
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Joe Nunley ♦

Election Reflections

Come see the Campaign Center and get training on phone banking.

Hear Reports from Your District Leaders, State Committeeman, and State Assemblyman.

Thursday, October 18th

**Please note
the location for
this meeting.**



**8:00-9:00 Orientation and Training
9:00 Meeting**

OBAMA VICTORY CAMPAIGN CENTER

2689 Broadway (between 103rd and 102nd Streets)

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Volume 37, Issue 7

October 2012

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Continuing the same themes as last month, the big one, of course, more urgently.

The Presidential Campaign is not over, as the first debate amply demonstrated. I thought Obama did much better than was portrayed, but clearly not well enough to put Romney away. We now know we can't be complacent. With Three Parks we have a fabulous campaign storefront at 2689 Broadway, between 102nd and 103rd Streets. We are phone banking, canvassing, selling buttons (great selection!), and registering voters. Monday night is Broadway Democrats night, 6–9 PM; otherwise the storefront is open 2–9 PM, opens at 11 AM on weekends. We. Need. You. Desperately.

City Council Redistricting. The first set of lines was released Sept. 4 and is much better for our area, though not as good as it should be. Morningside Heights (106-125) is all now mostly in the new 7th District, currently represented by Robert Jackson, who is term limited. However, the rest of the proposed new 7th District is problematic, see-sawing as low as 142nd St. along the Hudson River and as high as 183rd St. near the Harlem River, instead of running north uniformly to 155th or so. And all of our part of Manhattan Valley, as well as Morningside Heights east of Amsterdam, is in the 9th District, currently represented by Inez Dickens. We are entirely out of the 8th District, now represented by Melissa Mark-Viverito. I will be extremely sorry to lose Melissa, love her progressive voting record, was proud that the West Side voted more strongly for her than East Harlem in 2009. But the concept of community is greater than any one representative, and of all the gerrymanderings that chopped up our area into three remote and unrelated other districts, the tacking on of Manhattan Valley to East Harlem was the most egregious. I will testify at the next round of hearings that the new lines are a vast improvement over the old, but still need to be improved by restoring the east of Amsterdam blocks to the 7th and making the northern boundary of the district much more uniform.

Primary Wrap-Up (Seems so long ago now!) Rita Mella swept our area en route to an overwhelming win for Manhattan Surrogate's Court. Rita campaigned extensively, with us and everyone, voters responded to her credentials and her story, and after a pro-forma election in November she will become the first Dominican Surrogate in the United States. Her opponent Barbara Jaffe is to be commended for her dignified and positive campaign.

State Senator Adriano Espaillat lost the West Side but won overwhelmingly in Washington Heights to resoundingly defeat

Guillermo Linares. His candidate Gabriella Rosa defeated Guillermo's daughter Mayra to win the 72nd AD Assembly seat. There is a lot of mishigoss swirling around politics in Upper Manhattan. Much of it I find distasteful. But I am glad that tough, progressive Senator Espaillat will be back fighting for us in Albany. One of his signature issues in opposition to fracking in upstate NY. Governor Cuomo supported Espaillat—one of his few primary endorsements—while Mayor Bloomberg, who now supports fracking, endorsed Linares. Recently the Governor has delayed once again approval for fracking anywhere in NY State. Is there a pattern here?

Poll Site Changes will likely remain the same as reported in the last newsletter, except that the PS 125 poll has been moved back to 1315 Amsterdam, which is much more accessible to Grant Houses voters. Unfortunately, it looks as if the floor at 400 RSD won't be ready, so voters there will have to go to PS 165. To find your poll site, contact me or Google "NYC Board of Elections", go to "Poll Site Locator."



President's Corner

Joe Nunley

WE ARE ON A MISSION!

