
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

Annual Manhattan Valley Town Hall Meeting

Invited Speakers

- ☞ State Senator Bill Perkins (30th)
- ☞ Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell (69th)
- ☞ Manhattan Boro President Gale Brewer
- ☞ City Councilman Mark Levine (7th)
- ☞ Peter Arndtsen, Columbus-Amsterdam BID
 - ☞ Community Board 7
 - ☞ Police Department (24th)
 - ☞ Sanitation Department

Thursday, October 13th, 2016

7:30pm sign in/refreshments * 8:00 forum

Cathedral Parkway Towers

125 West 109th Street (Between Columbus & Amsterdam)

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Volume 41, Issue 8

October 2016

President's Corner

Pat Almonrode

Calling and Canvassing: What's Involved?

By now you know about opportunities to volunteer for the Clinton/Kaine campaign. Along with the Three Parks Independent Democrats, the Broadway Dems are tabling at various sites around the UWS, phone banking from the storefront headquarters on Broadway (between 102 and 103), and helping to fill buses to Philadelphia for canvassing. Plenty of you are veterans from past campaigns and know how important and how rewarding it can be to participate in these activities; others are finding out for the first time. But I'm sure others of you have never done any of these things and might be hesitating because you're not sure just what you're signing up for. This note is for those of you who fall into that third group. I hope I can demystify things a little, and thereby give you the "courage" you might need to take that first step and get more involved.

Tabling is probably the most straightforward of these volunteer activities. The clubs are selling buttons, both to get the word out and build excitement, but also to pay the rent on the storefront and to support our other activities. We also will be registering NY voters (until the deadline of October 14), and giving visitors information about *their* home-state registration deadlines. All the supplies are at the storefront and a schedule is set so that tables will be out in several places, at many different times: there's a sidewalk table at the storefront every evening except Mondays, plus Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We also send tables out to other locations (like Greenmarkets and street fairs), depending on how many volunteers are available. If you're interested in tabling, you can sign up at the storefront, call (212) 865-1875, or e-mail Paula Diamond Román at valleygirl109@rocketmail.com.

Phonebanking. We're at the storefront every evening and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, making calls not only for Clinton/Kaine (to voters in Pennsylvania) but also for two other strong progressives: Todd Kaminsky (running for State

Senate on Long Island) and Zephyr Teachout (running for Congress from Dutchess County). Just what does calling entail, you ask? Well:

- We're calling from lists given to us by Hillary's campaign. Most of these folks are registered Democrats, although we always ask them if their registration is *current*—basically, whether they've voted recently from that residence.
- You'll be given a script—you don't have to wing it.
- We're calling mainly to gauge support, and to sign up volunteers. Occasionally we reach someone who needs some persuading—usually a former Bernie supporter—but most of the folks are at least "leaning Hillary."
- We have a bunch of landlines at the storefront, and you can snag one if you get there early enough! Otherwise, we'll ask you to use your cell phone (so bring your charger). And we'll show you how to block your number so you won't get calls back
- We call on weekend afternoons and from 5:30 or 6:00 until about 9:00 Tues-Sun. You can come for a whole shift, or just put in an hour or two.

If you're interested in phone banking, sign up at the storefront, or contact Pat Almonrode at palmonrode@gmail.com.

Bus Trips to Canvass in Philly. The most demanding—but for many, the most rewarding—volunteer task is to canvass likely Democratic voters in Philadelphia and surrounding areas. Charter buses leave from NYC **both days of every weekend** between now and the election—most from 34th Street, but a few right from our storefront.

