
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Heather Ducharme ◆

April General Meeting: The State Budget *online, via Zoom*



Come hear from some of our local elected officials on the State Budget, which will be passed April 1, 2021. Learn about how COVID-19 has affected the budget, the checks and balances involved in creating the budget, and how our community will be impacted. Club business is from 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm, followed by the forum topic.

Thursday, April 8

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp!

please register in advance at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrdOmsrzwrHt2vVXvTSbI71JDbuMYRyusu>

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Heather Ducharme ◆

Volume 46, Issue 4

April 2021

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Candidates Galore, Even Locally

The COVID-shortened petitioning season has come and gone. We began in frigid winter, but by the last weekend the Forsythia was blooming and some people were wearing tee shirts and shorts. More and more people are getting their vaccinations, most voters are thrilled with President Biden, for who he is as well as for who he isn't, and overall there is a sense of renewal and hope. We were joined on the campaign trail by our candidates **Scott Stringer, Mark Levine, Alvin Bragg, Hasa Kingo, Dan Cohen** and **Gale Brewer**.

Paula and I filed about 1100 signatures for our re-election as your Democratic District Leaders. We are unopposed, thank you for your support, and look forward to our next two year term, which technically begins the day after the June 22 Democratic Primary. Also unopposed are our Judicial Convention Alternates. But our 18-person 69th AD Judicial Convention Delegate slate will have six opponents, their names will appear on the ballot on June 22, and we will have to work hard in this extremely low visibility contest to make sure that all our candidates are victorious. (The six Broadway Democrats on our joint slate are **Luis Román, Amy Porter, Mary Peppito, Cathy Grad, Heather Ducharme** and **Pat Almonrode**.)

The primary for Judicial Delegate is basically the result of fallout from the ridiculousness in Part A to our immediate south. There, a gaggle of perennial candidates and their surrogates are running for District Leader against our esteemed colleagues **Cynthia Doty** and **Bob Botfeld**. None of them has done a scintilla of work for any Democrat other than themselves and each other. What a contrast with Bob and Cynthia, with their years of dedicated advocacy for Democratic candidates from President down to City Council. All those storefronts, all those bus trips, all those phone calls, all those voter registrations, all those rallies on issues from racial justice to fighting overdevelopment in our community, happened because over the years the members of clubs like Three Parks and Broadway Democrats believed in helping others, globally and

locally, in thinking of the larger picture, not just of themselves.

Many of the same people running against Bob and Cynthia are also running for Judicial Delegate, and supporting an unqualified former Republican carpetbagger from the Bronx for Civil Court Judge against **Hasa Kingo**, one of the very best candidates I have met in all my years in politics. Our screening panel system has produced in Manhattan the finest local judiciary in the country. By working to elect **Hasa Kingo, Cynthia Doty, Bob Botfeld** and our **69th AD Judicial Delegates**, we will keep it that way.

Scorecard of the Other Races

Unlike the farce in the 69th, there are many fine candidates running against our (even finer!) endorsed candidates for public office. I will analyze these races next month. For now, here's a list of how many candidates filed Democratic petitions in each race – and the candidates we've endorsed.

Mayor: **18**, including **Scott Stringer**

Public Advocate: **3**, including **Jumaane Williams**

Comptroller: **12**, including **Brian Benjamin**

Borough President: **7**, including **Mark Levine**

District Attorney: **8**, including **Alvin Bragg**

City Council, 6th Dist.: **6**, including **Gale Brewer**

City Council, 7th Dist.: **13**, including **Dan Cohen**



President's Corner

Heather Ducharme

Members and friends,

Happy Spring! I'm very excited for the weather to begin to warm up, for the flowers to bloom and to spend more time outdoors (safely, of course!).

First, I'm looking forward to our forum next week on the state budget. It will be a good opportunity to hear from our elected officials as well as have a discussion about what the budget for this next fiscal year will include and how it will impact our City and our neighborhood. I hope to see you there.

Second, I would like to thank everyone who came out these past couple of weekends and helped with our petitioning for our endorsed candidates. Every signature we get helps our candidates get on the ballot, and even something that seems so simple is an important step in making progress.

And last, I want to let you know that the City is providing in-home COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible NYC residents who are home-bound, have not yet had a vaccination, and do not have the ability to access a vaccination site. You can fill out the interest form at <https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/homebound>.

Please feel free to email me anytime at heatherducharme15@gmail.com if you're interested in becoming more active in our club or if you have any questions about the information above.



Broadway Democrats Book Club – Next Meeting April 20

Heather Ducharme

For April, we'll be reading a fiction work called *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon.

Our meeting will be on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 pm via Zoom, and a link will be sent out through the listserv and posted on our Facebook Group "Broadway Democrats." Please email Heather Ducharme at heatherducharme15@gmail.com if you're interested in hearing more about the book club. All are welcome!



Disclaimer: unless otherwise indicated, items herein reflect the views of their authors only. They are published as a part of our club's commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas on topics of interest, but their publication should not be construed as an endorsement by the editor, the Steering Committee, or the Broadway Democrats club.

Enough Already! Let Me Walk in Peace!

Dan Zweig

This morning, heading home, I was in the crosswalk crossing Amsterdam Avenue east to west on the north side of W 99th St. – not far from the police station. I had waited for the Walk sign and began to walk checking the streets around me to be

extra safe. In the crosswalk, speeding directly toward me there was suddenly a rider on an electric bicycle. He swerved as did I and although we managed to avoid colliding with one another, it was truly frightening.

Who will stop cyclists who think existing rules for bicycles apply to them only if it would be personally dangerous not to follow them?

