
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

The Annual Broadway Democrats' Harlem Town Hall:

For All Residents of West Harlem & Morningside Heights

Invited Guests Include:

- State Senator Bill Perkins
- City Councilmember Robert Jackson
- District Attorney Community Affairs Representative
- Police, 26th Precinct, Community Affairs
- NYCHA Representatives

**Please note the
time and location
for this meeting:**

Tuesday, June 11th

7:30-9:30

Jackie Robinson Senior Center

1301 Amsterdam Ave (between West 123rd and La Salle)

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President's Corner

Gretchen Borges

The Nuclear Agenda

On June 10th, 1963, an idealistic Democratic president spoke in inspiring tones of his vision for the future in a commencement address at American University. He reached out to the Soviet Union, at a time when the Cold War was at its height, and announced the development of the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. A mere 2 months after his speech, the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed by the US, the UK, and the Soviet Union. After being ratified by the Senate, it was signed into law by President Kennedy on October 7, 1963. That June day at American University, he ended his speech by saying,

The United States, as the world knows, will never start a war. We do not want a war. We do not now expect a war. This generation of Americans has already had enough—more than enough—of war and hate and oppression. We shall be prepared if others wish it. We shall be alert to try to stop it. But we shall also do our part to build a world of peace where the weak are safe and the strong are just. We are not helpless before that task or hopeless of its success. Confident and unafraid, we labor on—not toward a strategy of annihilation but toward a strategy of peace.

Today, we have once again had more than enough of war. And again, we have an idealistic Democratic president who has spoken eloquently of his desire for world peace and a future clear of the threat of nuclear annihilation. As he stated at Prague in April 2009,

Just as we stood for freedom in the 20th century, we must stand together for the right of people everywhere to live free from fear in the 21st century. And as nuclear power - - as a nuclear power, as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to

act. We cannot succeed in this endeavor alone, but we can lead it, we can start it.

The speech held the essence of his proposed nuclear policy: a New Start Treaty, A Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and an international effort to secure vulnerable nuclear material around the world.

In our system of government, the President cannot act alone. He can hold ideals, but for treaties to be passed, he must work with the Senate; for budgets to be allocated, he must work with the House.

The US does not exist in a vacuum. Events outside of the US will always continue to complicate the politics within. The President's State of the Union reflected the administrations worries about North Korea, which only intensified through the Spring as its untried new leader continued to shake his fist at the world and bellow. But again, President Obama spoke of ideals, "... we will engage Russia to seek further reductions in our nuclear arsenals, and continue leading the global effort to secure nuclear materials that could fall into the wrong hands – because our ability to influence others depends on our willingness to lead."

But what President Obama has been able to accomplish has been tainted by the compromises he has agreed to in the course of getting any of his agenda passed. For example, compromises were made to get the New Start Treaty through the Senate. And now we are seeing some of the results of those decisions in the 2014 budget. It includes provisions to upgrade the B61 gravity nuclear bombs placed in Europe, at enormous expense (45.5% higher than in the 2013 budget). And, in a reflection of a Republican demand, a huge increase in spending at the nuclear labs.

These less than idealistic increases are joined to decreases in the budget for two important programs seeking to place limits on loose radioactive materials throughout the world. Specifically, the reductions to the budget of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative Program, which secures radiological and nuclear material and reduces the amounts, and to the National Nuclear Security

Administration's Second Line of Defense Program, which strengthens foreign government's efforts to deter illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials.

The Republicans have obstructed President Obama on most of his initiatives. Their efforts in this area are particularly worrisome. Rather than the reduction in the threat of nuclear war that Obama stated as a goal so eloquently in the Prague speech, we are moving toward more weapons and less securing of loose material, seemingly contradictory goals both of which put us at greater rather than less risk.



District Leaders' Report

Curtis Arluck and Paula Diamond Román

Dear Friends,

We were honored to receive the overwhelming endorsement of the Broadway Democrats at our club's May meeting. We invite you to join us as we campaign for our re-election, and on behalf of the club's other endorsed candidates.