Trips go to different specific areas, and may have different purposes. I went to West Philadelphia last Saturday to do "blanket canvassing"—that is, we were split into pairs and given street lists (of registered Democrats), but were asked to knock on **every** door on those streets. This meant many of the people we talked to were already pretty committed, and with them we did kind of a check-in—making sure their registrations were current, gauging their interest level, asking them to sign

“pledge cards,” and asking if they’d like to volunteer. Some others, though, were more skeptical, and we engaged those folks when we could. Altogether, my partner and I knocked on 110 doors, we were able to talk to people at fewer than half of those. Lots of folks just weren’t home, or perhaps were refusing to answer their doors

Anyway, the trip was pretty demanding. We left from 34th Street at 9:30 am, and didn’t get back until about 9:00 pm—11 ½ hours altogether. About 4 ½ of those hours were spent on the (very comfortable) chartered bus, but most of the remaining seven hours were spent trudging up and down streets (and stoops), knocking on doors, (sometimes) talking to people, and then tallying results. It was tiring. On the other hand, I got to meet lots of very interesting people (both fellow canvassers and potential voters), and had lots of good conversations. I was partnered with a nurse’s aide, originally from Trinidad, who was canvassing for the first time. It was fascinating to see the experience through her eyes. Together, we got 17 pledge cards, and even registered two voters—not a bad day’s work. And the bus was free!

You can sign up for buses at—you guessed it—the storefront; you can also sign up on the Clinton/Kaine website. You can go with family and friends and work as a group, or you can go on your own and see who you get paired up with. Either way, look forward to a rewarding experience—and wear comfortable shoes!

I hope this gives you an idea of what’s involved volunteering for the campaign—and that next time you see an email from us, asking you to volunteer to table, phone bank, or canvass, you’ll find some time in your schedule, and sign up!



District Leader’s Report

Curtis Arluck

Presidential Campaign/Storefront

I was pleased to be among so many of you at our storefront for the Presidential Debate when the campaign turned decisively, and hopefully permanently, in Hillary Clinton’s direction. At last the American people got to see the full extent of Trump’s mendacity, stupidity, insanity, misogyny. He is by far the worst major party nominee in the history of American presidential politics. But this is not all about Trump. Hillary was brilliant: poised, articulate, knowledgeable, compassionate. But,

like President Obama, don’t underestimate her composure: this is someone who can twist the knife with the best of them. The putrefying political corpse of Donald Trump can attest to that. We must remember, however, that the election could turn again. For the sake of poor and working Americans, of those dreamers who want to come and remain here, of the environment, of minorities, of gay people, of women’s rights to reproductive health, of everyone’s rights to affordable health care, of civility and decency and goodness, we must work as hard as we can to make sure that Hillary and other Democrats are elected, and Trump and other Republicans are defeated. Come to the storefront. Make phone calls. Ride buses to Pennsylvania. Sell buttons. We need you. The world needs you.

Primary Election Wrap-up

In the marquee local race, Marisol Alcantara won with 33% of the vote, leading Micah Lasher (32%) by 294 votes, with Robert Jackson (31%), trailing Lasher by 239 votes. This result was heartbreaking in so many ways: because Alcantara is aligned with the Independent Democratic Caucus, whose goal is to make deals with the Senate Republicans, because Lasher and Jackson clearly killed each other off, and because we in Broadway Democrats saw this all coming and failed to take decisive action. In our defense, when we voted Alcantara was not a candidate and the choice was between two people, Jackson and Lasher, each with their own strengths and weaknesses, but each of whom would have been outstanding State Senators. It is also true that we don’t like to go against our voters unless there is a compelling reason to do so, and in this case Lasher was the overwhelming choice in our area, winning the 69th AD by better than three-to-one over Jackson and better than ten-to-one over Alcantara. And yet, as I crunch the numbers, I am left with the feeling that if our main objective was stopping Alcantara and the IDC, at the end of the day we should have supported Jackson. He was the one who had some strength everywhere in the district, sweeping his base in Hudson Heights and coming in second virtually everywhere else, while Lasher did poorly with minority voters and Alcantara poorly with everybody except Latinos. I hope that Marisol can rediscover her progressive roots and understand that her support of Bernie Sanders doesn’t give her carte blanche to align with those who oppose everything Bernie stands for. If not, we should all get behind Robert Jackson in two years.