This was particularly frightening today, but it is not an unusual event on the West Side. Every day I see cyclists riding on the sidewalks, riding the wrong way in bike lanes and on one-way streets, and passing through red traffic signals. It is not just the delivery people (as has been claimed) – today's offender was an ordinary cyclist as are the many Citi-bike cyclists we all were told would obey rules but often do not. And now that many of the delivery bicycles and Citi-bikes are motorized, they surprise us with greater speed than ever before.

Virtually every pedestrian has been surprised and frightened by the silent two-wheeler that fails to observe the traffic regulations and appears most unexpectedly.

The collective failure of cyclists to obey vehicular rules and the failure to enforce those rules for cyclists has allowed this behavior to become normalized throughout most of the cycling community. This steals a piece of the quality of life every day from each and every one of us who walk on our streets.

This must stop. The police must increase their enforcement as needed to effect a change. Our elected officials must work with police to provide a plan and resources for police to effect a change.

When earlier this year, I asked the Borough President candidates directly what they could do about this serious situation, each and every one of them avoided answering the question.

I would like to hear now from every candidate for Borough President and our Council Districts 6 and 7 a plan for how you would achieve having cyclists *obeying* the rules become the *new normal*. And please candidates, please *don't* tell why you *cannot* do this – I want to know how you *can*.

I would also like to hear from members of the public if you think enforcing the vehicular laws for cyclists is important and something that should be done to improve pedestrian safety. Should a future forum be dedicated to this discussion?

Elected officials, candidates, and members of the public – please contact me with your thoughts at bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com.

Accepting the Burden

Ed Sullivan

I had planned to write something optimistic following the months of negative events piling in on our country. After all, we now have a President who has been to school and has learned his lessons. He knows that one cannot rouse the farm by hollering at the animals and the corn stalks. He knows that the animals are roused by God's morning sunshine, and that the President's job and ours is to accept God's will rather than try to trim it or shape it.

Then came the two events that dominated our thoughts over the past few days – the shootings in Boulder, Colorado, and the breakdown of order at the Texas/Mexico border.

The Boulder shootings made us face the grim reality that the people of the United States cannot put our will into law. For years now we have watched powerless as those who profit from gun manufacturing and gun merchandising can and do sell guns to criminals and crazy people. Then we wring our hands over "their" behavior when it is really our behavior that is at fault.

The misreading and misapplication of the Constitution's Second Amendment is so constant that legislators are afraid of even saying the word "gun" for fear of getting a re-election challenge from the big bucks of the NRA, the National Rifle Association. The result has been gun carnage after gun carnage around the country.

And it's not just the dead and their orphans and widows who pay. Democracy itself suffers. The NRA has shown the enemies of democracy, the worlds fascists, how to do it. "In America, our money talks," they say to those dark forces. "Put your money to work politically in America, and you can get what you want."

We – the forces of civilization, if I may – have to retaliate. We have to say to politicians, you have to take a stand against the N R A. If you are endorsed by the N R A, we're coming after you. We will drive you out of politics! Why? Because we have to protect our children from the criminals armed by the N R A. And then we have to organize ourselves to back up those words with money and votes.

The crisis on the Texas border with Mexico is caused by chaos in five Central American countries – Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Panama. These five countries are run by criminal gangs, and parents there are, understandably, sending their children to the United States rather than see their daughters kidnapped

and sold into prostitution, and their sons conscripted into the gangs as assassins. Our country is being assaulted by forces outside our borders, and we have to take action to stop the assault – just as we took action in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It's not the migrating children who are causing the assault; it's the criminal gangs in those five countries, and they must be the focus of our response:

- One. International corporations that are using these countries as farms to produce goods to sell in the States must be told that their goods will be confiscated and destroyed. (We may have to do without bananas for a while.)
- Two. Our military must be directed to retaliate against the gangsters – wherever they may be found – with all necessary force.
- Three. Democratic forces in those five countries must be encouraged to enter the politics of their respective countries – even if they are "democratic socialists." We must protect them when they do so, and aid them financially to rebuild their countries into democratic and peaceful allies. (Have we ever done this before? Yes, in Europe after World War II with the Marshall Plan – a huge success!)

Will Congress have to support the President in these efforts? Yes. Will it be costly? Yes. Is it necessary and urgent? Yes.

RE



We want to hear what *you* have to say! Please email submissions to bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com (in MS Word format if possible, please).

Please note that we will consider all submissions, but we reserve the exclusive and final right to determine what to publish.

Register Democrats – Save the World

Go Blue is so excited to be working with [Field Team 6](#) on their postcard campaign to register likely Democratic voters in districts whose representatives supported overturning the Biden/Harris election victory and flip those seats blue! We're targeting traitors in California, Florida, North Carolina, and Texas!

These beautiful postcards were designed by Shepard Fairey, who created the Obama HOPE artwork.



Join us for a Field Team 6 Postcard Writing Zoom get-together, Saturday, April 3 from **noon to 2 pm**. Once you have RSVP'd, we'll provide the Zoom link (and the postcards!).

Online Saturday, April 3

Noon – 2 pm

RSVP at broadwaydemsgoblue@gmail.com

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

Special Interests: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____ (title, honorifics, and pronouns optional)

To join the Broadway Democrats, please fill out the form below and mail with your check (made out to "Broadway Democrats") to the address at the bottom. Welcome!

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.

Membership

The Broadway Democrats Newsletter – April 2021

FIRST
CLASS

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

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
District Leaders:
 Curtis Arluck,
 Paula Diamond Román
President: Heather Ducharme
Newsletter Editor: Pat Almonrode

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED