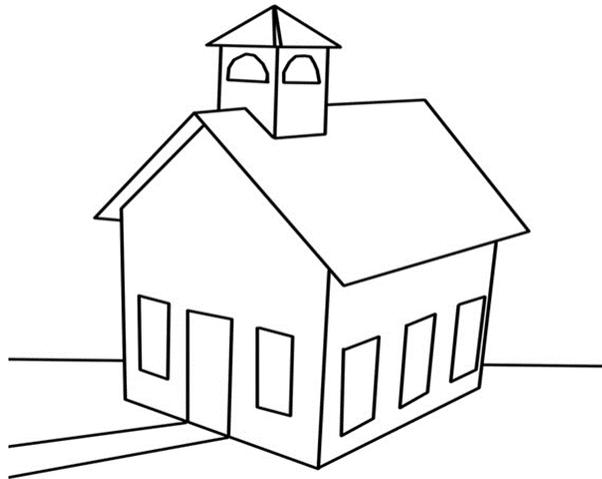

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Gretchen Borges ◆

Back to School Speakout



***Come share your concerns
and your solutions.***

Thursday, October 9th

7:45 p.m. Sign in
Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp!

Bank Street College

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

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Volume 39, Issue 7

October 2014

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Climate Change March

I was honored to join an estimated 400,000 people in protesting the despoliation of our planet by excessive reliance on fossil fuels. The only problem with the march was that there were so many people it was difficult to find the group you were looking for. I searched for Joan Levine and the Morningside Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition people, couldn't find them, and happily joined the West Harlem Environmental Action Coalition contingent. There I saw Peggy Shepard and Adriano Espaillat; along the way ran into Franz Leichter and Scott Stringer, while receiving Facebook updates from somewhere back in the throng from Gale Brewer, Mark Levine and Robert Jackson. The ambitious agenda announced by Mayor DeBlasio shows that some municipal executives are taking the challenges of climate change very seriously; the diverse, happy and purposeful crowd at the march restores our faith in the old marching refrain, "The people/United/Will never be defeated!"

Strong Jackson Showing in State Senate Race

Incumbent Senator Adriano Espaillat won the September 9th Democratic primary, defeating Robert Jackson by the narrow margin of 10,439 (49.9%) to 9,019 (43.1%), with frequent candidate Luis Tejada tallying 1,466 (7.0%). In our area, Jackson won by better than a two to one margin. Throughout the 31st Senate District, Jackson markedly improved on Charlie Rangel's showing in the June primary: In the 70th AD (West Harlem), Espaillat led Rangel 55% to 39%, he beat Jackson by only 45% to 44%. In Espaillat's base, the 72nd AD (Inwood/Washington Heights east of Broadway), Espaillat beat Rangel 73% to 24%;

he led Jackson by only 65% to 28%. The most amazing turnaround came in the 71st AD (West Harlem/Washington Heights/Hudson Heights), where Jackson lives. Here Espaillat beat Rangel 63% to 33%, Jackson beat Espaillat 51% to 41%. This astounding 40% swing suggests that a major realignment of voting patterns may be taking place in this district. Congratulations to Senator Espaillat for your victory, and to Robert Jackson for your strong campaign.

November 4th Redistricting Commission Referendum We will briefly discuss this at the October club meeting, but the Steering Committee decided not to cut into the time of our important Education Speakout. I am going to vote against this referendum. It is opposed by almost every good government group, which accurately point out that it is largely window dressing; the real power with redistricting will still rest with the state legislature. However, I think that some of the redistricting proposals of many of the good government groups also leave much to be desired. Common Cause, for example, would have chopped up our 69th AD, dispatching Manhattan Valley to Central Harlem on the bogus premise that minority voters would rather be in a remote and inaccessible minority district than in a diverse district right in their neighborhood. The "googoo" are also so intent on seeming non-partisan that they lose their critical focus, equating the atrocious Republican State Senate lines with the fairly good Democratic Assembly lines.

Vote for Schneiderman, DeNapoli, and...

Of course we should enthusiastically vote to re-elect our Attorney General, Comptroller and our local elected officials. And we should not vote for the pro-guns, anti-choice and marriage equality Republican Astorino, or for the Green Party candidate Hawkins; New York's Greens are a quarrelsome lot who always oppose

progressive Democrats. So, Cuomo? I *think* so, what about you?

☪

President's Corner

Gretchen Borges

Dateline: Ypres, October 2, 2014

World War One was a deadly war for an entire generation of young men and for a staggering number of civilians of every age. We in the US don't think of it much. Yes, the mortality rates were high for our troops in their time spent "over there", but the Spanish flu of 1918 soon eclipsed those rates. We had no leveled villages, no fields so filled with armaments that each disturbance of the land continues even today to yield more of an "iron harvest": shell casings, unexploded armaments, the detritus of war that still provides a side income to land owners.

In the region of the Somme and around Ypres, sites of lengthy battle actions in the course of World War I, a visitor cannot help but be moved by the sobering statistics of dead, wounded and missing, by the dignified beauty of the British cemeteries, maintained with pristine standards even today, one hundred years later. The British dead are still resting in France and Belgium. They were never sent home to England. Their numbers would have been too demoralizing. And many, of course, were never found, drowned in the mud or lost to a worse fate. The cemeteries remain filled with nameless monuments. Enormous memorials at Ypres's Menin Gate, at Thiepval, and at Tyne Cot list the names of the missing. And in London, the shattered nation put up a simple memorial in Whitehall: the Cenotaph, inscribed only, The Glorious Dead.

The US maintains cemeteries in Normandy, reflecting the shocking casualties incurred on D-Day and its aftermath. But at home, in the US, we have few monuments to those who served and died, found or unfound. A few imposing memorials in Washington, but nothing to match the village by village listing of the dead in England and France.

The real difference in our experience of war is not having experienced it on our soil (for the overwhelming majority of our experience in wars, both those declared and undeclared.) Our civilian casualties have been nothing like those experienced by other nations who suffered war waged on their land in the twentieth century and now, in the twenty-first.

And those of our soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan while wearing US uniforms represent a very small percentage of us, members of a force recalled for tour after tour due to numbers kept low by politicians afraid to commit to a more equitable system of inscription, yet equally afraid to deny the necessity of engagement.

Clearly these thoughts are provoked by our taking steps to enter a war. Again. One in which we cannot even decide from one month to the next on which side we stand. As we enter into yet another military action (to use a euphemistic, masking phrase), we must remember that bombing raids are destructive. They kill civilians. They lead to lists of the missing and to graves filled with unrecognizable, dismembered bodies.

Congress should debate this military action. We should know what our representatives think. Perhaps visits to the flat fields of Belgium should be a required educational component for all those serving in our Congress.

☪

The Broadway Democrats is sponsoring a **BACK TO SCHOOL SPEAKOUT** on **Thursday, October 9, 2014** at Bank Street College of Education (610 West 112th Street between Broadway and Riverside Drive). The forum will be moderated by retired public school teacher and long-time education advocate and activist, Lizabeth Sostre.

Charter schools? Common Core? Too much testing? This is an opportunity for YOU to speak out about your concerns and to propose solutions. There will also be a literature table so bring any lit you want to share on the hot topics in education.

Hope to see you there!

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; for seniors, students, and those with limited incomes, dues are \$10.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

The Broadway Democrats
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FIRST
CLASS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Back to School Speakout

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