We did have great results in the 69th AD races, where our own Assemblyman Danny O’Donnell

won with 79% and State Committeeman Dan Cohen prevailed with 71%. Danny did especially well in our area, getting 85%. These victories were primarily a result of the great work Danny and Dan have done. But there is a disturbing undertone which must be noted. Dan's opponent Thomas Lopez-Pierre is a virulent anti-Semite whose campaigns always boil down to "vote against the Jews"; Danny's opponent Steven Appel did targeted appeals to Jewish voters, replete with letters from rabbis and pictures of him lighting Kristallnacht candles. This is especially hurtful because of Danny's strong identification with the Jewish people of his district and of the diaspora. His opponent knew nothing of this because he had no involvement with the district, only moving here last year—if in fact this is where he really lives—to challenge Danny. Of course a positive campaign stressing Jewish pride is far preferable to a negative one denouncing Jewish landlords, but I, for one, give a resounding *feh* to both. I'm glad the people of the 69th AD agreed.



From the Steering Committee

Joe Paradise

ELECTION PERIL AND THE TPP

I was proud when the Broadway Democrats passed a resolution unanimously in opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership. I was exhilarated when 1900 Bernie Sander's supporters stood up at the Democratic Convention chanting "No to the TPP" and thousands more did the same outside on the streets of Philadelphia.

Democratic neo-liberalism has failed the white working class. Whole pockets of the industrial South and Midwest have been left out of the 21st Century and Donald Trump is taking advantage of it. He's presently five points up on Clinton in Ohio! The writer, Ray Teixeira says, "Maybe you don't need the white working class to win the presidency but you need them to accomplish anything else you want to do." He's right. We cannot win state legislatures or prevail in Senate or House races unless we do better with this group.

The concept of nationalism cannot just be demeaned as xenophobia (its onerous contingent). Nationalism is the lever with which to maintain our sovereignty and the sovereignty of our people in the face of global corporate capitalism (neo-liberalism), which has become our political

establishment's guiding principle. When 88 people own more wealth than that of 150 million Americans combined and the power of money on influencing our government is limitless, what can one expect but rebellion? There's an agenda being carried forward which is not an American agenda.

President Obama is opposed to the bill that allows victims of 9/11 to sue Saudi Arabia because of the concept of "sovereign immunity" but he is perfectly on board with the right of thousands of multinational organizations to sue the US government (the TPP). So, the victims of violence (9/11) enabled by foreign governments (Saudi Arabia) cannot receive compensation, but the large corporate conglomerates whose profits might suffer due to national or state laws ensuring clean water, clean air, worker protections, and limits on carbon emissions, can. It makes no sense.

A perception of a huge chunk of the white working class is that the Democratic Party is not interested in them. This group feels that they have nowhere else to go but to Trump. We have a problem. Right now we have the president and vice president going around pushing for the TPP putting in peril the election goals of Hillary Clinton.

Hillary Clinton has to come out strongly against the TPP but she can't and it's killing her with white working class voters and former Bernie Sanders supporters. It's the principal reason, in my opinion, that this election is as close as it is.

Sander's voters are not really convinced that she is opposed to the TPP. After all, she wouldn't allow an outright opposition to it in the Democratic Party platform. She's also trapped on trade out of loyalty to her husband who pushed and signed NAFTA (which she supported). Bill Clinton has some ownership of the horrible results that ensued. What she doesn't seem to understand is that this issue is highly emotional issue for those who once held, or had parents who once held, high paying manufacturing jobs lost as a direct result of this agreement.

She's cavalier regarding the subject with remarks about how we're a big country and should be involved with trade. Trump alone stands uncompromisingly against the TPP. This means that Trump, alone, stands with the Broadway Democrats on this issue. Why is she ceding so much politically to Trump?

She's caught. She can't commiserate with the victims of NAFTA because her husband pushed for and signed it. She won't throw him under the bus. Barack Obama is campaigning for her and she hopes to keep the Obama coalition intact. However, the rest of us can put as much pressure as we can on President Obama to avoid making what will be one of the greatest mistakes of his presidency: passing the TPP. He must release his hold on Clinton and allow her to talk about it and come out strongly against it in this campaign. Congressman Nadler is firmly against it. Congressman Rangel's position is harder to discern. We must also put the pressure on him not to vote for it in a lame duck session.



From the Steering Committee

Gretchen Borges

Moving Closer to a Historic District!

As club member Laura Friedman wrote in last month's newsletter, progress is being made towards the designation of Morningside Heights as a Historic District. And now, I am thrilled to announce that the Landmarks Preservation Commission took the first step in the process on September 13th, when they voted unanimously to put the designation of Morningside Heights as a Historic District on the Commission's Calendar.

The Commission has 24 months from their September vote to complete their research, write their designation report, and vote on the designation. That meeting, which is open to the public, will be held sometime in late November. We will be sending an email alert when the date is set so that club members can attend and voice their opinions. If the Commission votes to designate the district, the decision goes to the City Council to ratify or reject the designation.

See page seven for a map of the proposed district. It includes 115 residential and institutional buildings, from West 109th Street in the South to West 119th Street in the North, Riverside Drive in the West to Amsterdam Avenue in the East.

Twenty years has passed since a few dedicated community members, including our esteemed Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell, club member Laura Friedman (current president of the MHHDC) and yours truly, formed the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee in 1996 with the conviction that the neighborhood's architecture

merited recognition and protection. MHHDC will continue advocating for the neighborhood by beginning negotiation on Phase II of the District (which would be the rest of the Heights, east and north) by the end of 2017.

By sending a letter to the Landmarks Preservation Commission in support of a Historic District, you will help maintain our historic gem of a community, not only from developers, but also for generations to come. In the letter, note your building's address, and if you are an owner or rent. Please make sure you send your letter to the emails at the end of the sample letter.

The email address of Chairperson Srinivasan is:
MSrinivasan@lpc.nyc.gov

Here is a sample letter:

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Srinivasan,

I am an owner in the Proposed Study Area for a Phase 1 of the Morningside Heights Historic District. I reside at _____ and I am writing to inform you that I fully support a Historic Designation for our community.

Community support of the establishment of this historic district has been unwavering for nearly two decades, and I sincerely appreciate the recent commencement of the designation process. However, I believe many worthy buildings and blocks still need to be included.

New York City's Landmark Law requires a historic district to have "special character or special historic or aesthetic interest," represent "one or more periods of styles of architecture typical of one or more eras in the history of the city," and constitute "a distinct section of the city." With the majority of Morningside Heights built at the very beginning of the 20th century alongside the expansion of the IRT subway line, beautifully intricate Beaux-Arts styling throughout the neighborhood, and an almost unrivaled architectural unity, it is unquestionably clear that Morningside Heights fulfills these criteria.

My own building fits seamlessly into this historical context.

Thank you again for commencing the designation

process for this wonderful and deserving neighborhood. I look forward to hearing about future progress.

Sincerely,
Name
Address

cc:

[Email elected officials or send hard copies]