There is much work to be done. Many of our candidates face difficult challenges. Despite the improving economy -- a tribute to President Obama's leadership -- our President faces trumped-up charges from right wing Republicans. Our state is constantly threatened with fracking which could destroy our water supply and the upstate NY environment. Under Mayor Bloomberg, Stop and Frisk continues, Charter Schools invade buildings of long-established public schools, Union rights and civil liberties are threatened. Our neighbors in Douglass Houses face "infill" of luxury housing, and Grant Houses may be next.

We want to continue our efforts to fight these abuses, to build a stronger, more progressive Democratic Party, and to continue our success in making the Manhattan Judiciary the best in the state.

We need your help to achieve these goals. The first step is petitioning, which began this Tuesday and ends in early July. Due to the large number of races this year, the club has two petitions, one for our City- and Borough-wide candidates **John Liu, Tish James, Scott Stringer, Gale Brewer and Cy**

Vance, the other for us, our Democratic County Committee running mates, Judicial Convention Delegates, five unopposed Civil Court candidates, and 7th District City Council candidate **Mark Levine**.

We need your help, in the buildings and on the streets of our district. We will be out all day this Saturday, June 8th; join us! To get petitions for your building, e-mail us, CurtisDems@aol.com or valleygirl109@rocketmail.com, or call 212-662-4057.

Thank you again for your support!
Curtis Arluck & Paula Diamond-Román
Democratic District Leaders



From the Steering Committee **Rachelle Brandt**

Could the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Put Corporate Interests above U.S. Law?

In October, the U.S. plans to finalize negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership even though the public, the press and Congress have no access to texts. President Obama may ask for Fast Track Authority to proceed. What is the Trans-Pacific Partnership? It's a trade agreement. And most likely you haven't even heard about it. Remember NAFTA, the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement? Just recently President Clinton admitted that mistakes had been made. The TPP trade agreement, benignly called a "partnership", is a planned trade agreement with the states of the Pacific Rim.

It makes good sense for the US to partner with the power houses of the global economy across the Pacific and it would be a historic trade deal. But given the labor and corporate practices customary in countries like China, Vietnam and the other 9 nations involved, we need to protect American interests in domestic jobs, consumer and environmental protection, and public health. Last but not least we must be concerned about the authority of the law of the land over international corporate interests.

On May 28 I attended a meeting organized by the Sierra Club, the Communications Workers of America and the Institute for Policy Studies, which was co-sponsored by 33 organizations. Speakers were Kenneth Peres, Chief Economist at Communications Workers of America and Ilana Solomon, Trade Representative at the Sierra Club.

How could the TPP impact our lives? According to the information gathered by the presenters, it could:

- Give foreign corporations the right to sue the US government outside the US court system for what they might make if they didn't have to obey US labor, health, safety and environmental laws.
- Curtail internet freedom.
- Prevent re-regulation of Wall Street hedge funds and insurance companies.
- Outlaw the ability of participating nations to regulate cross-border finance.
- Concentrate global food supplies in the hands of international agribusiness and limit food labeling.
- Open the floodgates of natural gas exports, increasing fracking and requiring us to export our natural resources without the environmental regulations now in force. (Bear in mind what is happening in the Niger Delta, where oil spills do not get cleaned up while entire habitats are dying).
- Depress wages. Some of the countries in the TPP have wages of 2\$ a day and are marketed as low-cost labor alternatives to participants in the partnership.
- Extend patent expiration dates of medications and by doing so block access to affordable generic medications that currently save millions of lives, particularly where generic HIV drugs are the only affordable option.
- Establish the legal right to override sovereign U.S. policies at the federal, state, local and court levels.
- End U.S. sovereignty.

Given the looming October date for possible finalization, the assembled coalitions are organizing local delegations across the U.S. to take meetings with their House Representatives and Senators and to ask for their position on specific questions, especially on granting the President Fast Track Authority (FTA) for the TPP.

A delegation that will approach Representative Rangel is now being formed. If anyone is interested in working with the TPP Task Force of the Sierra Club on the delegation to Representative Rangel, please contact Beverly Birks, Sierra Club TPP Task Force, Atlantic Chapter, at beverley.birks@gmail.com.



