Meanwhile, Laura has quietly played a part in a number of thoughtful pieces of legislation that received little publicity but will touch the lives of many Illinoisans in important ways. She wrote and passed legislation (HB 4207) that takes on cyber-bullying by allowing schools to investigate bullying that occurs outside of the school. She has supported bills targeting sexual predators, improving growth opportunities for small businesses, securing quality healthcare for all Illinoisans, and much more.

The fact is, our region has an impressive array of solid legislators working for us. If you have the time, you'll find a visit to the websites of any of our area's county, state or federal officeholders an interesting venture. Laura Fine, Daniel Biss, Robyn Gabel, Larry Suffredin, Dick Durbin, Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Scott Drury, Julie Morrison... . Navigating through the legislation that

they've supported gives you an appreciation of the breadth of issues that they have positively affected. It's remarkable—even though most voters will never read about what they've accomplished.

So, when the antics of a Congressman Boehner or a Senator McConnell get you started wondering if anything good can be produced by our form of representative government, consider the quality of the legislators that we've elected to represent us here in the 9th and 10th Congressional Districts and how they continue to stay focused on shaping legislation, little by little, into a body of good law. ■

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## "I'm So Disappointed in Obama..." II

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what did you think would have happened when that law got to the Supreme Court? Do you think Chief Justice Roberts would have taken the political bullet on that one? Justice Roberts did not uphold the Affordable Care Act because he thinks such legislation was a great idea. He made a political calculation, a calculation that would have shifted if the stakes were government-run health insurance.

Are you disappointed that the EPA once again regards mercury as a pollutant? That the Justice Department stopped defending the Defense of Marriage Act against court challenges? Are you disappointed in any other item on the list of 250 Obama accomplishments (<http://pleasecutthecrap.com/obama-accomplishments/>) written by someone who sounds like my long lost twin?

Are you disappointed that Obama doesn't spend more time expressing your feelings by bloviating about fill-in-the-blank issue instead of fighting to make actual change?

Yeah, I'm disappointed, too, sometimes. But let's be clear where the disappointment lies. I'm disappointed that after suffering through eight years of Bush, the current, actually-elected President is getting blocked at every turn from many of the good things we could accomplish. I'm disappointed that we no longer seem to have a viable two-party system. I'm disappointed that Republicans won't work with Democrats to improve healthcare instead of trying to destroy it. I'm disappointed that the start of every June makes my stomach hurt as the Supreme Court rolls out one horrible decision after another. And I'm disappointed that there's no foreign policy crisis that the Republicans don't treat as an opportunity to criticize the President, no matter what he does or doesn't do.

But I'm not disappointed in Obama, who has been fighting our battles day in and day out despite being constantly deprecated and thwarted by Republicans. And do we have his back? Are we saying, "Keep fighting, Obama! We're with you"?

In 2010, Democratic disappointment in Obama was part of what suppressed voter turnout, causing us to lose the majority in the House. Let's not make that mistake again.

Let's channel our disappointment into electing Democrats in 2014. Let's make sure that we vote on November 4, and that everyone we know votes too.

Or else, as my parents used to say when I was acting spoiled, come November 5, we'll have something to really be disappointed about! ■

# Voting Rights—Fifty Years Later

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the courage to go to the lion's den and try to scrub the lion's teeth." This foreword is one of the last of Angelou's published writings.

Following Freedom Summer, what changed voting patterns in Mississippi was the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, which Lyndon Johnson signed on August 6, 1965. This legislation outlawed the mechanisms that had been used to keep blacks from voting, such as literacy tests and poll taxes, and included provisions that prevented states with a history of discrimination from enacting laws that would interfere with minority voting rights.

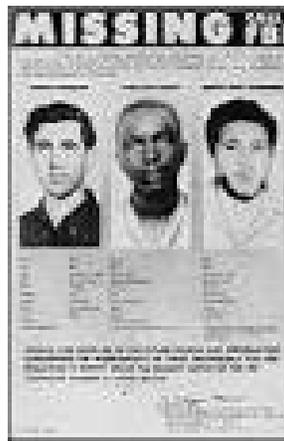
The Voting Rights Act effected a transformation in Mississippi and other southern states. Today there are more African-American elected officials in Mississippi than in any other state.

