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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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## Endorsement Forum, Part 2:

- 📣 ***State Assembly***
- 📣 ***State Committee Man and Woman***
- 📣 ***Attorney General***
- 📣 ***Convention Delegates and Alternates (4 each)***

**Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

Congregation Ramath Orah  
550 West 110th Street (off Broadway)

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Volume 35, Issue 5

May 2010

## President's Corner

Luis Román

Desperate times call for desperate measures. That is undoubtedly the mantra being repeated by Republicans in Arizona, to explain the extraordinary events of the past week. Before a week ago Friday, it was unimaginable that anywhere in the United States, a person could be stopped by police on the street and ordered to produce identification, and face arrest simply because he or she cannot prove their legal status in the country.

As stunned and angry as I feel, I don't want to rush to condemn all the people of Arizona. It is hard for me, as a New Yorker, to imagine how I would feel if my safety was constantly under threat from a drug war raging in the country that bordered my state. The carnage from the Mexican drug war has spilled over the borders of the Southwestern U.S. with frightening regularity, and the people in Arizona are left with an unsettling dread. The failure of the federal government to address immigration policy, leading to inadequate border security, and millions of undocumented workers in hiding from fear of deportation, has only added to the anxiety suffered by people living along the border. It is truly a desperate situation.

How far are we willing to go in the name of security? How many of our values are we willing to sacrifice to assuage our fears? There are the questions we must ask ourselves in the face of Arizona's unprecedented action. The new Arizona law will face a series of legal challenges before it is employed. It is hard to imagine that the law can survive legal scrutiny, given the vague "reasonable suspicion" standard meant to authorize police to stop suspected illegals. It will also be hard for Arizona to overcome a challenge to its attempt to usurp the federal government's role in crafting immigration policy.

Even if the law manages to survive legal scrutiny, it has become clear this week that implementation

of the law will not be consistent or uniform. The sheriff of Pima County, Arizona, Clarence Dupnick, has already publicly stated that he and his officers will not enforce the new law. Sheriff Dupnick excoriated the Arizona legislature, calling the law "irresponsible" and saying it makes the legislature "look like racists." Other Arizona law enforcement organizations have pledged to enforce the law as written. Such inconsistent enforcement efforts would be an additional nightmare for everyone in Arizona. It would be hard for a Latino to walk on the streets in Arizona without looking over his or her shoulder.

The solution must come from Washington, in the form of a comprehensive overhaul of our immigration laws. The federal government must reassert its preeminent role in crafting immigration policy, and make clear that law enforcement will adhere to the standard of probable cause which has been the hallmark of our law since the Constitution was written. Adequate resources must be devoted to securing the Mexican border, to ensure the safety of our citizens. Congress can create an extra level of security by opening a path to citizenship for undocumented workers already in the United States. If we can offer undocumented persons hope to legally, permanently establish themselves and their families here, it will go a long way toward making us all feel more secure every day.

In every crisis, there is an opportunity, and this crisis is no different. If we put pressure on Democrats in Congress and the White House to act responsibly, we can create hope for millions of people who are currently living in fear, and we can help create a more secure future for us all.

✎

**JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> ENDORSEMENT FORUM:  
STATE-WIDE (Governor, State  
Senator, State Controller)**

## **District Leader's Report**

Curtis Arluck

As we head into the election season we face a disturbing paradox: Democratic-run New York State government, especially the State Senate, is in a state of collapse, yet the Democrats look to be in pretty good shape for November, while the Democratic-led national government is doing extremely well but the Republicans, completely undeservedly, are poised to make major gains in this fall's elections. The chief reason for this is that the mainstream broadcast media, especially CNN, has ceased to function in any real journalistic sense, and just lets the Republicans spout their lies and falsities without any attempt to discover the real truth. As was famously said when John Kerry's campaign was being Swift Boated to death, CNN et al would have provided even-handed coverage of Kristillnacht, ignoring the attacks themselves, and giving "Mr. Hitler's supporters" the same air time as his "critics". The only time this year when the President Obama and the Democrats have gained is when the camera has shown the Republican spin being checked, as when Obama dominated the Republican conference during the health care debate, or when Republican performance is so outrageous that no "even-handedness" or spin can save it, as when Senator Bunning tried to filibuster the extension of unemployment benefits, or as may be happening with Republican attempts to gut the Wall Street reform bill, and the outrageous Arizona assault on immigrants in general and Latinos in particular.

