
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

General Meeting

THURSDAY

MARCH 2nd

Get Active!

Come hear from representatives of local grassroots groups including *Rise & Resist*, *United thru Action*, *Grassroots Action NYC*, and *Solidarity Sundays*, and from *Dr. Debbie Almontaser* (lead organizer of the recent Yemeni shopkeepers' strike) about ways we can all work together in the growing resistance to the Trump Administration.

Meeting starts at 8:00 PM

Bank Street College

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

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Volume 42, Issue 3

March 2017

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Local News and Moves

First, congratulations to our own Laura Friedman and Gretchen Borges, our electeds Danny O'Donnell and Mark Levine, and the leaders of the Morningside Community Coalition, on their hard-fought victory in getting a Morningside Heights Historic District! The result of years of struggle, this victory means that the architectural character of our neighborhood will be preserved, and it will be harder to build more luxury monstrosities within the district. While certainly a triumph for the whole community and the many who joined the struggle over the years, it is also a personal triumph to the tenacity and grit of Laura, Danny, Gretchen and a few others. Without them, this wouldn't have happened.

While individuals bring the moral and organizing force to our community struggles, our elected officials inevitably lead the charge. Even I was amazed at how many of our elected are new. Jerry Nadler was first elected in 1992, Danny O'Donnell in 2002, several statewide electeds have been around for a while, but every other elected public official representing us was not holding their current office as recently as 2012. We always pride ourselves on the excellence of our local elected officials. Of those elected most recently, one under incredibly trying circumstances is marching at the head of this line of excellence, the other is heading in a disturbing direction. I have not always supported Congressman Adriano Espaillat, but as I sat in his Inaugural celebration, two days after Trump announced his horrific travel ban, and listened to speaker after speaker address the proud but shaken audience, so many of them immigrants themselves, I was so glad he is uptown Manhattan's Congress Member. With so many immigrants, especially Latino immigrants, facing deportation from Trump's minions, who better to lead the resistance than an immigrant (and for a time an illegal one) himself? Congressman Espaillat, on immigration and refugee issues, when

you lead, we will follow. Just tell us what you need us to do.

But an ally of Congressman Espaillat's, though certainly equally committed to the struggle to protect our immigrants, has taken a step that violates just about everything else we hold dear. State Senator Marisol Alcantara got vast amounts of campaign contributions from the Republican-enabling Independent Democratic Conference, voted with them to have the Republicans lead the State Senate, and received a Committee Chairmanship as a reward. Her distinguished predecessors in this seat, Franz Leichter, Eric Schneiderman, Adriano Espaillat, were never Committee Chairs. Not only does the fact that Senator Alcantara is a Latina woman who supported Bernie not excuse this behavior, it makes a mockery of it. The Republicans whom the IDC votes with are at the root of everything that is wrong with politics and government in New York: gerrymandering NYC and the Upper West Side into oblivion, supporting the landlords, the scorched earth Charter School advocates, the frackers, the anti-union wage contracts, fighting the Dream Act, savaging the City's right to govern itself. You can't be a leader worthy of our support if you sell out, big time, in your very first vote.

PA

From the President Steering Committee

Pat Almonrode

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCE TWO INITIATIVES

Like many of you, the officers and the Steering Committee of the Broadway Democrats have been trying to decide how best to respond to the Trump Administration, which has already caused considerable havoc and promises to cause much more in the years to come. We have been protesting, and have encouraged the membership to protest. We have also sought connections with other individuals and groups involved in what has

become known as The Resistance, knowing that we are always stronger together. These steps are essential, and they will continue—but we need to do more.

Not long after the election in November, Congressman Nadler wrote an open letter titled “How We Resist Trump and his Extreme Agenda” (<http://www.jerrynadler.com/news-clips/how-we-resist-trump-and-his-extreme-agenda>). He offers several concrete suggestions, including that “people residing in safe Democratic districts...consider adopting a couple of key marginal Democratic districts” within which to help organize for the 2018 mid-term elections. I’m excited to announce the formation of a committee that will act on that advice—and that will possibly identify districts in which we can help target vulnerable Republicans as well. Expect to hear more on this soon.

Of course, in order for any initiative like that to have effect, we have to have well-functioning voting processes in place. Republican efforts to suppress the vote—especially the votes of racial and ethnic minorities—had a substantial effect last November. What’s more, those efforts continue, led by operatives like Kris Kobach, the Kansas Secretary of State and now an advisor to Donald Trump, whose brainchild, the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program, may have kept many millions of Americans from having their votes count. That’s why we’re also creating a committee to educate our members and the public about voter-suppression efforts, and to encourage and support legislative and legal efforts to overturn voter-suppression laws. This committee is currently working on a letter to NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, asking him to band with other states’ AGs to investigate and stop Crosscheck. You should hear more about this committee soon, as well.

As we go forward into The Trump Years, it will be critical to keep up the fight *on all fronts*. With these initiatives, and others yet to come, we will position The Broadway Democrats in the vanguard of that fight. For more information about the work of these two committees, or to suggest other initiatives for the club to consider, please email me: president@broadwaydemocrats.org.



EXPAND YOUR VOLUNTEERING!

Volunteer to be newsletter editor for the Broadway Democrats

Exciting position opening. Once a month edit the writings of your fellow democrats and know that you are helping spread the message! Contact Pat at president@broadwaydemocrats.org

GET MORE ENGAGED!

Need Additional Members for the Technology Committee!!!

Looking for people with knowledge/skills in social media, websites, newsletter production, outreach, design! Contact Paula at valleygirl109@rocketmail.com

CORRECTED STEERING COMMITTEE LIST

The Steering Committee Election Results are being run again because the list of Steering Committee members in last month’s newsletter omitted a valued new member, Noah Kaufman. The editor sends Noah her sincere apologies.

Steering Committee (totaling 12):

WillieMae Anderson
Gretchen Borges
Susan Crawford
Noah Kaufman
Norm Levine
Sarah Martin
Joe Nunley
Mary Peppito
Amy Porter
Luis Román
Richard Siegel
Dan Zweig

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
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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

Get Active!

Thursday, March 2nd 8:00 p.m.

Bank Street College of Education

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