
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Richard A. Siegel ◆

Annual Broadway Democrats' Town Hall

A Town Hall Meeting For Residents Of Morningside Heights & West Harlem

Invited:

State Senator Bill Perkins (29th Senate District)

State Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell (69th District)

City Councilmember Inez Dickens (9th District)

City Councilmember Robert Jackson (7th District)

Manhattan District Attorney's Office

Manhattan Borough President's Office

Patricia Jones, Chair, Community Board 9

Sanitation Department

Police (26th Precinct)

New York City Housing Authority

Come and listen. Ask questions. Let your elected officials and service providers know what your priorities are. Make your voices heard!!!

Thursday, September 11th

7:45 pm sign in/refreshments * 8:15 club business * 8:30 forum

Manhattan Pentecostal Church

541 West 125th Street

(Between Amsterdam Avenue & Old Broadway)

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District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Democratic Victory Storefront Opens For the seventh consecutive Presidential election, Broadway Democrats and Three Parks Independent Democrats have opened a campaign storefront. This one—we were very lucky to get the space, commercial rents and landlords being what they are—is located at 105th and Broadway, next to Silver Moon Bakery. There's no telephone number yet, but it should be fully operational by the time you read this. We will be selling buttons and T shirts, registering voters—the deadline for registering in New York is October 10th—sending buses to nearby swing states such as Pennsylvania, and phone banking into swing states everywhere. The stakes, needless to say, have never been higher. Join us!

Democratic Primary Tuesday, September 9: Vote for Reddy, Katz and Hirsch! This primary hasn't gotten much attention, but it's still important that we come out and vote for our endorsed candidates who face primary opposition (Charlie Rangel, Eric Schneiderman, Bill Perkins and Danny O'Donnell do not.) John Reddy is the most experienced and knowledgeable of the three

Most Highly Qualified candidates for Surrogate Judge. Michael Katz will bring youthful idealism and a great legal mind to the Civil Court. Larry Hirsch will not only take to the streets to help elect Barack Obama and other Democrats, he will use the position of Democratic State Committeeman to work for community issues; he has already fought for Housing Authority and Mitchell Lama tenants and the Saigon Grill workers. And most importantly, he always has, and always will, support the Democratic nominee against faux "progressive" egomaniacs like Ralph Nader, who is running for President yet again.

We need volunteers to help out on Primary Day. And even if you're saving your campaign energies for The Big One, please at least help us close a poll at 9 PM. While the judicial races will be tallied by the media, the State Committee race will not be. If we don't get the numbers off the machines on election night, we may have to wait several days to know the winner. There are 21 polling sites in our part, more than half the total for the entire Assembly District. So please help us get those numbers. E-mail me and Paula at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org or call 212-662-4057 to help out.

What a Convention! Have you ever been more inspired by a political spectacle? Like Lincoln, every one of the major

speakers: Ted Kennedy, Joe Biden, Hillary and Bill Clinton, Michelle and Barack Obama, appealed so beautifully to both our hearts and our minds. And let's not forget some of the others. Of the "names", my favorite was Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, who delivered a folksy, humorous putdown of Bush-McCain economic and energy policies. Then there were the "average Americans" whose lives were ruined by the Republicans: Barney Smith from Indiana (family lost their jobs when the plant closed), who said the Republicans need to care more for Barney Smith than for Smith Barney. The many speakers who lost their health insurance while they or family members were battling catastrophic illness. And most of all, because it most directly relates to Bush, the woman who won a large employment discrimination suit--she was paid less than men in her office for performing the same work--in the very conservative Alabama courts, only to see it reversed 5-4 by the Supreme Court, with Scalia, Thomas and the Bush appointees whom McCain slobbers over providing the margin of victory. What better testimony that this election *does* matter.

Finally, a word about Sarah Palin. We have to tread carefully here. Bush, Cheney, Romney, Giuliani are such cartoonishly bad people that you can say virtually anything derogatory about them without anyone you are trying to appeal to being offended.

This was not initially true about McCain the war hero, but his embrace of the Bush policies was so total, and his ad campaign against Obama was so nasty and so dishonest, that he was rapidly on his way to becoming an equally fit target for ridicule. But now we have SuperMom, who while ignorant of national political issues appears to be considerably smarter than either George W Bush or Dan Quayle. She also, though an ideological right winger, did (with some success) battle the corrupt corporate Old Boy network that had governed Alaska politics for decades. So let's not trash the woman, just the policies she (presumably, we don't really know yet) upholds. Certainly we should favorably contrast Obama's four years of thinking, writing and speaking about the most important issues of our time with Palin's years dealing with municipal ordinances, her opposition to abortion even in the case of rape or incest, her support for teaching creationism and her nay-saying on the threat of global warming. But let's stick to the issues. Barack Obama, in his initial remarks about the Palin selection, did just that. One more reason why he is such a great leader and will be such a great President.