It is evidently not enough for the Democrats to do better than the Republicans in every measurable economic yardstick. They must seize the news cycle, and announce that they are going to run a nationwide campaign describing their successes and the Republicans' failures, their willingness to work cooperatively versus the Republicans' stonewalling, and how the Republicans' budget cutting mania will immediately cost millions of jobs. The one rap on the Democrats' stewardship of the economy is that not enough new jobs are being created *now*; the Democrats' must focus, and seize the media with this focus, that the Republicans' "cut taxes, cut spending" mantra is not only what got us into this mess to begin with, but it would immediately cost (itemizing the list), x million jobs, *now*.

For New York, I have high hopes for Andrew Cuomo, who may have just the combination of ideas, determination and toughness our state needs to get back on track. (Governor Paterson, I think, has gotten something of a bum rap on the budget, where he has attempted to grapple with the deficit, only to be thwarted by the State Senate at every turn, but on most other issues he has provided little leadership or, sadly, even, activity.) The State Senate, however, is dreadful, and on this one we cannot blame it merely on the Republicans, bad as they are. Pedro Espada and Ruben Diaz are unfit for elective office, as was the thankfully gone Hiram Monserrate. Malcolm Smith was an ineffectual, ethically challenged leader; John Sampson, while not part of the problem, shows few signs of being part of the solution. Carl Kruger, one of the original Espada "Gang of Four", is for all intents and purposes a Republican. The suburban Democrats, especially Craig Johnson—whom we all worked so hard for—whine all day about property taxes and hold up good governance in the process. Joe Addabbo—another guy we bled for—sold us down the river on marriage equality. The Upstate conservative Democrats are, well, Upstate conservative Democrats. It's a pretty sad state of affairs when your campaign platform boils down to "we're bad, but our opponents are worse." At least the top of the ticket, with Cuomo, Schumer and Gillibrand seemingly sailing to victory, gives us cheer—as does the impressive group of Attorney General candidates whom we'll be hearing from May 13<sup>th</sup>. I'm honored to support our own Eric Schneiderman, but he is merely the best of a very strong field, a field that makes us proud, once again, to be New York Democrats.

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## **Assembly Member's Report**

Daniel O'Donnell

On April 26th, the *New York Times* reported that New York City was held in contempt for continuing to enforce an unconstitutional statute regarding loitering which disproportionately targeted panhandlers, the homeless, and gay men.

The U.S. District Court decision referenced the estimated tens of thousands who have had their constitutional rights violated after being swept into

the penal system. As a result of the decision, after a six-month grace period to come into compliance, the city will be fined \$500 for every summons it issues under the antiquated law. The fine will increase by \$500 every three months to a maximum of \$5,000 per incident.

The court also singled out the Legislature for its failure to repeal the unconstitutional provision. I am the prime sponsor of A5537A, the bill that would do exactly that. A5537 first passed the Assembly in 2009. Almost exactly two months before the *Times* article appeared, the Assembly passed the legislation again with a second unanimous vote. Unfortunately, the bill has languished in the Senate.

I will continue to fight on behalf of this important legislation which will make our state's loitering provisions more humane and protect the constitutional rights of vulnerable New Yorkers.

I am also proud to announce that on March 4, 2010 I was appointed to serve as Chair of the Assembly's Ethics and Guidance Committee. I am looking forward to playing a key role in shaping future ethics proposals and am honored to be the first among members who joined the Assembly in 2003 to head a standing committee.



## **Kudos to Two Outstanding B'way Dem Women**

Both Joan Levine (club member) and Sarah Martin (Steering Committee member) recently received City Council awards from City Council Members Robert Jackson and Ydannis Rodreiguez, citing the strengths and skills they each have brought to community activities.

You might remember that at our recently held Spring Fling, the Morningside Heights-West Harlem Westside Sanitation Coalition (of which Joan and Sarah are co-directors) was presented with the Ida and Jesse Frankel Community Service Award. Hats off to two very inspiring women!

## **Results of April 7<sup>th</sup> Endorsement Meeting**

### **U.S. Senate:**

Randy Credico	3	6.4%
<b>Charles Schumer</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>87.2%</b>
No Endorsement	3	6.4%

### **U.S. Senate:**

<b>Kirsten Gillibrand</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>87.0%</b>
Jonathan Tasini	4	8.7%
No Endorsement	2	4.3%
Invalid	1	

### **U.S. Congress (15th):**

Vince Morgan	4	8.7%
Adam Clayton Powell IV	0	0.0%
<b>Charles Rangel</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>71.7%</b>
No Endorsement	9	19.6%
Invalid	1	

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

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 Forum, Part 2: Local Offices and Attorney General Candidates

Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 7:45 p.m.

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