

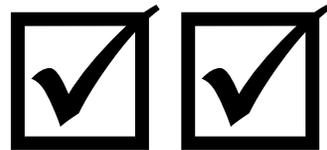
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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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# The Annual Club Elections



**Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting starts at 8:00 PM**

**Bank Street College**

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

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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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Volume 42, Issue 1

January 2017

## President's Corner

Pat Almonrode

### We're ALL In This Together!

The horrible dark cloud that is Donald Trump's election may have at least one silver lining for many who were asleep are now awake. We must now **all** join our efforts to protect healthcare, civil rights, the vulnerable among us, the very planet—all that we hold dear. We are many, and we are strong and we'll be **even stronger if we organize**.

Both here in NYC and all over the country a resistance is gathering. It's especially exciting to see the new grassroots groups and coalitions that are springing up. I believe that, as the official Democratic Party club in Part C of the 69th Assembly District, the Broadway Democrats can play an important role in helping these efforts. In the coming days and weeks we'll be looking for ways we can have positive impacts, and will be identifying groups with whom we can partner for maximum effectiveness.

**And we want your input!** Send information about groups you think deserve support to [president@broadwaydemocrats.org](mailto:president@broadwaydemocrats.org). Meanwhile, here are a dozen local and national groups of interest. Please note that this list is provided as an informational service only, and does **not** signify endorsement by the club's Steering Committee, or by the club as a whole:

1. **Grassroots Action New York** (<http://tinyurl.com/jrr7a67>) – a group straddling both the UWS and Brooklyn; see notes elsewhere in this issue.
2. **United Thru Action** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/upcomingaction/>) – a large, city-wide group with the strong support/involvement of Councilmember Corey Johnson; see notes elsewhere in this issue.
3. **Rise & Resist** (<http://tinyurl.com/Rise-Resist>)
4. **NY Progressive Action Network (NYPAN)** (<http://tinyurl.com/hkcgprz>)
5. **This Is My Oath** (<https://www.facebook.com/PPDOath/>)
6. **Resist Trump NYC** (<http://tinyurl.com/Resist-DJT-NYC>)
7. **Brand New Congress** (<https://brandnewcongress.org/>)
8. **Refuse Fascism** (<https://refusefascism.org/>)
9. **The Indivisible Guide** (<https://www.indivisibleguide.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/indivisibleguide/>)
10. **All of Us** (<http://www.allofus2016.org/>)

11. **Our Revolution** (<https://ourrevolution.com/>)

12. **Columbia College Democrats** ([www.cudems.com](http://www.cudems.com))

In addition to spreading the word about (and looking for opportunities to partner with) these groups and others, we'll also continue our efforts to provide information about upcoming events. We're working on improving that process, but for now please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/>.

Send notices of events **you** want to publicize to [broadwaydemocratscalendar@gmail.com](mailto:broadwaydemocratscalendar@gmail.com). We'll do our best to get the word out! Here are some upcoming events that may be of interest:

1. **Jan 19: Resist Trump! Volunteer meeting**, hosted by Food & Water Watch (<http://tinyurl.com/F-WW-Resist-Trump>)
2. **Jan 21: Women's March on Washington** (<https://www.womensmarch.com/>)
3. **Jan 21: Women's March on NYC** (<http://tinyurl.com/Jan21-NYC-march>).  
The NYC march will begin at 11:00 am (with staggered start times) at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 1st Ave. at E. 48th Street, and will go to Trump Towers. Want to volunteer to help with the NYC march? **Next volunteer meeting is Jan 11**. Register to get full details (<http://tinyurl.com/NYCMarchRegistration>)
4. **Jan 22: Multi-faith Vigil for the Earth** (on the Brooklyn Bridge) (<http://tinyurl.com/Bridge-vigil>)
5. **Jan 31: panel discussion on Single-Payer Health Care in NYS** (the proposed New York Health Act, A5062/S3525), Women's City Club of NY, (<http://tinyurl.com/WCCNY-Single-Payer>)

### INFORMATION ON NEW YORK CITY MARCH

#### WomansMarchonNYC.com

A group of people will be going from Morningside Heights to march on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Each group registered will be given a specific time to meet near Dag Hammarskjold Plaza to facilitate entry into the march.

Anyone, (not only women) is welcome. If you want to join the Morningside Heights group, send your name and email to Kathy Blute at [kadminthecity@aol.com](mailto:kadminthecity@aol.com). The group will be in touch with you when have the meeting time.

6. **April 29: People's Climate Movement March on Washington** (<http://tinyurl.com/April29-March>)

Remember, **we're ALL in this together**. Let's keep sharing information, ideas, and energy!

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**United Thru Action Meeting, January 8 – Reportback**

On a very cold Sunday night at least 150 hardy souls packed into the event room at the Nusantara Foundation for the third meeting of United Thru Action (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/upcomingaction/>), a new grassroots group supported by Councilmember Corey Johnson and drawing from all over the city. Attendees heard from Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on ideas for moving forward, and from organization members who presented on possible strategies for the 2018 NYS Senate elections, and on the role of the Independent Democratic Conference in maintaining Republican control of the state Senate.

Attorney General Schneiderman built on his essay "When They Go Low, We Go Local," published last month on CCN.com (<http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/08/opinions/we-go-local-schneiderman-opinion/>). The AG argued that the Democratic Party needs to see Trump's election as an opportunity to address flaws in its approach to electoral politics. He said the party hierarchy and its donors have, for far too long, neglected state and local elections, with the result that Republicans now control 69 of the 99 state legislative chambers across America, and nearly two-thirds of the governors' mansions. The GOP has complete control of the government—the governorship *and* both houses of the legislature—in 25 states. In addition to enabling them to push through regressive policies, this dominance also has allowed them to control the rules that govern voting, and the reapportionment of legislative and congressional districts, giving them the chance to lock in their dominance.

To combat this Republican hegemony, Schneiderman called for "a broad commitment from activists and donors to take back state governments." He noted that this commitment must begin **now**, with the 2017 legislative, AG, and gubernatorial elections in Virginia, North Carolina, and next door in New Jersey. He pointed to the "united front" that legislators in California have mounted, and called on us to make our legislators do the same. Schneiderman also noted out that many Republican voters are sure to become disaffected "as soon as the Republicans start acting on their promises," and that we need to "keep the door open" when that happens.

United Thru Action is preparing to take up Schneiderman's challenge, focusing specifically on some 2018 races where they might be able to make a difference. Out of a long list of possible pick-offs, they focused at the meeting on Congressman Lee Zeldin (1<sup>st</sup> District, Long Island; weak on environmental protections), and State Senators Carl Marcellino (5<sup>th</sup> District, Nassau and Suffolk Counties) and Marty Golden (22<sup>nd</sup> District, a ridiculously gerrymandered district in

Brooklyn), both of whom are at odds with many of their constituents on a host of issues. United Thru Action will be organizing outreach to progressive institutions and individuals in these and other districts to help mount strong challenges to these incumbents.

Discussion then moved to the Independent Democratic Conference, the seven state senators who have chosen to caucus with the Republicans. Led by Senator Jeff Klein (34th District, Bronx/Westchester), the IDC has thereby allowed **the minority** party to control the chamber for several years.

The IDC's members have various motivations, but the focus at the United Thru Action meeting was on one in particular: IDC members are in large part bankrolled by the real estate industry, which will do everything it can to keep real control of rent regulations in Albany, rather than in New York City and other municipal governments.

As most of you know, our own new State Senator, Marisol Alcantara, has indicated that she will vote with the IDC (*see the notes on the Grassroots Action NY meeting, in this issue*). The presenters at the United Thru Action meeting noted that this alliance is out of keeping with her otherwise admirable commitment to progressive values—especially because her district has **more rent-regulated tenants than any other**. The organizers urged those present to call Sen. Alcantara's office (212-544-0173) to demand that she **not** caucus with the IDC but instead truly represent the interests of her constituents.

United Thru Action is a large and growing group, with a lot of energy and some experienced and savvy leaders. I believe we'll see and hear much more from them. Join their Facebook group to receive information on upcoming events:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/upcomingaction/>.

*In Memoriam – Miriam Nadler*  
Mother of Congressman Jerrold Nadler

**CONGRESSMAN NADLER'S TOWNHALL**

Congressman Jerry Nadler held a Town Hall meeting on December 19 on "What to Expect from the Trump Administration," with panelists Burt Neuborne, NYU Law Professor and founding Legal Director of the Brennan Center for Justice; Nancy Northrup from the Center for Reproductive Rights; and Donna Lieberman, Executive Director of the NY Civil Liberties Union. Watch the video here: <https://livestream.com/nyu-tv/NadlerTownHall/videos/144849830>

## Grassroots Action NY Meeting, January 7 – Reportback

by Pat Almonrode, Susan Crawford, and Amy Porter

About a dozen folks met on Saturday, January 7 at Bernheim & Schwartz Restaurant, on Broadway between 113 and 114. The group was a good mix of ages, races, genders, and even boroughs—to reflect the current membership, its meetings alternate between the UWS and Brooklyn. Steering Committee members Susan Crawford, Amy Porter and Pat Almonrode attended.

Substantive discussion was held on three topics: the group's campaign to get individuals to move their money from banks that invest in fossil-fuel infrastructure and exploration; Congressman Keith Ellison's campaign to become DNC Chair; and a Demand Democracy initiative inspired by AG Eric Schneiderman's recent "Report On Voter Access In The 2016 Presidential Primary" (<http://tinyurl.com/Schneiderman-voting-report>).

On the first topic, it was noted that Amalgamated Bank is the only bank in NYC to have pledged not to invest in the fossil-fuel industry (<http://tinyurl.com/Amalgamated-disinvests>). Grassroots Action is planning a series of Divestment Days, when groups will publicly divest from "dirty" banks.

On the second topic, we heard from a member who had attended an Ellison fundraiser and was very impressed with the Congressman. He noted in particular that Ellison had taken his congressional district from lowest to highest in voter-participation in the state (Minnesota), and had done so mainly by maintaining door-to-door contact with his constituents even during the off years. It was suggested that this strategy should be emulated widely.

On the third topic, the group exchanged ideas for increasing Democratic voter participation in general, and for the 2018 elections in particular. They included consolidating primary dates in New York State (the Sept. 2016 primary had a 4% turnout), off-year outreach to college students who are often forced to wait hours to vote in the presidential races, and instant run-offs to avoid elections where no candidate reaches a 40% vote. Also discussed were Keith Ellison's door-to-door approach to capturing voter interest; emulating the Republican strategy in recent years of concentrating on every office at every level of government; and pointing out Democratic candidates who are being backed by Republicans in primaries. A proposal was made for legal action by Democratic Attorneys General against Cross-Check, which eliminated voters with similar names in many states in the most recent election.

There was also discussion of newly-elected State Senator Marisol Alcantara's plans to caucus with the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), led by Sen. Jeff Klein. A voter from her district expressed dismay that there was no indication during her campaign that she might caucus with the IDC. Two members of her staff were at the meeting, and both stated that they did

not know her present plans. It was pointed out that her campaign was funded by the IDC. Interested attendees spoke further with the Senator's staff members at the end of the meeting.

The official minutes of the meeting are linked (<http://tinyurl.com/grassroots-minutes>) on the group's Facebook page, as is a registration/survey form for those who are interested in helping with the group's work (<http://tinyurl.com/z9e45e7>).



## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### 9<sup>th</sup> Council District Special Election

Mayor DeBlasio has called a special election to replace Council Member Inez Dickens, who was elected to the NY State Assembly, for Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We as a club will take no position in this Valentine's Day election, as we have only one election district—on the northwest corner of Central Park—in this Harlem-based district. As an individual I have endorsed State Senator Bill Perkins. At least 11 other people are running, as described in this article, the link to which was provided by Susan Crawford:

<http://dnain fo/2jvSP4N#.WHPpG0ZnCQ4.email>

### Keith Ellison for DNC Chair

I again write as an individual person/District Leader, not on behalf of Broadway Democrats, which has no direct role in the selection, to say that Representative Keith Ellison of Minnesota would make a terrific chair of the Democratic National Committee. Keith would ably fulfill both the inspirational and the organizational aspects of DNC Chair. He was one of the few members of Congress to back Bernie Sanders; he has deep roots in the progressive community. As an African American Muslim, he can reach out to constituencies to which the Democratic Party has not done a good job of appealing. He speaks with fire and force, but in a quiet manner which encourages inclusion. (One of the first things he said at a gathering Paula and I attended on his behalf was to encourage his supporters to speak softly rather than stridently on his behalf.) He is committed to organizing in all 50 states, not just the swing states, and has had practical experience in doing this: had the Democratic percentage and turnout not increased in his home Twin Cities area, Minnesota would have joined Wisconsin and Michigan in flipping Republican. He's passionate about the need for the Democratic Party to speak more to the economic anxieties of working class Americans, without the Sanders campaign's constant railing against Wall Street and trade agreements as the prime culprits for everything bad.

### President Barack Obama

...will leave office the day after our club meeting this Thursday. I don't agree with our President on every issue—he's far too supportive of charter schools and

fracking, for example—but I want to use this column to praise the greatest and most inspiring political leader of my lifetime. He always appealed to the better angels of our nature. He spoke intelligently and positively about issues and people. And he had many more successes than failures. Millions of people got health insurance. Unemployment was cut in half. New mortgage foreclosures were drastically reduced. America, especially its urban areas, began to build again. The American auto industry was saved, as was the world's financial system. He got us mostly out of Afghanistan and Iraq. America was once again admired in most parts of the world. Where he failed, as with Syria and Libya, it was because he put too much faith in the ability of indigenous democratic movements to overcome the Putin/Assad/Assange/Trump forces which seek to destroy them. As Shakespeare's Othello said, "I have done the state some service, and they know't." As President Obama said just before he took office: "This is our time—to put people back to work and open the doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm the fundamental truth that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope; and where we are met with cynicism and doubt and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes, we can."



## **From the Steering Committee**

Luis Román

Since the birth of the modern Republican Party in 1854, there have been three historical periods when the GOP held majorities in the House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate at the same time as a Republican served as President, the situation that will occur beginning on January 20, 2017. Consistently across all these periods, Republicans have instituted policies favoring "laissez faire" economic theory—minimal, if any, regulation of corporations and the financial services industry.

The first period of GOP dominance began in the late 1890s and ended in 1912, after uncontrolled stock speculation led to the Banker's Panic of 1907 and caused the NYSE to lose 50% of its value, followed by runs on banks nationwide and the failure of New York's third largest trust.

The second period of GOP dominance was known as the Roaring 20's, when, according to Calvin Coolidge, the business of America was business. Speculation ran rampant, there were no laws for the protection of workers, and corporations did virtually anything they wanted. The party came to a crashing halt in October, 1929, when the stock market collapsed, numerous banks failed nationwide and the U.S. was plunged into the Great Depression, from which it wouldn't emerge until after World War II.

The most recent period of GOP dominance ran from 2001 through 2006, when Democrats won back control of Congress in the wake of the Iraq War. Once again, the GOP virtually eliminated regulation of Wall Street, worker protections were either relaxed or eliminated, and corporations increased their dominance over society. That halcyon period for the GOP slammed into a bridge abutment in September 2008 with the stock market collapse, the fall of Lehman Brothers and so many others and the Great Recession. It was likely only the election of Barack Obama in 2008, leading to a substantial change in economic policy, that kept the nation from sinking into another Great Depression.

This history lesson was not meant to scare or depress you, although it sure as hell knocked the wind out of my sails. It's to remind you of what is at stake over the next four years. Our president-elect is an emotionally unstable authoritarian promoting a new class of robber barons to take over the levers of government; while in Congress, the GOP majorities are ramping up a legislative agenda that promises to take us back to the Roaring 20's, including privatizing Medicare and opening up our Social Security funds to the tender mercies of Wall Street.

We've had eight weeks to be depressed, to be enraged, and to be terrified. The time for self-indulgence is over. No one can guarantee that just because Republicans are taking over in DC, the country is destined for economic collapse. But Santayana informs, and it appears the GOP is a study in historical ignorance. No one is going to swoop in and rescue us—we are two years away from the next (gerrymandered) Congressional elections and four years away from the next presidential election.

If history is any guide, any economic consequences of the oncoming GOP assault won't be felt for several years to come, which means we have the opportunity of undercutting the economic tidal wave if we act, bravely and boldly, for the sake of the nation.

We are the army of resistance, we are the ground troops of liberty and justice. We stand for America.



## **From the Steering Committee**

Elana Shneyer

### **New Years Thoughts**

This year was the first when I felt dread about the coming year. I usually feel pretty excited to be moving forward, but as the end of the year approached, I was feeling very sad about the end of the Obama years, and about what could have been with an HRC presidency. How amazing would it have been to have had our first African American president followed by our first woman president? I was ready for the symbolism and the hope

and openness that event would represent for our country, not to mention the domestic reforms. I read a book at the library called, *When Penny Met POTUS* and was crying by the end of it. It was about a girl going to work with her mother at the White House and imagining what POTUS would look like and it turning out to be a woman. All that could have been...

And now...I don't know. I am still rationing my news intake. There is too much work to do in the coming years to get burnt out or depressed or overwhelmed now. I am still trying to keep my perspective so that I can play my part in the way that makes the most sense.

