

<i>In This Issue:</i>	<b>Evolution Theory</b> ..... 5
<b>Gun Legislation</b> ..... 1	<b>Power Lunch</b> ..... 6
<b>Labor Group Recognition</b> ..... 1	<b>Community Conn.</b> ..... 7
<b>Congress Watch</b> ..... 2	<b>Tenth Dems U.</b> ..... 7
<b>Mid. Class Resolution</b> 4	<b>New Grayslake Office</b> . 8
	<b>Affordable Housing</b> ..... 8

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

## Sen. Julie Morrison Sponsors Sensible Gun Legislation

By Eleonora di Liscia

Illinois State Senator Julie Morrison (D-Deerfield) is working to bring sanity back into Illinois gun laws. Sen. Morrison is sponsoring a bill that would enable municipalities to once again regulate assault weapons.

In 2013, Illinois became the last state to enact a concealed carry law after the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled a ban was unconstitutional. The resulting Concealed Carry Act then barred a municipality from regulating assault weapons unless the regulation was in place within 10 days after the Act's July 9, 2013 effective date.



The City of Highland Park acted quickly, passing its assault weapons ban on June 24, 2013, just prior to the cut off. (For a statement by Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, see sidebar, on page 3.) But for some gun owners any regulation is just too much. A Highland Park resident, along with the

Illinois State Rifle Association, challenged the Highland Park law, arguing among other things that the law limited their options for armed self-defense. On April 27, 2015, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their arguments and upheld Highland Park's law.

The Seventh Circuit found that the gun

*continued on page 3*



# Tenth News

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JUNE 2015 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 12, Edition 6

## Tenth Dems Prize for Prose Leads to Recognition by Labor Group

*This report is based on an article that first appeared in The Fox Valley Labor News, Jennifer Rice, Managing Editor*

Tenth Dems has a motto: Politics should be about more than just elections. It wants its community to be a better place to live and strives to do things for good, as exemplified by its 5th Annual Poetry and Prose Competition. This year, students who entered the competition were asked to write about hope.

The awards ceremony, at which contest participants are invited to read aloud, was held in Waukegan on April 14. That evening, Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor Financial Secretary-Treasurer Brian DuPuis heard second place prose winner Tomani Raimondi read her story about a children's strike and the efforts of Samuel Gompers, the first and longest-serving president of the American Federation of Labor, to help the children and give them hope.

The 17-year-old Zion-Benton Township High School student said of her piece, "We were learning about the children's strike in English class, and I was really interested in the topic. I thought it would be an interesting topic to write about, and a challenge." Her creative writing teacher encouraged her to enter the contest, she added.



*Brian DuPuis presents Tomani Raimondi with a check for \$75.*

DuPuis was so impressed with Raimondi's story that he invited her to present it to Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor delegates at their monthly meeting on April 22.

The high school junior, who would like to pursue a career as a

*continued on page 4*

# Kirk and Dold: What They Say Is Not Always What They Do



By Laurence D. Schiller

Congressman Bob Dold and his mentor, Senator Mark Kirk, are fond of portraying themselves as moderate independents—as they must, if they want to win election in Blue Illinois. This is why it is so important to separate what these Republican legislators actually do from the press releases emanating from their offices.

In the recent past, both Kirk and Dold's electoral victories have been assisted by the lack of attention and appallingly low voter turnout that has become typical of non-presidential election years. Kirk, who is perhaps the most vulnerable GOP senator in 2016, achieved election to the Senate in 2010, the year, as President Obama put it, Democrats received a "shellacking" in the mid-term elections. Dold,



too, was first elected as part of that 2010 Republican juggernaut. And after losing to Brad Schneider in 2012, the year President Obama was reelected, Dold was able to regain the seat in the Democratic-leaning 10th in 2014 by sounding just enough like a moderate to squeak through. He exploited voters' unhappiness with Congress, even though it was the Republican majority's House leadership, abetted by an aggressively obstructionist Republican minority in the Senate, that paralyzed the government.

