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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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## **Broadway Democrats Endorsement Forum:**

- **State Assembly**
- **State Senate, 30<sup>th</sup> District**
- **State Senate, 31<sup>st</sup> District**
- **Our share of the 69<sup>th</sup> AD Judicial  
Convention Delegate (three) and  
Alternates (two)**

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m.**

**Bank Street College**

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

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May 2016

## President's Corner

Pat Almonrode

On Sunday, May 1, The Broadway Democrats held our annual Spring Fling fundraiser, at 107 West. This year the club honored our beloved Congressman Charlie Rangel, who is retiring after an amazing and history-making 22 terms representing New York's 13th Congressional District. We also presented the Ida and Jesse Frankel Community Service Award to an important but unsung organization that helps keep us all safe, the Upper West Side Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

District Leader Paula Diamond Roman presented the award to Congressman Rangel, who in his inimitable fashion regaled the crowd with comments on his long career—and also gave a ringing endorsement to Assemblyman Keith Wright to succeed him in Congress. The club endorsed Assemblyman Wright at our March 10<sup>th</sup>.



US Senator Charles Schumer, District Leader Paula Diamond Román, District Leader Curtis Arluck, Club President Pat Almonrode, US Congressman Jerrold Nadler, US Congressman Charles Rangel

Club President Pat Almonrode presented the Ida and Jesse Frankel Award to the Upper West Side CERT, Sheldon Fine, President accepting. The organization, which is the largest of 48 CERTs in the city, is composed of trained and certified volunteers who are ready to assist the NYPD, FDNY, and EMTs in various emergency situations, and who provide emergency-preparedness trainings to other civic groups.

Many of our elected officials came to celebrate with our two honorees, including Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Jerry Nadler, Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell, Assemblyman Keith Wright, State Senator Bill Perkins, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Borough

President Gale Brewer, Public Advocate Leticia James, and City Councilman Mark Levine.

Approximately 85 attendees enjoyed the food and hospitality of 107 West, a neighborhood favorite and our host for many years. Thanks to manager Juan Fuentes and his wonderful, hard-working staff.

Final numbers are still being tallied, but it looks like the fundraiser was a great success, giving the club much-needed resources as we move into this important election season. Thanks to all for attending, and contributing!



Club President Pat Almonrode, District Leader Paula Diamond Román, District Leader, Curtis Arluck, President Accepting Upper West Side CERT Sheldon Fine

*DL*

## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### One More Endorsement Meeting: Vote for Danny, Bill, Dan and Lynn!

This Thursday's endorsement meeting will be our third and last in this busy election year. The fact that we have separate primary elections for Congress in June and statewide offices in September is a multi-million dollar outrage foisted on us by State Senate Republicans and Governor Cuomo. This time we will endorse in five contests, plus for our share of the 69<sup>th</sup> AD Judicial Convention Delegate (three) and Alternates (two.) Three races appear to be unopposed, and I'm happy to join the multitudes in endorsing our great State Assemblyman **Danny O'Donnell** and our fighting State Committee Members **Lynn Thomas** and **Dan Cohen**. He has a contested race from a well-funded opponent, but I am sure club members will join me in endorsing our principled State Senator **Bill Perkins** in the 30<sup>th</sup> District.

There is one more important race, for State Senate in the 31<sup>st</sup> District. This is supposed to be an open seat, as Senator Adriano Espaillat is ostensibly vacating it to run for Congress. The two contenders are former City Council Member Robert Jackson and former Chief of Staff to State Attorney General Schneiderman Micah Lasher. It's important that we turn out to give Danny, Bill, Lynn and Dan rousing votes of confidence, and weigh in on who will, hopefully, be the new State Senator from the 31<sup>st</sup> District.