Last year, the Supreme Court threatened the endurance of this transformation. On June 25, 2013, in its decision in *Shelby v. Holder*, the Court crippled one of the most effective protections of the right to vote by rendering ineffective the Voting Rights Act's requirement that jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination get preapproval for any changes to their districting or election laws.

The Court reasoned that preapproval was an historical remnant that was no longer necessary. In her dissenting opinion, Justice Ruth Ginsburg characterized this flawed logic as follows: "Throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory practices is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Since the 2010 election, beginning even before *Shelby* was decided, 22 states have passed new voting restrictions, including requiring strict voter ID, limiting early voting, and making it more difficult to register to vote. Dubious claims of voter fraud have been used to disenfranchise a portion of the population, mostly the very young, the very old, and minority voters.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, since *Shelby* came down, 10 jurisdictions in seven states have enacted potentially discriminatory voting laws that would have been subject to Justice Department review before the *Shelby* decision. Such legislation has proliferated beyond the South to such Republican-controlled



states as Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, among others. (Happily, in Democratic-controlled Illinois, voting rights have been expanded, not contracted, with the vote-by-mail option available to every voter and registration open to 17-year-olds who will attain 18 years of age by Election Day.)

Prior to the *Shelby* decision, Congress routinely extended the key sections of the Voting Rights Act. Since 2006 alone, Congress did so on four occasions, with nearly unanimous, bipartisan votes. Now, new legislation to reinvigorate the Voting Rights Act in the wake of *Shelby* and halt voter suppression has stalled in Congress. Very few Republicans—including the 57 in the House who voted for the Act's reauthorization in 2006 and are still serving—are willing to support it.

Shortly after the *Shelby* decision came down, the 10th District's Democratic Congressman Brad Schneider cosponsored the Voter Empowerment Act, which would repair the hole the *Shelby* decision left in the Voting Rights Act. Rep. Schneider posted the following on his Facebook page: "The Voting Rights Act was signed 48 years ago, but

earlier this year the Supreme Court struck down a critical part of it. Congress must act to strengthen this important legislation and protect the voting rights of all Americans."

In *My Mantelpiece*, Carolyn Goodman reflects on her son Andy's courage and motivation in going to Mississippi the summer of 1964. "Andy didn't go to Mississippi expecting to die. He simply went there to try to make it possible for people to go into a booth and vote."

If only every member of Congress demonstrated similar courage and motivation in the political realm. If only sufficient members of the Republican majority in the House shared the conviction that all eligible voters should be able "to go into a booth and vote."

How tragic that 50 years after three courageous young men lost their lives to protect voting rights, these rights still have not been secured for all Americans. ■

*Half of the proceeds from sales of My Mantelpiece: A Memoir of Survival and Social Justice, by Carolyn Goodman and Brad Herzog, benefit the Andrew Goodman Foundation, which combines the community organizing tools and lessons of the past with the technological innovations of the present to seed and nurture creative and effective action for social impact through Intergenerational Coalitions to build a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.*

# Don't Miss the Next Meet the Candidate Forum



*And now for something just a little bit different...*

**Jason Patt, candidate for Lake County Sheriff, will present *CSI: Lake County*.**

**Learn about the real life of a coroner's investigator. And find out why it is imperative that we help elect Jason Patt as Lake County Sheriff.**

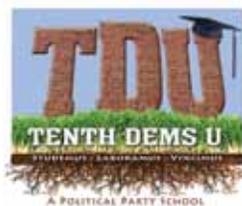
**When: Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Where: The back room of the Flame Charhouse (formerly Jimmy's Charhouse)  
1111 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Riverwoods, where Milwaukee Avenue meets Deerfield Road**

**Admission is free.**

**Light refreshments will be provided, and beverages will be available for purchase.**

**For more information, or to RSVP, email [events@tenthdems.org](mailto:events@tenthdems.org) or telephone 847-266-VOTE (8683).**



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