
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

Post-Election Discussion and Debriefing

**Thursday,
September 19th, 2013**

- * 7:45PM Sign-in
- * 8:00PM Club Business and Discussion

NOTE LOCATION:

**Gymnasium
Ascension School
220 West 108th Street
(between Broadway and Amsterdam)**

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President's Corner

Gretchen Borges

Syria

In 1917, the soon to be killed young poet Wilfred Owen composed a beautifully constructed yet hideously graphic poem ("Dulce et Decorum Est") describing the suffering caused by a gas attack, one he experienced in the muddy fields of WWI.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs
Bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, —
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.

The horrors of that war led to the first red line, the Geneva Protocol (for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare), drawn up in 1925, but ratified by the US only 1975.

Before that date, the US did help the UN General Assembly adopt (by unanimous vote in 1948) the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in response to the outrages inflicted by the Nazis in World War II. It established a red line, one crossed with some regularity since that adoption.

And then, in response to the excesses of Saddam Hussein the Iran-Iraq war, the US did sign onto the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997.

One wonders what well-wrought yet ignored treaty will follow Assad's gassing of his own people. And I wonder if we will ever hear the voice of the Syrian Wilfred Owen, who no doubt has chronicled the pain and outrage of those afflicted by the gas as brilliantly as did his World War One predecessor?

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District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

The Primary is upon us. Please see the attached Broadway Democrats piece, written by Paula, Lizabeth and me. Distribute it in your building and on primary day! To volunteer, contact me at 212-662-4057, or CurtisDems@aol.com.

Two more quick announcements:

Possible Runoff Endorsement Meeting Sept. 19

If no candidate for citywide office receives at least 40% of the vote September 10th, there will be a runoff primary between the top two finishers October 1. If either our Mayoral or our Public Advocate candidates do not make the runoff, the club will consider endorsing for each office at our September 19 meeting, to be held at Ascension School on 108th St. between Amsterdam and Broadway.

Polling Place Changes

The Board of Elections has done its usual terrible job. The "lowlights" for our area:

- 1) Everyone who voted at 100 La Salle St. in Morningside Gardens will now vote at 75 La Salle St. in Grant Houses.
- 2) Everyone who voted at Wien Hall, 116th St., will now vote at Lenfest Hall, 425 West 121st.
- 3) Everyone who voted at PS 145 and 467 Central Park West will now vote at Red Oak, 161 West 106th St.

I have conveyed my unhappiness with all of this to the BOE, and am specifically trying for November to get the 100 La Salle and 400 Riverside poll sites reopened and for voters in the 91st ED (112th-114th Streets, Broadway-Amsterdam) to vote at PS 165 on 109th rather than Lenfest on 121st.

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The Broadway Democrats Supports

Mayor – John Liu – Progressive. Consistent. Indefatigable.



John Liu for Mayor. John is the first and only consistent voice demanding an end to “Stop and Frisk” which he has clearly identified as racial profiling. John will fight to increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$11.50 per hour so people can finally get out of poverty. John supports legalizing marijuana, using the tax money raised for education and keeping thousands of New Yorkers, especially people of color, out of prison. With John as Mayor, rent control and stabilization will be protected; affordable housing for low to moderate income New Yorkers will be developed. **John Liu** doesn’t change his positions from one day to the next; he can be trusted to fight for us.

Public Advocate – Letitia “Tish” James - Passionate. Fearless. Activist.



Letitia “Tish” James for Public Advocate. Tish has the experience and ability to stand up to powerful interests and fight for New York’s working families. As a member of the City Council, Tish introduced the Safe Housing Act, ensuring that thousands of families in rental buildings receive prompt and full repairs to their apartments. Her ongoing work has focused on social justice, women’s rights, job development, and health care access. **Letitia “Tish” James** is a strong voice for change.

Comptroller – Scott M. Stringer – Honest. Hard-working. Successful.



Scott M. Stringer for Comptroller. Scott understands how tough it is for middle and working class families to make it today. He will bring the same integrity, experience and leadership to the office of Comptroller that has defined his record in public service for the past twenty years. Scott has utilized the Office of Borough President to ensure that all of us have equal opportunity to succeed in this city. He will continue that work as Comptroller, rooting out every last dime of waste, fraud and abuse in the city budget so that we can keep more of our hard earned money where it belongs—in our pocket. The ***New York Times***, calls Scott “politically astute and ethically impeccable.” **Scott Stringer** is the best candidate for Comptroller because he can be trusted.

Manhattan Borough President – Gale A. Brewer – Caring. Effective. Experienced.



Gale Brewer for Borough President. Gale has served the people of New York for over 40 years as a bold and independent leader. Since 2002, she has represented the Upper West Side on the New York City Council. She has passed several ground-breaking laws, most recently leading the fight for Paid Sick Leave. Because of Gale, employees can now take a day off if they are ill, without fear of losing their job. There is no other candidate for Borough President who works as hard or as effectively as Gale Brewer. That’s why she was endorsed by the ***New York Times***, which said, “**Gale Brewer stands out.**”

City Councilmember (7th) – Mark D. Levine – Leader. Educator. Tri-lingual.