### **Presidential Primary Wrap-Up: Hillary Sweeps Our Area in Huge Turnout**

More than 10,000 people in our district came out to vote for President April 19<sup>th</sup>. The normal primary turnout is less than 5000. Like the campaigns themselves, it was a rollicking, raucous, and hopefully rewarding day. Hillary Clinton swept our area with 63% of the vote. Showing the breadth of her appeal, she ran best on Riverside Drive and in Grant Houses. Bernie Sanders won a few EDs in and around the Columbia campus. It is now guaranteed that Hillary will have won the most votes and elected the most delegates. That calculation is how we decide elections in this country. Bernie Sanders is to be commended for the issues he raised and the enthusiasm he generated. He gave Hillary a good run, but he came in second. Let us now come together for the good of the party—and the country.

### **Voter Suppression, New York Style**

It is not, here, a question of voter ID laws, or overt attempts to disenfranchise minority voters. It is not because independents are not allowed to vote in party primaries. (They shouldn't be; people who are committed to one party or the other should be the ones who determine who their party nominates, though the deadline for switching should be expanded to the time when people are actually focusing on the elections.) The problem here is the way elections are run, by a hyper-partisan Board of Elections in which Republicans get equal representation though they have almost no voters.

- Every attempt to increase participation is stonewalled.
- Almost every polling place change moves voters farther away from their homes, generally without notification.
- Election notices are translated into six languages, making them unintelligible in all of them.
- Know-nothing ADA compliance monitors close polls that have for years operated without complaint from disabled voters, causing chaos, uproar, and massive disenfranchisement of all voters.

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## **From the Steering Committee**

Katie Hanner



### **Bag Bill Likely to Pass the City Council**

Good news! That unusual “fruit”, namely the plastic bag, that is an all too common sight in NYC street trees, may finally become extinct. A majority of city council members, including our own Mark Levine and Helen Rosenthal, and our former council member, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, as well as Borough President Gale Brewer, have expressed their support for Intro 209-A, a bill to reduce dramatically single-use plastic and paper bag waste in New York City.

New Yorkers throw away more than 9 billion plastic bags each year, and over 91,000 tons of solid waste is sent to landfills at a cost of over \$12.5 million. The bags, which are made of petroleum and take millions of years to decompose, get stuck in trees, litter streets and beaches, clog storm drains and recycling equipment, and become part of giant islands of plastic sludge in our oceans

Under the amended legislation, retailers will be required to charge 5 cents for single-use plastic and paper bags (reduced from 10 cents). Customers who bring their own reusable bags will pay no charge.

The revised bill also requires outreach and education in multiple languages and calls for studies on the impact of the legislation on litter, solid waste, and bag use reductions.

The bill will apply to carryout bags from grocery stores and non-food retailers but will exempt SNAP and WIC customers, as well as emergency food providers, to avoid additional barriers to food insecurity. Bag fees have been adopted in cities including Washington DC, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis, and in countries including Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, France, Israel, Ireland and South Africa.

As of this writing, the bill is expected to go before the council for a vote on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you Mark, Helen, Melissa and Gale!*

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## From the Steering Committee

Richard Siegel

### **Bernie Sanders—Phase Two of the Revolution**

Several members of the steering committee have been active, passionate supporters of Bernie Sanders. His call for a political revolution has energized more people and especially more young people than anyone expected. He has received more support and more votes than many thought possible. He has articulated a progressive agenda better than anyone in the past 20 years. Congrats to Bernie and his supporters. At this point in the campaign, he is not going to win the nomination. He is not going to beat Hillary Clinton. As George Takei stated recently, ***“Hillary will likely win, and she will be our nominee. But that doesn't mean Bernie didn't also win. He won in a myriad of ways, none more so than energizing the Democratic base in a way no one expected. Young people in particular have become so passionate about this election. Because they recognize the historic importance at stake is nothing less than the very soul of our nation.”***

It is time for the next phase of the Bernie Sanders movement. It is not time to lay off campaign workers. It is time to re-direct those workers and his supporters to phase two of his campaign: Directing its passion, energy, and resources to senate, congressional and state races, then working aggressively to elect progressive politicians to federal and state offices. The greatest assault on everything Bernie represents has been waged in state governments over the past 8 years. Only 28 states and the District of Columbia have accepted federal money to expand Medicaid under the ACA. It is time to campaign for state candidates who will approve this expansion in the 22 states that have not done so.

