
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Pat Almonrode♦

THURSDAY, APRIL 13th:

Endorsement Meeting 1:

Public Advocate

Letitia James (incumbent)*
Anthony Herbert

Borough President

Gale Brewer (incumbent)*

Comptroller

Scott Stringer (incumbent)

District Attorney

Cy Vance (incumbent)*

District Leaders

Paula Diamond-Román (incumbent)*
Curtis Arluck (incumbent)*

*Attendance confirmed

Followed by

Club Discussion:
What's on Your Mind

Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

Bank Street College

610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)

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Volume 42, Issue 4

April 2017

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Another Two Years, Another Endorsement Meeting

This Thursday (April 13th) I will seek your endorsement for Democratic District Leader for the 20th time. Though the last few months have been by far the most discouraging in all my years in the position, I still believe that I, we in the Broadway Democrats, and all of us who think of ourselves as progressive Democrats, can not only help stop bad things from happening, but help some good things to happen. Trump/Ryan care, costing millions of people their health insurance and thousands their lives, *will not* rise again. The notion that government is the means for people to get more jobs, better health care, some degree of racial, gender, and economic justice, better education and training, and a cleaner, more habitable environment, *will* survive. When Clinton and Obama were President, all of these causes advanced, when Reagan, both Bushes, and now Trump were President, they all suffered. But at least Trump's Republican predecessors approached their jobs with an optimism and kindness that gave people hope that they were working for them—even if many of their policies were not—while Trump insults, demeans, steals, and lies. But this too shall pass.

Usually I seek your endorsement in May, after tax season is over, rather than April, when it's at its peak, so I have more time to think about what has happened and what I hope will happen. There's less time now, but here are a few accomplishments of my last term:

- Led the successful fight to get the poll sites at Grant Houses, Morningside Gardens, and Cathedral Parkway Towers restored to those complexes, so people didn't have to wander far and wide to exercise their most basic right.
- Continued, as Co-Chair of the Manhattan Democrats' Judiciary Committee, to oversee our independent judicial selection process,

which makes the NY County Judiciary the finest, most diverse, and most progressive in the state.

- Was a stalwart in the Broadway Democrats' campaigns to re-elect Jerry Nadler, Danny O'Donnell, and other outstanding local leaders, and in the extremely successful campaign storefront which helped produce overwhelming victory for Hillary here if not everywhere. (And of course she got nearly three million more votes!)
- Worked with community leaders in the finally successful effort to get a Historic District for Morningside Heights, and for improved services for the Heights, the Valley, and Grant Houses.
- Couldn't have done any of this without the advice, support and companionship of Katie and the rest of the Steering Committee, especially our President Pat Almonrode, and double especially my beloved co-leader Paula Diamond-Roman. As many of you know, Paula recently lost her mother Doris, an even more indomitable spirit, but she'll still provide the kind of quirky/Excel-driven/Jewish Hippy/pet-loving/justice-seeking leadership and presence we've all come to cherish.

As Ted Kennedy famously said at the dawn of another Dark Age, out of which there eventually came light: "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."



From the President

Pat Almonrode

Next General Meeting:

Endorsements I / What's On Your Mind?

April 13, 2017, 8:00 p.m., at Bank Street College of Education

At our next General Meeting, the club will vote to endorse candidates in the races to be held this fall for the offices of Public Advocate, Comptroller, Manhattan Borough President, Manhattan District Attorney, Democratic District Leader (Female), and Democratic District Leader (Male). The announced candidates are:

Public Advocate

Letitia James (incumbent)
Anthony Herbert

Comptroller

Scott Stringer (incumbent)

Borough President

Gale Brewer (incumbent)

District Attorney

Cy Vance (incumbent)

District Leaders

Paula Diamond-Román (incumbent)
Curtis Arluck (incumbent)

Come hear these candidates (or their representatives) make their case for the Broadway Democrats' endorsement. This is *your* chance to ask them questions about their records and about their plans for their offices and for our city. Almost all of our incumbents are unopposed. Does their performance so far merit our endorsement? What should they do differently in their next terms?

We'll also hear from Brian Benjamin, the Democratic candidate for NY State Senate in the special election to fill the seat vacated in the 30th District by the election of Bill Perkins to City Council.

The remainder of the evening on April 13 will be open for a moderated discussion of issues of concern to club members. And save the date: we'll endorse for Mayor, City Council (6th and 7th Districts), and some judicial seats at our May 11 meeting ("Endorsements II").

See you there!