Mark D. Levine for City Council. Mark is not just another politician. Mark got his start as a bilingual math and science teacher at a public middle school in the South Bronx. He founded Neighborhood Trust, Upper Manhattan’s first and only community development credit union. He has also been active for over 20 years as a community leader, fighting for increased funding for mass transit and support for senior services. Because of his integrity and his experience, **Mark Levine** deserves our support.

Judicial Convention Delegate Slate Headed by Alan Flacks— Vote for All 13

Manhattan has the finest Judiciary in the State, because of the reform principles of judicial selection our party has followed for more than 30 years. Every year we establish an Independent Screening Panel, comprised of legal and community associations with no ties to party leaders, to report out the Most Highly Qualified candidates. Only then does politics come into play, as our Judicial Delegates pick “the best of the best.”

Our slate is endorsed by Broadway Democrats, Community Free Democrats and Three Parks Democrats.
Please vote for all 13 candidates on the reform slate:

- ✓ **Alan Flacks**
- ✓ **Luis Román**
- ✓ **Lloyd McAulay**
- ✓ **Theresa Canter**
- ✓ **Catharine Grad**
- ✓ **Rebecca Gantcher**
- ✓ **Corine Pettey**
- ✓ **Patti Jacobs**
- ✓ **Ronald Walton**
- ✓ **Milivoy Samurovich**
- ✓ **Linda Schoener**
- ✓ **John Bonhomme**
- ✓ **Bruce Markens**

From the Steering Committee

Ed Sullivan

The End of The Affair

Back in the final years of the 19th century, the leaders of England took a fresh look at their policy of launching a navy equal in size to any combination of navies that could possibly be mustered against her.

Bear in mind that at that time England was the center of the British Empire, which straddled the world, and upon which the sun never set. Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Malaysia, the Suez Canal and several other colonies in Africa and elsewhere were all governed from London. The British Navy held them together.

England's potential rivals in Europe, assuming they could unite, could not amass a navy to challenge England's, and it was England's diplomatic policy to see to it that Europe did not unite against her. They had learned well the lesson of Europe allying against the French emperor Napoleon, and deposing him. Indeed, England had been one of the allies.

But times were changing. Russia was in the process of developing a great naval fleet. So was Japan.

The United States was acquiring interests around the world, and was building a fleet, soon to be known as "The Great White Fleet," to protect those interests. It was becoming economically impossible for England to equal the combined naval strength of all these new powers, in addition to the old European ones.

So England decided, quite reasonably, to adjust their policy. They decided to make a more or less permanent alliance with a nation which had the economic capacity to build a fleet complementary to England's, where the combined strength of the two navies would be equal to any adversarial fleets.

Not surprisingly, they chose the United States as their ally. The common language and the common cultural ways, plus the rapidly growing economic power of the U S, made this a logical choice. But it was not the only possibility. Until just before the First World War began in 1914, forces in Germany were interested in a geopolitical marriage between London and Berlin.

But the alliance, more British policy than American choice, began as the 20th century did. After four

decades had passed, in 1941, a moving ceremony was held in the North Atlantic, when Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt led the sailors at a shipboard conference in a rousing singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers," symbolizing the nexus of their association. At that meeting, they signed an agreement to protect Christendom against the rising Fascist tide in Germany, Italy, Japan and elsewhere. Winston Churchill choreographed the event.

And up until 1956, the Anglo-American alliance held. But that year, with Churchill retired, English Prime Minister Anthony Eden decided to join with France and Israel in trying to re-seize the Suez Canal from the nationalistic appropriation of Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser. The United States, ally or not, was excluded from the planning.

The effort went badly. The tri-national expeditionary force was defeated in battle by a combination of repeated blunders, and a surprisingly resistant Egyptian army. The United States' threat of economic sanctions against England didn't help. In the end, the tripartite invasion stumbled and fell, and Anthony Eden, the architect of the invasion, was forced to resign as Prime Minister.

Eden, although a well-schooled practitioner of diplomatic arts, had failed to see that in the Anglo-American alliance, the Americans, who had long ago been brought in simply to bolster the power of England, had become the dominant partner, economically, militarily and, consequently, politically. That failure of vision cost him and England dearly.

Since the Suez episode, a chastened England has been the staunch supporter of American initiatives in world politics. Often it was a reluctant supporter – as in Vietnam and Iraq – but it held fast for the sake of the alliance.

However, last Friday, with its withdrawal from the American position on punishing Syria for using chemical weapons, England effectively ended the alliance, as it existed (with the exception of Suez) for over a hundred years.

Of course, the cultural ties, the literature, the theatre, the music, and of course, the language, will continue binding the two nations far into the unforeseen future.

But geopolitically, both countries have lost standing in the world. England mostly.

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

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