My optimistic, younger self says that the coming administration, the voids within the Democratic Party, and the times upon us, present huge leadership and change opportunities. This time could be a chance to heal some of the wounds that we have just covered over for the past 200+ years and never truly addressed. This time could be an opportunity to revitalize the Democratic Party, to take back the NY State Senate. This election could be the election that awakens millennials into a more engaged civic life. Perhaps for now, that healing and renewal won't happen at the federal government level; but maybe it can at the state, local, and non-governmental levels—through local political clubs and communities, faith based institutions, businesses, or other means.

On the other hand, the symbolism and the potential impact of the people coming into the new administration represent something quite scary. I do have faith in the slow and deliberate system that is our legislative process. Maybe the impacts won't be too severe. Nothing is written in stone. Our power to organize for change still exists. We have truly progressive elected officials at the local, state, and federal level who perhaps will step into even more leadership and resistance roles. We as individuals still have the ability to impact the future. We have a rich history (personal and inherited) of resistance and surviving hard times.

What must we do? I think the answer is in the question. Continue being human—and seeing the humanity in each person we encounter—and naming the humanity that we see as humanity. The ripple effects of that approach are huge and unknown. I think we continue to organize, support each other, support our leaders who are standing up in difficult times, resist and map out the new way forward after the potential destruction that may be ahead of us. That map must include new leadership development and clear articulation of a vision and principles that create truly shared prosperity.

Currently, my husband and I are in the midst of applying for kindergarten for our son. Visiting local public schools in the area has been so inspiring. Seeing classrooms full of kids from diverse backgrounds, with varying abilities, learning together about respect, tolerance, and collaboration brings tears to my eyes on each tour. I fall in love with each school and want to join the community.

In the next few months we will be deciding one way to live our values through the school we choose for our child. Every engagement with civic life can be an opportunity to create the world we want to live in.



## From the Membership

Laura Friedman

**Morningside Heights Community Forum—Help us create the community we want!**

The Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC) cordially invites you to a **Community Visioning Workshop** to consider the future of the Heights. It will be held on **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** at **Corpus Christi Church, 529 West 121<sup>st</sup> Street**, east of Broadway.

The Coalition was formed in the spring of 2016 in the wake of wide spread concern that the Heights is being threatened by luxury overdevelopment, such as the luxury condominium towers planned on West 122nd Street at Union Theological Seminaries at 42 stories and the property next to JTS, at 35 stories. These structures are in addition to The Enclave at St. John's, the building catty corner to it, the former nurses residence on 113<sup>th</sup> Street, and the development occurring at St Luke's Hospital. Surveys by the Coalition showed that more than 20 other "soft sites" are also vulnerable to overdevelopment.

In response to these imminent threats, MHCC sponsored two community forums in June and September of 2016, each attended by over 200 residents.

At these forums it became clear that drastic changes in the character of the Heights could only be addressed by modernizing its obsolete zoning regulations, which date from 1961. Rezoning for reasonable development that would include affordable housing, would also enable the Heights to take account of its needs for additional facilities and services and to preserve what distinguishes the neighborhood. We are already working on the rezoning with city agencies and it is strongly supported by our local elected officials.

At the Workshop on January 25, residents, merchants, developers, representatives from churches, educational institutions, schools and other parties will gather to talk about the future of the community we share.



**COME TO A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP TO PLAN THE  
REZONING OF MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS**

**Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**  
**Corpus Christi Church**  
**529 W 121<sup>st</sup> Street (East of Broadway)**

Sponsored by the Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC)  
Morningsideheightscommunitycoalition.com  
Contact: Info@morningsideheights.org

## Balloting 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 (Dues are \$25; senior dues are \$10.)

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.

**Please build in time to sign in, pay your dues, and allow us to determine your eligibility to vote.**

## Elections

It's January, time to elect the Broadway Democrats' officers for the next year. Individuals nominated thus far are listed below. **Further nominations may be made from the floor.**

### Officers:

**President:** Pat Almonrode  
**Vice President:** Lizabeth Sostre  
**Treasurer:** Katie Hanner  
**Secretary:** OPEN

### Steering Committee (totaling 12):

Willie Mae Anderson  
Susan Crawford  
Norm Levine  
Sarah Martin  
Joe Nunley  
Mary Pepito  
Amy Porter  
Luis Román  
Linda Sayre  
Richard Siegel  
Dan Zweig  
*Unnamed*

**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  
Cathedral Station  
New York, NY 10025

FIRST  
CLASS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Club Elections**

**Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m.**

**Bank Street College of Education**

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