The People's Climate March

Saturday, April 29, Washington DC

As all of you know, Donald Trump and his cabinet of plutocrats, aided and abetted by Republican majorities in the House and the Senate, are already wreaking havoc on environmental protections. From a rollback of President Obama's regulations on greenhouse gas emissions and fossil-fuel extraction on public lands, to the greenlighting of the disastrous Keystone XL pipeline, to a proposed 31% cut to the budget of the EPA (now headed by an ethically compromised climate-change denier), to the likely abandonment of the Paris Climate Treaty, this administration's actions and plans go far beyond the short-sighted greed we've come to expect from Republicans, into what can only be described as malevolent and vindictive lunacy. In short, Republicans have truly become a threat to the planet.

But the Resistance is fighting back and on Saturday, April 29, we have an opportunity to make a powerful statement that the American People will not allow this administration to drag this country and the world back to Stone Age. We demand a clean energy future, with green, sustainable jobs. We demand a transition to a future that brings all of us along, including the disadvantaged and the marginalized both here and abroad, who are the most affected by climate change but have often contributed the least to the problem. ***That's why on April 29, we'll march on Washington for Climate, Jobs, and Justice.***

It's critical that we make a strong statement—to the administration, the Congress, and the world. If you can possibly come to DC, please do so; there probably *won't be* an "official" sister march here in New York. Washingtonians came in record numbers for the People's Climate March here in NYC in 2014, and that march did much to encourage President Obama to take bold action to try to preserve a livable planet. In this moment of crisis, we need to swell the numbers in DC to tell the Fossil Fuel Fools that we will *not* be ignored.

Please go to <https://peoplesclimate.org/>

for details about the march, including information on the buses chartered by many local organizations and houses of worship (including a few "Shabbat-friendly" buses). These NYC buses are filling up fast, so make your plans now!

As in 2014, this march will be family-friendly (no civil disobedience is planned). Accommodations will

be made for those with mobility impairments. Bring your signs, your enthusiasm, your creativity and your voice! *Be there on Saturday, April 29, and march for Climate, Jobs and Justice!*

Resistance Update

The huge dark cloud that is the Trump administration has definitely had a significant silver lining: it has engendered a response from the Progressive Left that's growing stronger and more organized every day. For instance, numerous groups are already working hard on the 2018 midterm elections, sharing resources and energy from "safe" Democratic districts with organizers in districts where we have a chance to pick up seats. Our own "Go Blue 2018" committee is organizing to assist House candidates. Check upcoming listserv announcements from this group.

Defeat the IDC

A coalition is forming here in NY to challenge and defeat the eight State Senators who form the so-called Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), as they come up for reelection. Led by Sen. Jeff Klein and including Sen. Marisol Alcantara, who now represents many of our club members, the IDC has allowed the Republicans to gain and maintain a majority in the State Senate, a majority that has thwarted many progressive proposals that have come from the Assembly.

As we heard at our March 2nd "Get Active!" forum, United Thru Action and Rise and Resist have made the defeat of the IDC one of their major goals. In addition, a new grassroots organization specifically dedicated to this goal: No IDC NY (see <https://www.facebook.com/NoIDCNY/>).

And the Broadway Dems? Our club has officially resolved *to endorse only those candidates who pledge to caucus with the Democrats*. Other Democratic clubs are being asked to adopt similar resolutions. And to be perfectly clear, this resolution means that unless Sen. Alcantara reverses her current stance, the Broadway Democrats will *not* be endorsing her in her expected bid for reelection in 2018.

RL

VOTING: Eligibility and Procedures

To be eligible to vote, you must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues.

Votes may be cast in person or by proxy, limit one proxy per voting member. A proxy must be written. The proxy giver must state the name of the proxy holder (i.e., the name can't be filled in later by the proxy holder). The proxy must be signed or verifiable, as by electronic transmission stating the person's name.

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS ANNUAL “SPRING FLING” FUNDRAISING GALA

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 7, 3-6 p.m.,
107 West Restaurant, 2787 Broadway

Mark *Sunday, May 7* on your calendars for the club’s annual “Spring Fling,” held once again at the wonderful neighborhood fixture, 107 West Restaurant, on Broadway between 107th and 108th Streets. The festivities begin at 3:00. This year we’ll honor Congressman Adriano Espaillat, the first American of Dominican heritage elected to Congress, and the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, the advocacy group who successfully fought for the first district in the Heights.

A more formal invitation will go out soon, with information about donation levels. Please plan to join us on Sunday, May 7 for good food and lively talk, and to support the work of the Broadway Democrats.

Membership

In order to vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention, amendments), you must be an eligible, voting member of the Broadway Democrats. You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues. Dues partially defray the costs of presenting forums and putting out this newsletter. Dues are \$25; senior dues are \$10.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

The Broadway Democrats
P.O. Box 1099
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FIRST
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,
Paula Diamond Román
President: Pat Almonrode
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Endorsement Meeting and Moderated Discussion
Thursday, April 13th 8:00 p.m.
Bank Street College of Education
(610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive))