
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

A Town Hall Meeting

THE QUALITY OF LIFE AROUND 125TH STREET

- Congressman Charles Rangel
- State Senator Bill Perkins*
- Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell*
- Borough President Gale Brewer*
- Councilmember Mark Levine
- Representative from Department of Sanitation*
- Representative from the 26th Precinct
- Representative from the Morningside Heights
Historic District Committee*

*confirmed

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Meeting starts at 7:45 PM

Manhattan Pentecostal Church

541 West 125th Street

(between Broadway and Amsterdam)

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Volume 41, Issue 6

June 2016

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Wrapping Up the Political Calendar

All the elections in our area now appear to be set, except for State Senate in the 31st State Senate (Espaillat) District, though the club will need to endorse for some countywide and 7th District (north of 110th) Civil Court positions at its June 9th meeting.

For Congress, **Jerry Nadler** is opposed by a right wing extremist running a scurrilous campaign in the 10th District, and **Keith Wright** faces a cluster of candidates in the 13th District. All our polls will be open for the June 28th primary; it is imperative that we let our voters know that there is an election, and that we get out the vote for Jerry and Keith.

The other offices are up in the September 13th primary. At this point it looks like our newly and unanimously virtually/unanimously endorsed candidates State Senator (30th District) **Bill Perkins**, Assemblyman **Danny O'Donnell**, State Committee Members **Lynn Thomas** and **Dan Cohen**, and our Judicial Delegates and Alternates are unopposed. Virtually certain to be unopposed are countywide Civil Court candidates Josh Hanshaft and Emily Morales-Minerva and 7th District Judge Shari Michels; also likely to be unopposed for the 7th District vacancy is Aisha Tingling.

If all these non-races hold—we won't know for sure until petitioning ends in the middle of July—the polls won't open anywhere in our area Sept. 13th except for the 31st State Senate District. That race remains a muddle, in the club and in the district as a whole. Broadway Democrats failed to make an endorsement, because while the voters in the club as a whole favored Robert Jackson by a two-to-one margin, club voters who live in the 31st District favored Micah Lasher by the same two-to-one margin. The club Constitution is clear: you must carry both the club and the district to win the club endorsement.

I wasn't around when the club constitution was drawn up, but I was there for the vote where it was adopted. This provision came about because our predecessor club, the old Riverside Democrats, was making endorsements in far-flung districts, with the same people dictating the result in every district. Broadway Democrats founding Fathers and Mothers believed that to be endorsed a candidate has to demonstrate significant support in the district in which he or she is actually running. We will have a chance to revisit this after the

June 28th primary, which may bring different candidates into the field, depending on whether State Senator Espaillat wins the 13th Congressional District race.

...And It's Time for Bernie to Wrap It Up

Not because of the issues he is raising: Ted Kennedy in 1980 (who clobbered President Carter in most of the late primaries) and Hillary Clinton in 2008 kept running, positively, until the last primary, and gave rousing Convention speeches on behalf of Democratic victory. But Bernie has moved into political La La Land, inciting his supporters with hopeless talk that he can still win, and undermining Hillary's chances by making patently false claims about the Democratic Party leadership rigging the election against him. In Nevada, the Sanders campaign (legally) sought to subvert the will of the caucuses by trying to get more delegate votes for Bernie than he actually won; when the Clinton forces (legally) did *exactly the same* thing trying to reverse this result, they were accused of fraud, and Sanders supporters churlishly booed progressive Senator Barbara Boxer for "the sin" of giving a *nominating speech* for Hillary.

The most undemocratic part of the whole Democratic delegate selection process is the caucuses, which have much less participation, especially of poor and elderly voters, than do primaries, but the Sanders campaign doesn't object to these, because they favor him. In both Washington and Nebraska, subsequent "beauty contest" primaries were held, attracting at least three times as many voters as those states' caucuses. Hillary won both of them, getting 53% of the Washington public primary voters versus 27% of the caucus delegates. Hillary's campaign may have bemoaned these unrepresentative results, but it didn't denounce the Democratic leaders who made the rules, challenge the results' legitimacy, nor, like Bernie, defend the disgraceful behavior of legions of his Nevada supporters who were fighting, disrespecting and denouncing to get *two* extra convention delegates that according to the popular will they weren't entitled to anyway.