It is important to note that Dold, the self-styled moderate, made Congressman Paul Ryan's list of most reliable conservatives, a list that includes the worst of climate deniers, fundamentalist evangelicals, xenophobes, and war hawks, all supporters of our modern day Robber Barons. Not a list that should help him in the 2016 election, but remember, this is the same Bob Dold who was endorsed by Phyllis Schlafly in 2010 and begged to keep that quiet.

Clearly, what Dold does in Congress makes the Radical Right happy, no matter what he says to his moderate constituents. Here is an example: In a speech in Chicago on April 27, Dold said that the nation is in desperate need of plans to stimulate economic growth, upgrade infrastructure, whittle its national debt, and help the growing number of Americans in poverty. Can't disagree, although on President Obama's watch, the debt has been significantly reduced and the stock markets are at all-time highs.

But what did Dold do? He voted for the Republican budget, which decimates social services, including cutting food stamps, Head Start programs, and aid to education; takes health insurance away from 16 million Americans; and reduces Medicare and Medicaid from essential government programs to tax credits or block grants designed to benefit the insurance companies. (For a more detailed

discussion of this budget, see "Congress Watch: Dold and Kirk Vote To Gut Medicare and Other Health and Social Programs, Increase Defense Spending, and Lower Taxes on the Wealthiest Americans," *Tenth News*, May 2015, <http://www.tenthdems.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Tenth-Dems-newsletter-May-2015-v4.pdf#page=2>.) Far from redressing the growing poverty in America, this Republican budget cuts essential services and would cause misery, sickness, and literal hunger to millions who should point their gaunt fingers at millionaire Bob Dold.

Further, this Republican budget fails to provide sufficient funds to address infrastructure problems, while cutting aid to mass transit and Amtrak, again services utilized by the working and middle classes.

Finally, this Republican budget provides yet another tax cut to the top one percent of Americans, which will reduce income to the Federal Treasury and increase the national debt, not reduce it. Dold's insistence that tax cuts for the wealthy and reduced environmental controls on business create jobs flies in the face of the reality of what George H. W. Bush called Reagan's voodoo

economics. Trickle down economics don't work and never will.

So there is a basic disconnect between Dold's words that he wants to help people, and his actions, whereby he votes for the economics of the Robber Barons, regardless of the damage it does to average Americans. Dold has yet to understand the basic economic premise that it isn't the rich who create jobs, it is consumer demand, and that demand is disappearing as the economic policies that Dold supports shift the wealth of America from the middle class to the very rich.

The other recent big news out of the House was the passage of the \$89.2 billion National Defense Appropriations Act (NDAA), which vastly expanded spending on defense, even as Republicans in the House, Dold included, failed to take responsibility for authorizing the war against ISIS. While Republicans in both houses of Congress have made sanctimonious noises about the need to meddle with and control nuclear talks with Iran, the House GOP leadership allowed a bill to pass that sets no limits on spending, number of troops sent to Iraq, or endgame for this conflict. Of course this is all politics. Constitutionally, Congress has no right to interfere in diplomatic negotiations, whereas it is supposed to be responsible for authorizing wars. The NDAA passed, supported by Dold, with 135 amendments, among which was stripping the ability of Dreamers to join the military and a scientifically fallacious "Pain Capable Children" provision designed to further limit women's abortion rights. While Dold voted against these amendments initially, preserving a basis for him to claim that he is moderate on immigration and choice, when it mattered he voted for the NDAA with these provisions intact. This is a time-honored tactic. If Dold were truly pro-choice or supported immigration reform, he would have voted against the NDAA as a matter of principle. He did not.

*continued on page 4*

## Sen. Julie Morrison Sponsors Sensible Gun Legislation

*continued from page 1*

owners had undermined their own argument that a ban on assault weapons wouldn't prevent criminals from finding substitute weapons. "If criminals can find substitutes for banned assault weapons, then so can law-abiding home owners," Judge Frank Easterbrook wrote. The court also said that data established that laws like the Highland Park ban reduced gun crimes involving assault weapons and that some evidence linked the availability of assault weapons to gun-related homicides.