Watching the first Presidential Debate last night I was frankly stunned at what President Obama allowed Mitt Romney to get away with. Obama just stood there and never called Romney out on his lies, not ONCE. The President was too polite and too much of a gentleman. He must remember that he is combating the leader of a Republican party with an extreme agenda. He must point this out to the American people.

President Obama should stand proudly behind what he has accomplished. Medical cost increases under the president are the lowest in decades, and projected to turn around even more as people get coverage. The GNP has improved 13 percent. 4.5 million jobs have been recovered with an added 125,000 net gain so far. Jobs are being added at a rate equal to what Romney says that he would do as president. Romney wants to go back to a plan and policy that history has proven does not work. Obama should link Romney to George W. Bush and point out that these ideas would be a disaster for our nation. He should say, "I never want another American president to walk into a situation like I walked into."

There is no need to turn the White House over to a person who can't tell the truth or release his taxes for ten years.

Mitt Romney at the first debate showed that he was clearly willing to say absolutely anything to make voters think that what they'd heard about him was wrong. Romney won the debate largely because he chose to lie.

He said:

- 1) "We have to have regulations on Wall Street." Really?
- 2) "I don't have a 5 trillion dollar tax cut. I don't have a tax cut on the scale you're talking about." Really?
- 3) "Pre-existing conditions are covered under my plan." Really?
- 4) "I'm not going to cut taxes on the rich." Really?
- 5) "I'm not going to cut education funding." Really?
- 6) "I am all in favor of green energy." Really?

According to the Tax Policy Center Romney's plan raises taxes, even under very generous assumptions, on the middle class. These include extension of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and the elimination of the estate tax. Romney's plan calls for a 20% rate cut for all brackets, revenue neutrality, while ensuring that high-income earners continue to pay the lowest rate in our history.

If we want to talk in details, let's do so. All of the analyses of this plan assume that Romney totally eliminates the charitable deduction, mortgage-interest deductions, all education tax breaks, all state and local tax deductions, the employer-provided health care exemption, all Health Savings Account and medical deductions. These are enormous changes. Eliminating the charitable deduction for the rich could effectively wipe out funding for thousands of charitable, artistic, and educational institutions. Small theaters could shut down. Private colleges would lose donations and hike up tuition to make up the difference, even as tuition deductions and credits are eliminated.

Conservative economist Martin Feldstein, author of the first study trying to show Romney's plan could work said, "...in effect, the change would be a tax of charities, reducing their receipts by a dollar for every dollar of extra revenue the government collects. It is hard to imagine a rationale for taxing schools, hospitals, medical research budgets and art organizations in this way."

Eliminating the employer health exemption could mark the beginning of the end of the employer-based health system as we know it.

Eliminating the mortgage-interest deductions would upend the housing sector, reducing demand to buy dramatically and shifting the sector toward renting.

Joe Biden said at the Democratic Party Convention, "We want a future where we promote the private sector, not the privileged sector." The president must point out what the Romney plan is really all about. As James Raskin has written, "A plutocratic state denies us both political justice and a fair economy."

We are on a mission. PLEASE come down to the storefront on Broadway between 102nd and 103rd Street and VOLUNTEER. It is open from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. BROADWAY DEMOCRATS alone runs the operation on Monday nights from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.



State Committeeman Daniel Marks Cohen, 69th AD

As I mentioned at the club meeting and in the newsletter, in August I testified before the NYC Redistricting Commission about the plans to redraw the City Council district lines. A draft of the new lines has been proposed ([go to www.nyc.gov/districting](http://www.nyc.gov/districting) to see them) and there is a modest improvement—Manhattan Valley and the northern part of the Upper West Side is no longer in the 8th Council District, represented by Melissa Mark-Viverito, which was an inconvenience at best and an impossibility at worst for residents with limited means and mobility to get to the district office on 116th and Lexington Avenue in East Harlem. However, the area is now split down a crooked line of Amsterdam and Manhattan Avenues between the 7th and the 9th, currently represented by Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. This arrangement only serves to fracture the voting power of our community, and we must speak with one voice at the next redistricting hearing on Thursday, October 4th at the Schomburg Center (515 Malcolm X Boulevard at 135th Street), beginning at 5:30 pm. Anyone may speak, you can sign up at the website I referenced above and the more of us who express outrage at the lines, then the more likely we will be heeded. Below is my proposed testimony:

"My name is Daniel Marks Cohen, and I am the New York State Democratic Committeeman representing the 69th Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side in the New York State Democratic Committee. The Assembly member for the 69th is Daniel O'Donnell. I am a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, my parents live in the district, my wife and I live in the district, and we are raising our newborn son—a third generation West Sider—in it as well. The part of the Upper West Side I live in—between 96th Street and 125th Street, is the poorest portion of the 69th Assembly District (<http://zipskinny.com/zipcompare.php>), it is the least served in terms of services and transportation (<http://www.straphangers.org/pokeyaward/10/>), and has more crime

http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/crime_statistics.shtml.

I believe at least one reason for its consistent and uneven status is that fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces of nine different districts. This was somewhat improved recently by the passage of federal redistricting legislation which redrew the TWO Congressional districts: the 8th by Representative Jerry Nadler, and the 15th by Representative Charlie Rangel; but it was made worse by the THREE State Senate districts: Tom Duane of the 29th, Bill Perkins of the 30th and Adriano Espaillat of the 31st. The latter, the 31st, is particularly egregious, stretching from 184th to 24th Streets along the west coast of Manhattan island, it looks more like the Latin American country of Chile than a proper State Senate district. But sadly, that it not your purview today, and we are stuck with this absurd district for the next ten years.

The recent proposed draft of the council lines is a modest improvement—the northern part of the area I represent is no longer in the 8th district, currently held by councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito from East Harlem, who has served us as well as any person could with a district stretching over such a large geographic area with limited resources. But the area is now split between the 7th and the 9th, councilmembers Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. The line to divide the two districts deliberately fractures the community in a way I can only assume was to limit the voting power of the residents in the district to not have too much sway in either the 7th, largely seen as a “Washington Heights” seat and the 9th, which is viewed as a “West Harlem” seat.

Plainly put: the northern-most district lines proposed are nonsensical. While I am grateful that residents in my community who live in the 8th district no longer have to go to 116th Street and Lexington Avenue for help from their councilmember, it is absurd and blatantly disrespectful to divide the area between the 7th and 9th districts along such a random line. The easiest solution is to move the border so that everything west of Central Park and Morningside Park is in the 7th. If this causes the 7th to exceed its capacity, move the line of the 6th district north to pick up some additional voters. I propose that the Commission redraw the lines more naturally, to keep Manhattan Valley’s representation on the West Side, where it belongs, rather than as an appendage to another district for incumbency or demographic reasons.”



From the Steering Committee

Ed Sullivan

I'M A DEMOCRAT FANTASIA 2012

The artistry of Walt Disney was to create with his drawings an imaginary world that sensible people, for a moment, really believed in. A world in which animals wore clothes and talked

to each other in English. A world in which predators chased their prey, but didn't really mean it, caught their prey, but didn't really kill them and eat them.

In 1940, as World War II was cranking up into full and bloody reality, Disney presented a new kind of film. It was “Fantasia,” a colorful animated film that implemented the artist’s insistence that people accept his imagined world, and momentarily forget the grim, grey real world that was engulfing them.

In Disney’s new film, mushrooms danced with falling leaves to the rhythms of Tchaikovsky’s music, the early history of the planet, replete with dinosaurs, appeared with Stravinski’s “Rite of Spring” playing in the background, and ancient gods came to life to the strains of Ludwig von Beethoven.

As Hitler’s tanks were rolling into Paris, in Disney’s “Fantasia,” fairies and sylphs danced ensemble, and Schubert’s “Ave Maria” summed up the devotional outlook at the movie’s end.