President's Corner

Richard A. Siegel

A Time of Hope Watching the Democratic convention this week has given hope for the future of our country. To see an African American man get nominated to be President is a wonderful thing. Seeing someone who is dedicated to a progressive agenda have a good chance of being elected gives hope that our long national nightmare is over. The convention also put to rest all the talk about rivalries causing democrats to defeat themselves.

Both Hillary and Bill Clinton showed their best skills and abilities. Both showed that progressive causes are more important than personal ambition. Hillary has grown into a wonderful leader.

Hopefully, people will be energized to work to elect democrats. Please work so that the State Senate shifts to a Democratic majority. Please work for and contribute to the campaigns of 2 upstate Congressional candidates: Dan Maffei and Kirsten Gillibrand.

Healthcare As the Director of Social Work at Metropolitan Hospital, one of my jobs is to make sure that everyone who leaves the hospital has a safe discharge plan. That is becoming increasingly difficult. Health care companies are authorizing less and less services. Every plan has a different set of policies and procedures to access services. More and more, families are being told they will have to be responsible for helping their elderly parents remain at home.

People are coming to the hospital sicker because they could not afford primary and preventive care. It is worse in other parts of the country where there are fewer patient protections (NY State does have regulations that protect patient's rights). People pay a lot for healthcare coverage and still get huge bills if they have a serious illness.

This is a system that is broken. John McCain's healthcare plan will not address the issues of affordability or the need for universal, comprehensive benefits. What is needed is a comprehensive overhaul that can only be accomplished by a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress.

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Steering Committee

Lizabeth Sostre

the RACE for the WHITE house When I heard that Obama and McCain, according to the latest polls, were tied at 47%, I went into a rage. How is that possible? The Bush administration is a total failure. People want out of the war. Obama is a supremely qualified candidate. The country wants change. And in answer to his critics, he picked Joe "Mr. Experience" Biden as his Vice-Presidential candidate.

So how is it possible for a Democrat who believes in the party platform, that is, a person who on the most basic

level wants the war in Iraq to end now, supports a woman's right to choose, and universal health care can even think about voting for John McCain? I don't care how annoyed, angry, or disappointed any Democrat is about what happened to Hillary, because that is over. Obama is now the candidate. **We need to unite behind Barack Obama or we are going to lose this election.**

And uniting behind Obama means going out there and doing some work. It does not mean reading this article and then saying, "Oh well. I am doing the right thing. I am voting for Obama." That is just not enough.

Any Democrat who is thinking about voting for John McCain is no Democrat. Positions on key issues don't flip in a day. So if you are thinking that McCain is the right person for President, check this out. Sit down and ask yourself why. What is there that you agree with McCain about? Don't let McCain's tactic of selecting a woman for Vice-President blind-side you; she is a Republican, and a Republican is a Republican.

The only reason a true Democrat will for McCain is because Obama is black. This race is all about race. And trying to avoid the issue is ridiculous. We all need to do our part to take back the White House. This is a critical election. **We must win.**

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Letters to the Editor

This year the focus of the judicial contests in Manhattan is on the three-way race for the Democratic nomination for Surrogate. [Manhattan has two Surrogate judges: Renee Roth, who vacates her seat on the bench because of the statutory retirement age, and Kristin Booth Glen.]

Surrogate's court; John Reddy, Jr., a counsel in the Public Administrator's office, and Milton Tingling, a State Supreme Court Justice, are vying for the Democratic nomination on September 9th. The winner of the Democratic Primary is expected to win in the November General election.

There are two New York Civil Court vacancies. A county-wide seat which sees a contest between Michael Katz and Nancy Bannon, both law clerks to judges, and a downtown local seat where there is no contest. Frank Nervo will be the Democratic nominee there.

For the State trial bench, there may be as many as seven lower court judges seeking the one "open" Supreme Court seat created by the statutory retirement of Justice Louis York. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are: Lucy Billings, Laura Drager, Ellen Gesmer, Judith Gische, Debra James, Cynthia Kern, and Saliann Scarpulla. This designation, done at the Party's judicial nominating convention on September 18, will be for the November ballot. In addition, three incumbent State Supreme Court Justices, Marcy Kahn, Shirley Werner Kornreich, and Martin Schoenfeld, are running for re-election.

Alan Flacks

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: _____

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

BROADWAY DEMOCRATS' / THREE PARKS' CAMPAIGN STOREFRONT

2742 Broadway @ 105th St. (Next to Silver Moon Bakery)

Voter Registration Tabling

Fri. Sept. 5th. / Sat. Sept. 6th / Sun. Sept. 7th 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Donations or loans needed: folding tables and chairs, working single line telephones, desktop computers, TVs and office/cleaning supplies. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Paula and Curtis at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org. Otherwise, just stop by the storefront (we don't have 'phones yet but will soon).

The Broadway Democrats
P.O. Box 1099
Cathedral Station
New York, NY 10025

FIRST
CLASS

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District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,
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