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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Luis Román ♦

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## Endorsement Meeting, Part 3:



***Governor***



***Lt. Governor***



***State Comptroller***



***State Senate: 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>  
Senate Districts***



***Democratic State  
Committeeman, 69<sup>th</sup> AD***



***(Probable)  
Civil Court, Countywide and  
5th District***

**Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

7:30 pm sign in/refreshments \* 8:00 meeting \* 9:30 club business

**Congregation Ramath Orah**

**550 West 110th Street (off Broadway)**

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Volume 35, Issue 6

June 2010

## **President's Corner**

Luis Román

In the year and a half since President Obama's election, I have become afraid about the future of our country. For the first time in my life, I am genuinely afraid about where this country is headed. Obviously, I do not blame the President for my fears. In the past year and a half, he has worked tirelessly to live up to the promise of his historic election, and I find him to be a constant source of inspiration. Rather, it is the way that events, and attitudes, are taking shape that has stirred discomfort in my soul.

In the past eighteen months, the level of political discourse in the country has reached a low unseen since the days of Vietnam. Daily, on television, radio and the Internet, vile barrages of irrational hatred spew from many who oppose the President. Opposition has been a tradition of American politics since before the Declaration of Independence, but I would welcome anyone who could tell me that they have seen a level of viciousness and venality that approaches the quality of the stuff being spewed today. There is a segment of our population that seems determined to be driven by anger, without any goal other than the destruction of those who oppose them.

I have watched the "Tea Party" movement grow, and fester, with increasing dismay. Is it irrational for me to think the seeds of insurrection are being sown in these Tea Party protests? When I see people carrying signs talking about watering the tree of liberty with the blood of tyrants, I shudder. I marched in protest of the Iraq war, and I laughed at the signs portraying George W. Bush as Hitler. I laughed because I did not

believe anyone could take such a proposition seriously. When I watch the Tea Party protests on television, when I see the people with their signs and their T-shirts, I realize that many of the people I am looking at are sincere in their beliefs that President Obama is some kind of fascist, socialist, illegal alien, Manchurian candidate, despot sent here to rend the fabric of democracy and destroy the American way of life.

Where did we go so wrong? How have our politics been driven into this ditch, and how are we supposed to get out of it? Watching the evolution (or is it devolution?) of the conservative movement over the past thirty years, it seems like we have been watching a purification process, not unlike a chemistry experiment where a liquid is run through an endless series of filters, removing more and more of the impurities, each time the liquid is strained. What do the conservatives hope they will end up with, after they have purged everyone but the truest believers from their movement? Perhaps the nomination of Rand Paul for Senate in Kentucky is sign of things to come for the Republican Party. Would William F. Buckley or Barry Goldwater recognize the conservative movement as it exists today?

I recognize the melodramatic tone of this article, and I acknowledge that I have lived my entire life in the relative political comfort of the Northeast, where I have never had to defend the political beliefs I have nurtured to anyone who was truly fundamentally opposed to those beliefs. I believe in dissent, I believe in opposition, and I believe in the necessity of good arguments to maintain the health of a democracy. Much of what we see coming from the other side these days has nothing to do with the health of our democracy. The Republicans in Congress are doing the

legislative equivalent of holding their breath until they turn blue, in the hope that enough people will take pity and give them electoral mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in November. They have spurned every opportunity to offer constructive suggestions to the legislation being considered in Congress. Instead, the Republicans have chosen to go on an endless P.R. campaign, embracing every opportunity to savage the President, promoting non-entities like Sarah Palin and Michelle Bachmann as their vanguard, and nurturing the inchoate Tea Party movement in the hopes they can ride the wave of outrage back to power, without offering any sense of what they might be able to accomplish if they got there.

Anger can be a useful motivational tool. It was, after all, anger over the treatment of the Colonies at the hands of George III that inspired the Revolutionary War and anger at the subjugation of slaves which inspired the abolition movement. Anger, however, is not a political philosophy. Anger will not build a school, it will not negotiate a treaty, it will not provide a child with health care, or secure the future of a person ready to retire after a lifetime of hard work. The genius of the framers of our democracy was being able to harness their anger by resorting to sound principles to create a system of governance that would stand the test of time. I don't see a Jefferson or a Madison emerging from the Tea Party movement. I don't see any conservatives producing a "Federalist Papers" for the twenty-first century. The only things I see being produced by this movement are anger and resentment. We have seen the results of anger unchecked by a sense of restraint or proportion, in Oklahoma City as well as in downtown Manhattan.

The best way to battle irrational anger is to cling to the principles that have guided us thus far, and to show people, in the sharpest relief possible, the choice they have to make to secure the future of our country. Yes, I am afraid, but there is no place I would rather be than here, and no group of people I would rather be fighting this battle with, than all of you.

## **Assembly Member's Report**

Daniel O'Donnell

On May 17th, my bill, the Dignity For All Students Act (A3661), passed the Assembly with an overwhelming bipartisan majority and only four opposing votes. This marks the ninth time this anti-bullying and anti-discrimination legislation has passed the Assembly since 2002.

The bill covers the broadest categories of students who face harassment and discrimination in our schools and clarifies that protections should not be limited to the listed categories—actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

By working closely with the Department of Education and with my colleagues, I have crafted legislation that can be easily implemented and will be more likely to accomplish its intended effect.

Too many students are bullied based on real or perceived differences with their classmates. Every student deserves an environment free of harassment and discrimination—an environment that allows every child to reach his or her full potential. For too long, our education system has been blind to the plight of these students. I am proud that the Assembly remains willing to address this important issue, and that the Dignity for All Students Act continues to win support.

The bill has been endorsed by Governor Paterson but has yet to be taken up by the Senate. I call upon the Senate to take up this crucial and fair-minded piece of legislation immediately.

**See New B'way Dems Website:**  
**<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/>**

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. There will be an open ballot box which will stay open until 9:30 p.m. (or until five minutes after the last speaker has finished, if the meeting runs late).

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.

Under the new voting procedure adopted when the new club constitution passed in March 2008, there will be only one ballot. The winner will be selected by "Instant Runoff Voting", as described in new club constitution; "no endorsement" is still a ballot option. (Copies of the new club constitution will be available at the meeting.)

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: Luis Román  
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Endorsement Meeting, Part 3

Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:00 p.m.

Congregation Ramath Orah, 550 West 110<sup>th</sup> Street (off Broadway)