From the Steering Committee Ed Sullivan

Outraged!

It's a wonderful word. *Outraged!* It serves so many human needs these days.

It is often used as a profession of morality, by the moral and the immoral alike.

Calvin Coolidge, was once asked what the preacher had talked about in church that day. "Sin," Silent Cal responded. "What did he say about it," the questioner persisted. "He said he was against it."

Today, Coolidge's preacher would have been criticized for issuing such a mild comment. A modern day preacher would say that he is *outraged* over other people's sins, establishing clearly that he is a man of high morality.

Members of Congress are frequently outraged because it's their job to be outraged. They are not moved to action by their outrage. I guess they think it's sufficient to be outraged.

A Fox News headline recently screamed: *Lawmakers Outraged Over Another Alleged Sexual Misconduct Case In The Military*. Reading this, I was at first a little outraged at a news headline that had 24 syllables in it. But getting back to the lawmakers, they were stumped because sexual misconduct is already against the law, so they can't really pass a law against it, and hiring military attorneys to deal with the matter would cost money, which would mean higher taxes, which is always outrageous. So they decided just to express their outrage and let it go at that.

After all, outrage is usually a form of self identification, not really a call to action – certainly not in the Congress.

Another headline reads: *Environmentalists Outraged As Rio Tinto Mine Gets Go-Ahead*. Well, I consider myself an environmentalist, so I was outraged with myself because I wasn't outraged over the go-ahead at Rio Tinto mine. In fact I had never even heard of the mine or the go-ahead. But when I looked into the matter, it turned out that the Rio Tinto mine is located in a remote area of

Australia. So I was no longer outraged with myself. But I was upset with myself.

Here in America, there is an organization called "Outraged Patriots." They are outraged over the arrival of immigrants in our country, and they don't mind saying so on their web site.

They show mug shots of these foreign bozos on the internet, and just looking at them would make anyone outraged. They've got moustaches, and their names frequently end with a z. "Outraged Patriots" are particularly outraged at "Dictator Obama," and they show unflattering pictures of him, and of his wife, too.

That's how outraged they are at the Dictator.

In the last few days a seemingly embarrassing conflict arose. The Republicans became outraged over the Obama Administration's handling of the Internal Revenue Service looking at right wing political organizations being involved with politics. And President Obama became outraged at the Republicans' outrage. "When Outrage Collides" the episode could be called. But since outrage is usually aimed at defining the outraged more than the outrage, the collision will probably end up a near miss.

The King of the Outraged is clearly Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York. In the past three years, according to press reports, the Mayor had been outraged at:

- a US military plane photographing New York;
- the press bothering President Obama while golfing;
- Governor Cuomo's budget cuts to the City;
- being accused of sexism by *New York* magazine;
- protests against the "stop and frisk" policy;
- gender segregation on orthodox Jewish buses;
- and many more incidents.

But these uses of outrage to identify oneself are not the whole story on the application of outrage. Outrage has replaced sex as an avocation for many people.

Like sex, outrage quickens the blood flow, gives one a delicious dizzy feeling, requires little thought, allows one to communicate with others, doesn't take up too much time, and gives one a feeling that something has been accomplished, though usually nothing has.

But better than sex, outrage can be indulged in more often as one grows older, doesn't lead to

complicated personal relationships, and doesn't have collateral financial expenses.

I had an Uncle Charlie who was good at outrage. Charlie's best accounts of his outrage involved him telling off his stupid boss after he got fired from a job.

His outrage rescued a dismal day from despair, and gave him the cheery illusion that he was in charge of the whole affair.



THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS ARE GOING GREEN!!!

Every three months of the newsletter is responsible for **one less tree** in the world. There are 47 days until **Earth Day** on April 22nd. We want to replace enough mailed newsletters with e-mailed newsletters to save **one whole tree** by Earth Day.



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**PLEASE SWITCH TO ELECTRONIC
NEWSLETTERS**

To make the change, just email your
name to
president@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, live in the 69th AD or an Ed that used to be in the 69th AD, 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

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Tuesday, June 11 7:15 p.m. Sign-in * 7:30 p.m. Town Hall
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