If all that divides Democrats are issues, Hillary liberals versus Bernie radicals, these differences can be patched up for the common goal of defeating Donald Trump. But if the Sanders campaign persists in demeaning Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party that he has never been a functioning member of, then the path to victory in November gets much harder. It is time for Bernie Sanders to show some real leadership, and act accordingly.

RL

From the Steering Committee

Gretchen Borges

Morningside Heights Community Coalition: A response to the overdevelopment of Morningside Heights

On May 26th, the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee hosted a community meeting to discuss organizing tactics in response to the increasing development pressures faced by the residents of Morningside Heights. MHHDC sought to reach out to other groups to join in a coalition so as to have a stronger, unified response. **NOTE: A community wide meeting will be held on June 20th at 7PM at Corpus Christi Church, located at 529 West 121st Street, (just east of Broadway).**

Laura Friedman, President of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee led the discussion by introducing the recently completed and the planned development. The sites include:

- 1) The Enclave, the recently completed apartment house directly to the north of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.
- 2) The Stonehenge, the newly refurbished apartment building at 1080 Amsterdam Avenue on the northwestern corner of Amsterdam and West 113th Street in the building that had once been nurses' housing for Saint Luke's.
- 3) Planned construction at Saint Luke's: The hospital will sell its eastern most 4 buildings between West 113th Street and West 114th Street (the 2 facing Morningside Drive and the 2 directly to the west).
- 4) Planned construction at Union Theological Seminary: UTS sold 350,000 square feet of air rights and has plans for a luxury condominium tower on the northern portion of its campus to include 8 floors for staff housing and the remainder to be condos ranging in price from \$2 to \$6 million.
- 5) Planned construction at Jewish Theological Seminary: JTS will build a new tower on the site of its present library, built in the 1980s. The new tower will hold a reduced-sized library (some books to be digitized and many in the collection held offsite), an auditorium, conference space, and a residence hall.
- 6) Jewish Theological Seminary sales:
 - a. 262,000 square feet of air rights and a parcel at the eastern edge of campus to a developer for a residential tower.
 - b. 415 West 120th Street, Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall at 121st Street and Broadway.
 - c. Horace W. Goldsmith Hall at 121st Street and Broadway (on eastern end of JTS's campus). This building will remain in operation as a dorm for the coming academic year.

Neighbors may well ask, "How can this happen?" The institutions in the neighborhood no doubt all feel financial pressures and their air rights and property are valuable commodities in this market. The value of land and air rights in Morningside Heights is considerable partially due to the R8 zoning, which permits as of right construction up to approximately 32 stories plus mechanicals in much of Morningside Heights.

The foreseeable problems caused to current denizens of the neighborhood by the planned development are many. Issues cited by attendees of the May 26th meeting included the environmental impact caused by multiple construction sites, including an increase in the already alarming number of rats; more riders on an already packed Number 1 line of the subway, a line limited by its aging infrastructure from running more trains; more students at the already overcrowded schools; and raised real estate taxes resulting from reassessments of the neighborhood as it encompasses multiple new luxury homes.

Please consider attending the June 20th meeting. Your ideas and energy are needed. If Morningside Heights is to have any community benefits from the new development, it must have a unified and strong response.

☞

Attend the showing of anti-gun film

"Making A Killing"

June 27th from 6 to 8 PM

John Jay College,
524 West 59th St (10th & 11th Aves),
Room L63

Endorsements

Candidates for Civil Court Judge, Countywide (two open seats) and 7th District (one incumbent, one open seat)

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

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
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FIRST
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
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President: Pat Almonrode
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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