Council Member Mark Levine

District Office Address

500 West 141st Street

New York, NY 10031

akeefe@council.nyc.gov

State Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell

District Office

245 West 104th Street

New York, NY 10025

miglioren@assembly.state.ny.us

Morningside Heights Historic District

Committee

Columbia Station

P.O. Box 250405

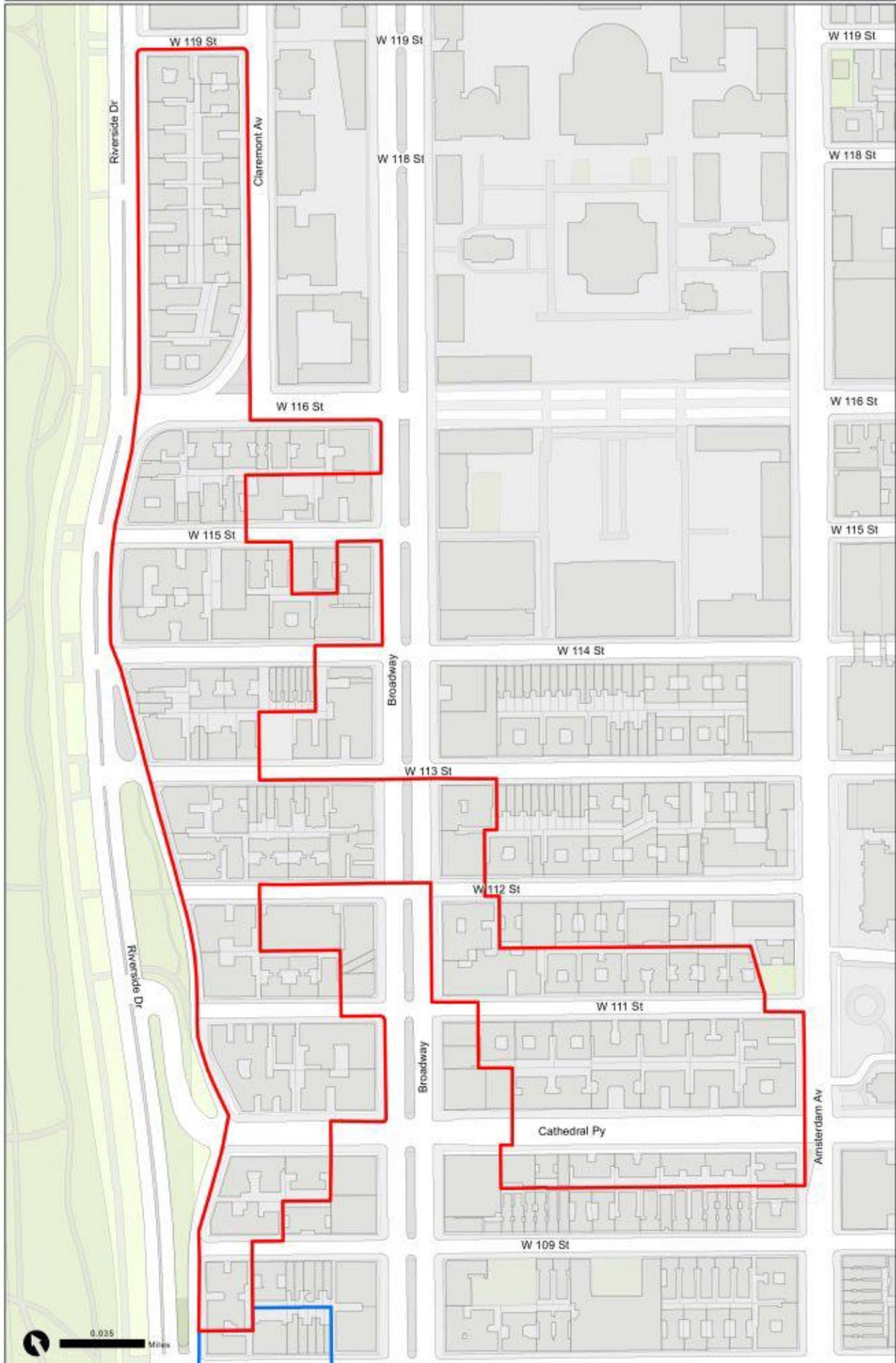
New York, NY 10025

lrahip@aol.com

Manhattan Boro President, Gale Brewer

jmates@manhattanbp.nyc.gov

RL



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
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FIRST
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
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Paula Diamond Román
President: Pat Almonrode
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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