Prompted by the April 27 ruling, Sen. Morrison's SB 2130 would strike the language in the Concealed Carry Act prohibiting municipalities from regulating assault weapons.

"This is about local control," Morrison said in a statement. "Highland Park decided to protect its citizens by banning assault weapons. Every other city and village in Illinois should have that same right."

The Illinois State Rifle Association has naturally said it will oppose the bill. At least one gun-nut site labelled Sen. Morrison an "anti-gun extremist" who has introduced a "dangerous gun control bill" that "would ban most of the possession of most of the guns you own now."

But both the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence and the Gun Violence Prevention PAC have praised the bill.

"Now that we have a court decision that affirms communities can ban assault weapons, I'm sure more of Illinois' cities and towns will want to pass ordinances to keep their residents safe," said Colleen Daley of the Illinois Council against Handgun Violence. "Senator Morrison's legislation would help restore local control on this important public safety issue." ■



## Statement by Nancy Rotering, Mayor of Highland Park, Following Decision Upholding Her City's Assault Weapons Ban



In 2013, when the State of Illinois passed legislation that offered the City of Highland Park a brief opportunity to regulate assault weapons, we made sure that the chance to protect our community wasn't lost. Despite threats from special interest groups, we took decisive action to ban assault weapons in an effort to reduce the risk of a mass shooting.

As a mayor and the mom of four sons, the memories of Sandy Hook ran through my mind as we took the vote. Banning assault weapons is a commonsense step to reducing gun violence and protecting our children, our law enforcement officials, and our community from potential mass violence and grief.

While special interest groups challenged our decision, first the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and then the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that Highland Park's assault weapons ban ordinance is lawful under the U.S. Constitution.

While the court's ruling allows all Illinois municipalities the opportunity to safeguard their residents, current Illinois state law limits their ability to enact their own firearm restrictions. Municipalities wishing to take the same or similar steps as Highland Park needed to do so within a 10-day window in 2013. That time has come and gone. Highland Park was among a handful of municipalities to pass an assault weapons ban back then.

Upon receipt of the news of the court's ruling, I contacted State Senator Julie Morrison and urged her to draft legislation to amend state law to allow all municipalities the opportunity to take action at any time to ban assault weapons. Senator Morrison agreed that all Illinois municipalities should have the opportunity to protect their communities, and she introduced SB 2130 to the Illinois General Assembly on May 1.

We know that we cannot stop every violent crime, but we can and will continue to take sensible action and do our part to protect our children and families. ■

## Tenth Dems Prize for Prose Leads to Recognition by Labor Group

*continued from page 1*

librarian, was excited for the opportunity to share her prose piece again. "I expected Brian to say I did a good job, but it was better to be invited to the meeting and read my story," Raimondi said.

At the April 14 Community Connection Poetry/Prose Awards Night, Raimondi received a check for \$75 from Tenth Dems for her prize-winning story. The Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor matched that award and presented her with another check for \$75 on April 22. ■





## Kirk and Dold

*continued from page 2*

Mark Kirk, who, by the way, has the lowest rating in the Senate for writing bipartisan bills and zero points from GovTrack.us for failing to support eight government transparency bills, also voted for the GOP budget, contradicting his stated desire to help the average Illinoisan. But I think his actions, or, more accurately, non-actions, on the Loretta Lynch nomination for Attorney General and the Human Trafficking bill are most indicative of how Kirk operates. Lynch's nomination, held up for five months, longer than any cabinet nomination of the past three administrations, was hostage to Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's desire to hurt the President in any way possible. Although the majority of Senators supported the nomination, McConnell refused to bring it to the floor for a vote.