It is time to elect state candidates who will reverse the de-funding of Planned Parenthood so that women have access to a full range of healthcare. It is time to elect state candidates who will not pass legislation that eliminates a woman's right to choose. It is time to elect state candidates who will expand equality legislation. It is time to elect state candidates who will eliminate voter ID laws and will expand access to voting. It is time to elect people who will limit the amount of money in local elections. We need several electeds like Danny O'Donnell and Bill Perkins in North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. If progressive state and congressional candidates are elected, good things will happen. Bernie Sanders and his supporters have the opportunity to create a lasting legacy. Many of us believe old fashioned grass roots work would provide the best and quickest path to the goals Bernie clearly articulates. By working together we can create lasting change.

RS

## From the Steering Committee

Joe Nunley

### **Do the Right Thing**

Slavery, Jim Crow, segregation, and racism produced a great contradiction in the American psyche. We have never been able to eliminate the enormous divide between who we say we are and who we are.

The ethnic cleansing, and, alas, genocide against the first Americans, the American Indian, has not even entered our collective psyche to this day. We have no difficulty, whatsoever, ignoring it.

We took land that did not belong to us. We removed people from that land. We either murdered them individually or in massacres or we removed all opportunities for them to make a living, to survive, so they died from epidemics of illness, from starvation, and from alienation itself. Those who resisted were deemed terrorists. We sensationalized their brutality and ignored our own, a brutality both most violent and most victorious.

The eyes of history may well look at the government of our time and consider it extraordinarily lacking in conscience, morality, and courage.

Our foreign policy decisions rarely are based on morality and justice. If other countries comply with our objectives, those countries become our allies irrespective of their treatment of their own peoples, or of neighboring ethnicities.

Our very much controlled corporate media never explores our public wrongdoings or that of our allies. It always takes up the government narrative. Donald Trump wants to build a wall between us and outsiders but we already have a wall between our humanity and our greed. It is a wall of silence. The IDF soldiers in Israel have called their significant group, Breaking the Silence.

A few weeks ago a candidate for the presidency of the United States broke the silence. He broke the silence that Democrats and Republicans have unanimously kept for 40 years. It was a shattering moment in history, a real profile in courage, a thing of beauty, and all he said was that the Palestinians should be respected and the Israel military response in 2014 was disproportionate. These statements should not even be arguable; but Americans are an oblivious people, unaware of our obliviousness, being emotionally charged and manipulated by consistent media propaganda based on a one-sided narrative. Also, of course, for people like myself: we have a personal tribal identity, a highly emotional response to our own history.

The statement, the response, my own response all have led me to focus on how irrational the human mind is and how cautious the art of politics is. We can choose to believe what is comfortable and convenient to believe with more ease than we can choose to believe what is

right before our eyes, which, of course, is sometimes a very difficult thing to see. Indeed, only a child or a genius can see when the Emperor has no clothes.

Courage elevates Bernie Sanders above virtually every other elected person in the nation. He is astonishing, insightful and honest. Now he has stepped on the third rail of politics and nothing will ever be the same again. He will lose an election but in speaking with candor and courage he has instilled in us a new and fervent consciousness and a strong determination to do what is right, and we shall.



### **Eligibility to Vote**

To be eligible to vote, you must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay (or have paid) your dues.

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

### **Balloting Procedures**

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.

The winner will be selected by "Instant Runoff Voting"; "no endorsement" is still a ballot option.

*and more from the fundraiser*



US Senator Charles Schumer and US Congressman Jerrold Nadler



US Congressman Charles Rangel and Public Advocate Leticia James

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

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FIRST  
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell  
District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,  
Paula Diamond Román  
President: Pat Almonrode  
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Endorsement Forum: State Assembly, State Senate,  
State Committeeman and State Committeewoman  
Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m.  
Bank Street College of Education**