
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Gretchen Borges ◆

Come Participate

in the Club's

ENDORSEMENTS

for the 10th and 13th

CONGRESSIONAL

DISTRICTS

Thursday, February 20th

Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp!

Bank Street College

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

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President's Corner

Gretchen Borges

How Safe Are We?

Watching the Olympics has not motivated me to take up snow boarding or speed skating, but it has provoked some considerations of the host country: Russia and its relations with the US. These thoughts were initially stimulated by an article in the Times on January 30th on the possibility that the Russians have been testing a ground launched intermediate range cruise missile in violation of the 1987 accords (which were with the Soviet Union, but which Russia took on in late 1991). Verification of the claims is not definite, but the possibility of violations is worrisome, to say the least.

Thus far, the Obama Administration has not called foul, but Russia's good faith in meeting treaty obligations has been called into question. And the hawks in Congress will not lose time in using the relatively tepid response to question other aspects of the administration's foreign policy. In particular, the Iran nuclear deal and the resolution of the Syrian chemical weapons supply.

Perhaps indicative of increased cooling in our relations is the imminent resignation of our Ambassador to Russia Mike McFaul, who will be leaving after the completion of the Olympics in Sochi, following a less than successful stay in Moscow. And Putin's current aggressive stance on any number of issues is worrisome. The missiles in question, for example, might be more threatening to his more immediate neighbors, c.f., China and Europe, than to us.

Meanwhile, the administration of our nuclear policy is in some disarray. Scandals have been reported concerning both the Air Force and the Navy and their handling of their nuclear responsibilities. The Air Force problem involves cheating by over 90 officers at the Malstrom Air Force Base in Montana on required monthly tests administered to personnel with direct responsibilities for nuclear missiles. The Navy controversy also involves cheating on tests regarding the handling of nuclear

material. In addition, and perhaps more worrisome is the behavior of an Army general, with some responsibilities for the nuclear arsenal, who over a period of days in Moscow at best behaved unprofessionally, at worst, severely compromised security issues while in an inebriated state. And finally, in a startling demonstration of the perilous lack of security in which our nuclear material is held, in July of 2012, 3 people broke into the Y-12 National Security Complex, where our supply of weapons grade uranium is held. Fortunately, the intruders (including a nun) were peace protestors, but they gained access to the exterior of the facility holding the material. From the time they entered until they were apprehended over an hour had passed. We were fortunate the intruders were not nuclear terrorists. Clearly our policy regarding the security of fissile material needs to be based on something more substantial than luck.

Internationally, the threat of nuclear action has certainly decreased since 1991; fewer than half as many countries now possess material with which they could construct a nuclear bomb. But due to the instability of Pakistan and North Korea, the threat level might actually have risen in the past 30 years.

At a time when tension in our relations with Russia is steadily increasing, partially due to Putin flexing his muscles in ways far more disconcerting than his bare-chested displays, Washington's stasis is contributing to a significant decrease in national security. Paralyzing our government to stymie Obama can have a profound impact on our position internationally. Weakening an American President has many more implications than the domestic balance of power.

RB

Eligibility to Vote

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

From the Steering Committee

Rachelle Bradt

Tankers, Turbines & NYC's Offshore Energy Future

Liberty Natural Gas wants to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) port off Jones Beach. At the Jan 30 Forum sponsored by United for Action at the Rutgers Church on 73rd Street/ Broadway Sean Dixon of Clean Ocean Action gave a presentation on the technical details: This port would be an industrial island off the coast of Jones Beach, with tankers the size of the Empire state building docking to discharge their cargo into pipelines connecting to the beach. He concluded that LNG port would be a dangerous and polluting project that will pave the way for increased gas fracking. I was under the impression that the wind turbine construction off Jones Beach was approved, but not so. David Alicea of the Sierra Club explained that the site where the proposed wind turbines were to be built is currently at the center of a tug of war between two incompatible energy projects. The proposed huge liquid gas tankers can't be steered passed the wind turbines. Governor Cuomo has to decide what it's going to be: tankers or turbines off Jones Beach.

The United for Action meeting was concluded by Al Appleton, the former Commissioner of NYC Department of Environmental Protection, who gave a sweeping historic overview of how civilizations have adapted to increased demands for energy: from physical labor to machine powered production and now, to the fork of the road we are currently facing: fossil fuels or wind/solar. To the critique that it is unrealistic to power our electric utilities with sustainable energy he asserted that it is unrealistic not to, because we'll have no habitat left to survive in. He explained that

He also addressed concerns with TPP, explaining that with pressure mounting from the White House and from the most powerful corporations in the world, only citizen action can stop TPP by stopping "Fast Track." (On January 9 a bill to "Fast Track" the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was introduced in Congress.) TPP is a trade agreement, in name only, negotiated in secret between the U.S. and twelve Pacific Rim countries which would empower corporations to directly sue governments in private and non-transparent trade tribunals over laws and

policies that corporations allege reduce their profits. TPP is a massive boost to corporate power at the expense of our sovereignty and democracy.

As you probably remember, Broadway Democrats passed a resolution to stop Fast Track at our November 2013 Forum. We can call and thank Rep. Charles Rangel who has made an official statement to stop Fast Track and let him know we are urging him to persuade his colleagues to do the same.



Broadway Democrats 2014 ELECTION RESULTS

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Congratulations to all!

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 \$20; senior dues are \$5.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

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FIRST
CLASS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Congressional Endorsements

Thursday, February 20th 8:00 p.m.

Bank Street College of Education

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