While Democrats pressured McConnell, Mark Kirk said and did nothing. With public opinion roundly condemning the Senate leadership, McConnell decided to tie the nomination to a widely supported bill on human trafficking, saying he would bring it up as soon as that bill was passed. But, of course, there was a hitch. When Democrats weren't looking, the Republicans slid in a provision that would have curtailed the ability of victims of trafficking to terminate pregnancies, and Democrats objected. (For a detailed discussion of this bill, see "Congress Watch: Kirk Signs Open Letter to Iran; Goes Along with Republican Leadership on Abortion Restrictions and Anti-Immigrant Homeland Security Funding Bills," Tenth News, April 2015, at p. 11, <http://www.tenthdems.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Tenth-Dems-newsletter-Apr.-2015-v5-1.pdf#page=10>.)

Eventually, the anti-choice language was removed, the bill passed, and Lynch was confirmed. And Kirk? He had nothing to say about the human trafficking bill controversy. Yet immediately after Lynch's confirmation, he trumpeted how he was involved in the bipartisan effort to get her in. Really? When it mattered, when McConnell was playing his political games, there wasn't a peep out of Kirk or his office. For five months he did nothing but toe the party line, showing what an ineffective voice he is for those for whom he says he advocates. His lack of action speaks far louder than his statements after the fact.

Dold and Kirk? Be very skeptical of what they say. Watch what they do. ■

## A Suggested Litmus Test for Gov. Rauner's Agenda: Will this Policy or Legislation Grow the Middle Class?

The Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, which serves as the Central Labor Council for Lake and McHenry Counties, passed the following resolution at the April 2015 general delegate meeting:

### RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE MIDDLE CLASS OF LAKE AND McHENRY COUNTIES

**WHEREAS**, the Middle Class is the backbone of our country, state and community and a vibrant Middle Class is essential to the nation's prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Middle Class pays the most taxes of any income bracket, spends the most money at our local businesses and drives the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to maintain a vibrant Middle Class we must attract and maintain jobs with family-supporting wages and benefits; and

**WHEREAS** the labor movement is a historic cornerstone of the American middle class and remains essential to ensuring that economic prosperity is broadly shared by all working people; and

**WHEREAS**, creation of right to work (for less) zones, repeal of prevailing wage requirements on construction projects and elimination of standardized subjects of bargaining would create a "race to the bottom" that would reduce the pay of our community's workforce and, therefore, harm the local businesses dependent upon local customers; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies have shown that right to work (for less) laws lead to lower wages and benefits and more frequent workplace deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal courts have ruled repeatedly and consistently that right to work (for less) laws are the sole jurisdiction of state and territorial governments, not local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Attorney General has recently reaffirmed the legal opinion that local governments do not have the authority to pass local right to work (for less) ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of a local right to work (for less) ordinance would undoubtedly generate a legal challenge that our government would have to fruitlessly defend at a significant cost to our taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, prevailing wage laws create a level playing field for local construction contractors by forcing out-of-state contractors to bid on projects based on the skill and efficiency of their workforce, not how far they can drive down wages and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, by benefitting local contractors, prevailing wage laws greatly increase the likelihood that construction workers from our community will be employed on the projects that their tax dollars and those of our other tax payers fund; and

**WHEREAS**, local construction workers, when gainfully employed, patronize our local businesses and help create jobs in our local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, subjects of collective bargaining for public sector workers are defined by state law and to allow local governments to determine which subjects will be on the bargaining table for their employees would limit Middle Class workers' ability to advocate for themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, a vital and accessible Workers' Compensation system is essential to the economic security of working families hit with unexpected injury or illness; and

**WHEREAS**, changes to the Workers' Compensation system that disproportionately affect older workers are unjust; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Distributive Fund (LDGF) is essential to provide the local services the citizens of our communities need and expect; and