1940 is a long time ago, and Walt Disney’s power as a popular artist is no longer with us. But not to worry. The Republican Party has kept the imaginary world alive, with political and philosophical beliefs, which defy the strictures of reality. The music plays on.

Do scientists around the world see carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels as a main cause of global warming, which will radically alter all of our lives? Republicans say no, no. “Drill, baby, drill!” Incidentally, that is the cry of the fossil fuel industry, which makes billions of dollars on the sale of their deadly poison, and helps fund the Republican Party.

Have the stock market wheeler-dealers proved beyond any shadow of a doubt that they are incapable of self-regulation? Republicans say no, no. They want to roll back regulations, so that financiers can continue to trick the Wall Street deck. If it’s good for the hustler, it’s got to be great for America, say the Repubs. Caveat emptor, you know, which means if you get screwed on Wall Street, that’s your problem.

Does the United States Constitution allow people the right to bear arms so that the states and localities can have a “well organized militia” to keep public order? The Republicans say no, no. What Madison and Hamilton, those dolts, really meant to say is that any psychopath or idiot or criminal should be allowed to buy a gun, so that he (usually, he) can shoot his wife or children or work mates or others, if he feels that they have become the enemy. See?

Sensible people believe that laissez-faire capitalism, sometimes called “trickle down economics, has failed again to keep our country economically strong and morally responsible. The depression of 2008 mirrored the Great Depression of 1929 in many ways. And the Republican Party responded to each with a picture book of fantasies.

The most important thing for Republicans was always to preserve their religion, i.e., their belief in The Market as the source of all economic good, and the solution to any economic problem. "Let The Market handle it," was the mantra of Herbert Hoover, as it is now of Mitt Romney. Drought-stricken peasants executing a rain dance in the belief that it would end the dry spell could not be more plaintive, or more deluded.

Other illusions inhabit the Republican pantheon of fantasies. They believe, when all is said and done, that Black people do not have the ability to govern themselves or others. Never mind that more than 50% of American citizens voted for Barack Obama. The Republican whites have a need to feel racially superior. This need trumps even their need for getting votes from the Black electorate. They don't even try. Their racial fantasy is actually that strong – or that insecure.

Republicans really believe that if the United States slaps Islamic people around a little more heavily, they'll grow to respect us and become our friends. Why would they resent us? Talk about fantasy.

And the Republicans believe, in 2012, that they can transform the great United States of America into a huge banana republic, ruled by a moneyed oligarchy, them, which will make them even richer, while the lazy peasants—the 47%—scrounge for table scraps.

Do they really believe that fantasy? It's a nightmare worthy of The Wizard's Apprentice.

I'm A Democrat is written and distributed by Ed Sullivan.



VOLUNTEER NOW!

OBAMA VICTORY CAMPAIGN CENTER

2689 Broadway (between 103rd and 102nd Streets)

Broadway Democrats and Three Parks Independent Democrats are co-sponsoring the **Obama Victory Campaign Center** located in the former Strawberry store between 102 and 103 streets on the East side of Broadway.

Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 2:00 to 9:00 PM

Monday 6:00to 9:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM

COME CELEBRATE THE HUDSON RIVER

Talk and Book Signing

Walking the Hudson from the Battery to Bear Mountain

by Cy Adler

Introduction, by Pete Seeger

The Countryman Press
Woodstock, VT 2012

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2-3:00 PM
at **BANK STREET BOOK STORE**
Broadway at 112th Street

&

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6 PM
at **CENTRAL PARK ARSENAL**
5th Ave and 63rd Street
With refreshments

Daily Activities:

- Voter registration
- Phoning
- Trips to PA and swing congressional districts
- Data entry and office work

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: _____

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FIRST
CLASS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ELECTION REFLECTIONS

Thursday, October 18th 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Obama Victory Campaign Center (2689 Broadway (between 102nd and 103rd Streets))