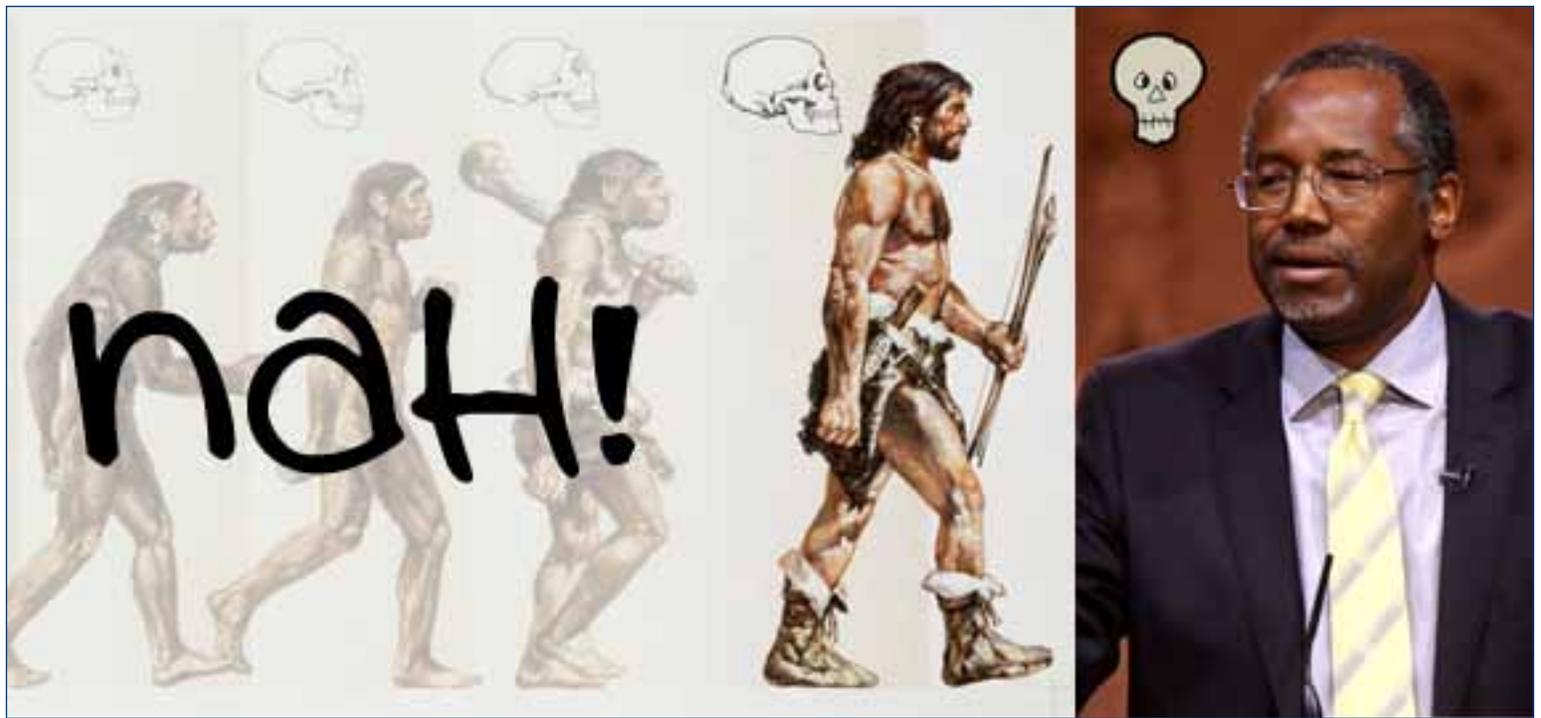
**WHEREAS**, cutting LDGF funds to local governments will result in harmful cuts in services and likely create tax increases at the local level; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delegates, Executive Board and Affiliates of Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO hereby stands with and supports the Middle Class residents of our county/municipality/unit of government and pledge that we will not take any action against them; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Republican Leader of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, and the Republican Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives.

**PASSED** by the Delegates, Executive Board and Affiliates of Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2015.



## According to Esteemed Neurosurgeon and Republican Presidential Candidate Ben Carson, the Theory of Evolution is for the Birds

By Steven Gan

I once had a very interesting science teacher in the seventh grade who taught our class about evolution. He told us something very simple: that our bodies can evolve right before our very eyes. Now, I know what you're thinking. How can that be? Doesn't evolution of any living organism take a gazillion years?

My science teacher explained the evolutionary process like this: If starting tomorrow we lived barefoot in the trees, in order to keep ourselves balanced, humans with toes that were spread out and elongated could better grasp the branches. In the beginning we would be extremely clumsy in trying to do this and those of us who were not able to do it might end up on the ground. But those of us who managed would survive and pass this trait on to the next generation.

See? That wasn't so complicated.

I'm sure you can even rationally take it to the next level and foresee that if we stayed living in the trees for the next million years, we would end up looking a lot different than we do now. We might have a tail protruding from our posterior (for better balance), and maybe we'd be holding marathons, swinging in great leaps from tree to tree. Although we wouldn't recognize ourselves, that's the way the evolutionary process works over time.

Evolution is a scientific theory with 150 years of accumulated evidence to support it. It can be criticized and refined by scientific methods. But it is not a matter of belief. Religious thought cannot be applied to disprove a scientific proposition any more than grammar can be used to build a skyscraper.

Yet according to Ben Carson, a proclaimed 2016 Republican candidate for President who is a highly accomplished

neurosurgeon and, thus, an esteemed man of science, evolution is a matter of belief—something that just doesn't fit into his view of the cosmos.

Carson's view of evolution first became widely known back in 2006. In a 2006 debate with Richard Dawkins (British evolutionary biologist), Francis Collins (American physician and geneticist), and Daniel Dennett (American philosopher, writer, and cognitive scientist), Carson stated: "I don't believe in evolution...I simply don't have enough faith to believe that something as complex as our ability to rationalize, think, and plan, and have a moral sense of what's right and wrong, just appeared." In 2012, nearly 500 professors, students, and alumni of Emory University wrote a letter expressing concern about his views in advance of his commencement speech (there was no request to rescind the invitation). They cited a quote in a Carson interview with the *Adventist Review*: "By believing we are the product of random acts, we eliminate morality and the basis of ethical behavior." More recently, Carson again reiterated his beliefs that the theory of evolution is just not possible. He stated that as a neurosurgeon who has spent most of his life studying the human brain, he believes the brain is too complex to have "simply evolved."

"Simply evolved?" Carson apparently forgets that evolution just doesn't happen overnight, but over millennia.

My hope is that Carson continues to insist that the theory of evolution is for the birds. He has his conservative religious following, and to those who cheer him on, he's talking their language. To the rest of America, he's on the fringes.

I'm thankful that Carson never sat in on my seventh grade science class. ■



Far right, Sister Simone Campbell and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky with Hon. Lauren Beth Gash and her daughter, Sarah Garmisa.

## Note to Self: Be Sure to Attend the Power Lunch Again Next Year!

By Rosemary Heilemann

On Monday, May 18, the International Ballroom at the Chicago Hilton was packed from corner to corner at Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's 14th Annual Ultimate Women's Power Lunch. Even more than the numbers, the enthusiasm and energy of more than 2,000 strong women and the men who admire them, including dozens of Tenth Dems, threatened to burst the very walls.

Co-hosts Josina Morita, Asian American community leader and environmental advocate, and Hon. Stephanie D. Neely, former treasurer of the City of Chicago, welcomed the crowd warmly and read a moving letter of encouragement from Hillary Clinton. Then, after acknowledging candidates and elected officials, our host delivered her prepared remarks.

Rep. Schakowsky talked about growing up in Rogers Park. She described a time when ordinary working people could live comfortably, without worrying about putting food on the table, reasonably expecting that their children would live a better life than theirs. She contrasted that time with ours, a time when, in the words of AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, "most families come home to a full plate of worry." Yet, Rep. Schakowsky said, the United States has never been wealthier. Since 1980, GDP has grown by 77 percent and worker productivity has increased by 75 percent.

The bad news? Despite our national prosperity, 80 percent of workers have seen no improvement in their standard of living. The excess money from all this productivity has mostly gone to the top one percent of earners. At the same time, this year's federal budget has cut 40 percent from health and welfare programs, including SNAP (food stamps), that will hurt one million people. These policies are bad for the people and bad for the economy. When working people get paid, they spend most of their income, which stimulates the economy. It is estimated that the \$1.3 trillion in excess earnings of the highest paid individuals would create 10 million jobs if that money were actually spent.

But Rep. Schakowsky followed this dismal picture with good news. Federal tax laws and changes in government regulations over many years have created our lopsided economy, and loopholes and policies that created economic inequality can be undone. The Democratic Women's Congressional Caucus, adopting the theme "When Women Succeed, America Succeeds," is writing bills to address economic inequality, bills calling for increases in social security benefits; government-supported child care, pre-school, and elder care; support for women entrepreneurs; and reduction of college debt.



There is a renewed progressive mood in the country, Schakowsky said. Studies have shown that progressive ideas such as closing corporate loopholes, increasing capital gains taxes, increasing the minimum wage, providing true pensions, reforming immigration, and imposing higher taxes on millionaires and billionaires are popular. Women are tending to vote Democratic because they are looking for candidates who understand their issues.

Elections really matter, and the key is to engage the electorate. Only one-third of eligible voters turned out for the 2014 election. "We are smart enough, strong enough, and determined enough to make changes in 2016," Schakowsky said.

Rep. Schakowsky yielded the floor to Saru Jayaraman, co-founder of ROC United, a group fighting for improved conditions for restaurant workers. Ms. Jayaraman told us that one-twelfth of American workers are restaurant workers, the lowest paid of all occupations. Because of exceptions successfully lobbied for by the restaurant industry, the minimum wage for such tipped workers is well below that legislated for other workers—\$2.13 per hour under federal law and \$4.95 in Illinois. In her allotted five minutes, this dynamic young woman made the case for eliminating this discrepancy, explaining that by designating workers as "tipped," restaurant owners relieve themselves of the obligation to pay a living wage.

In the wake of these dynamic introductory speakers, keynote speaker Sister Simone Campbell came to the podium. Well-known since 2012 for her "Nuns on the Bus" national tour, Sister Simone spoke calmly and softly, with the confidence of one who has been a registered lobbyist, speaker, educator, and activist since 1978. Her message was that every one of us can accomplish something if we engage with others. Change, she said, requires that we build relationships, learn people's stories, and then tell those stories—in short, open our hearts and then "gossip." People are hungering to belong to something, which is why they sometimes get attached to leaders who do not serve their best interests. Sister Simone encouraged us to build a sense of community with people we encounter, to ask questions about their lives, and to learn and share their stories.

Sister Simone's remarks invoked a palpable sense of community in the ballroom, and her quiet confidence inspired optimism. Such group experiences strengthen our determination to continue to work for the changes that will benefit our country and its people. This was my first Ultimate Women's Power Lunch, and it surely will not be my last. ■



# Community Connection Corner: Dems, Mini-Dems, and ArtWauk

By Karen Singer

Saturday evening, May 16, was a beautiful night for ArtWauk in downtown Waukegan, and Tenth Dems was in enthusiastic attendance at the Community Connection office.

Tenth Dems Co-chair Bonnie Berger-Neel headed up the roster of participants, along with volunteers Carolyn Rivers, Joe Dubaniewicz, Deb Seed, and Karen Singer, as well as Tenth Dems intern coordinator Joel Spiegel and intern Peter Shin.

Adding even more life to the party were a few mini-Dems in the form of Bonnie's and Carolyn's grandchildren.

Later in the evening former 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider, who is running to regain his seat, came by with his wife, Julie. They enjoyed conversations with ComCon attendees and passersby, as well as the wonderful art at Waukegan's galleries.

The best part of the evening was talking to good people and letting them know about Community Connection's

presence in and contribution to the Waukegan community—that for Tenth Dems, politics is about more than elections. From conducting job interview training for ex-offenders to tending the community garden to holding an annual poetry/prose contest for high schoolers to participating in ArtWauk, Community Connection is actively engaged with the Waukegan community year round. ■



*Stopping at Community Connection during ArtWauk, former 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider and wife Julie Dann step next door to Tufo Gallery for a photo with Patrick Tufo and musician.*



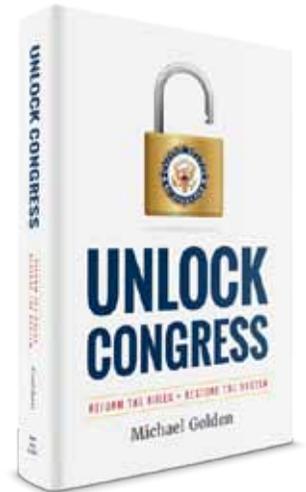
# Let's Talk Politics in Wheeling on June 11 –

**Michael Golden, Author of *Unlock Congress*, to Appear**

The next "Let's Talk Politics" is set for Thursday evening, June 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at the RAM Restaurant and Brewery, 700 North Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling. To get the discussion started, Michael Golden will speak briefly about his new book, *Unlock Congress*, in which he proposes ways to reform the system and break the gridlock in Washington (something the Republican Party has perfected the last few years).



For many years, Tenth Dems University has periodically sponsored "Let's Talk Politics" sessions around the 10th District. These moderated gatherings provide opportunities for Democrats, liberals, and progressives to exchange ideas about the issues of the day with each other and guests who often include elected officials, candidates, political analysts, and authors.



Please join us on June 11. The event is free, but space may be limited. To RSVP, visit [tenthdems.org/TDU](http://tenthdems.org/TDU), email [events@tenthdems.org](mailto:events@tenthdems.org), or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683). ■

# Rising Stars to Help Tenth Dems Open New Office

On Saturday, June 6, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Tenth Dems will formally open its new office in Grayslake. The office is located at 20 North Whitney Street, Suite C, in Grayslake, with the entrance off the alley. Additional parking is available in the lot on the corner.



*Illinois State Senator Daniel Biss*

State Treasurer Mike Frerichs will be our special guest, and State Senator Daniel Biss, who is running for Illinois Comptroller in 2016, will also share insights from Springfield. Other officials and candidates will be on hand too. Refreshments will be served.

State Treasurer Mike Frerichs was inaugurated in January after serving four terms as a state senator from the Champaign area. In a difficult year for a lot of Democrats, Frerichs won statewide in one of the closest elections in Illinois history. Frerichs served in Springfield with State Senator Daniel Biss who represents parts of the 10th District. Biss previously served as a state representative. ■



*Illinois Treasurer Mike Frerichs in 2014 at a College Dems event attended by former Tenth Dems intern Michelle Patino (first row, first from left).*

## Community Partners for Affordable Housing Celebrates Community

By Amy Rosenfeld Kaufman

Supporters came out in full force to “Celebrate Community” with Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) at a sold-out event on April 23.

The overwhelming support for CPAH and affordable housing was evident as CPAH resident Laurence Marks, a single father of four, told his compelling story of a family tragedy that turned his stable life upside down. Fortunately, Laurence was able to move with his four children into a CPAH apartment, and he remarked that calling CPAH “was the best phone call I ever made.”

CPAH honored Jami Sharfman of Highland Park, Tom Morsch of Lake Forest, and Fred Wilson of Evanston for their significant efforts to help CPAH continue to provide affordable housing opportunities and stability for local low- and moderate-income households like Laurence’s. ■



*Tenth Dems was represented at the event by Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash.*

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