
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Mary Peppito ◆

February General Meeting: ENDORSEMENTS for Local Offices

City Council, 7th District

Candidates: Shaun Abreu, Keith Harris, Ruben Vargas

Democratic District Leaders, 69th AD Part C

Candidates: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román

Manhattan Civil Court Judge (Countywide)

Candidates to be Determined

Judicial Convention Delegates and Alternates

Invited Speakers:

Sen. Cordell Cleare and Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell

Please join us on Zoom

Thursday, February 9

Club business 7:30pm

Endorsement forum 8:00pm

Register: bit.ly/broadwaydems-february-2023-club-meeting

for more information: DistrictLeaders@BroadwayDemocrats.org

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Volume 48, Issue 2

February 2023

February 9, 7:30pm via Zoom:

Endorsements for Local Offices

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President's Corner

Mary Peppito

I am so happy to be your newly elected Broadway Democrats President and I congratulate our newly elected Steering committee officers and members: Laura Mandel, Vice President; Allison Downing, Recording Secretary; Luis Roman, Corresponding Secretary and Dan Zweig, Treasurer. Our 2023 Steering Committee members are Pat Almonrode, Gretchen Borges, Amy Brundage, Susan Crawford, Shelby Drescher, Liam Elkind, Mercedes Estrada, Peter Flom, David Isaacson, Susan Mehlman, Angela Rooks and Barbara Trelstad.

Laura Mandel and I will be working as a close team during our tenure and we are ready to roll up our sleeves to fight for progressive causes that the Broadway Democrats champion.

As many of you know, I have worked as a criminal defense attorney at The Legal Aid Society in Bronx County for the past 30 years. While my main goal in politics is getting Democrats elected, I am devoted to social justice and reforms to the criminal justice system that are long overdue – from bail reform, sentencing reform, and elderly parole. It is in this vein that I take a moment to speak to the need to put a halt to the overaggressive police tactics and “specialized” units that have led to the tragic and senseless police killing of unarmed citizens, from Eric Garner by the NYPD, to most recently, Tyre Nichols in Tennessee. And while Republicans and New York conservatives, and even some Democrats love to condemn bail reform, especially for violent crimes, they are conspicuously silent about the police officers charged in the death of Tyre Nichols who, a day after arrest, are already out on bail. As a public defender, I don't know of a single case where a person accused of murder is not

remanded to jail (without any bail) on day one. Why? Because bail is about poverty; bail reform aims to level the playing field no matter what an accused's financial status is. It is my goal to push our government leaders to level the playing field for all - not just in criminal justice, but in everyday matters.

I am lucky to share presidential responsibilities with Laura Mandel. We function more like co-presidents than President & Vice President. As a communications specialist with a solid background in marketing, media relations, crisis communications, and strategic public relations, Laura is invaluable. She spent 20 years as an executive at Warner Bros. Entertainment and for the past seven years, she has run her own communications consulting business. She feels strongly about creating new ways of furthering the issues that Democrats care about and communicating the Club's visions and goals among club members, the greater community, and our elected politicians. She has been an invaluable asset to have in organizing our events for the Club and Go Blue to fundraise, organize and promote progressive candidates.

Some may know Laura and me from our years organizing with the Go Blue Committee. Like many after the 2016 election, we began to organize to help save democracy, starting in the House in 2018, then Presidency in 2020, and finally, last year for the House and Senate. This year, given the dismal results of the New York 2022 Congressional races, we turn our focus to the NYS Democratic party's failures, to winning back the seats we lost and to our broader efforts to stop the tiny Republican House majority from wreaking havoc on everything from our rights to privacy to the financial stability of the United States.

continued

Our most immediate concern is the Republicans' refusal to increase the debt ceiling in order to extort cuts to Social Security and Medicare, threatening a financial crisis in the United States and global economy. Failure to raise the debt limit is a threat to our economic strength which derives from the financial market's confidence that our government will pay for spending that Congress has already appropriated. As President Biden recently said on Twitter, "This ain't your father's Republican Party. They want to cut taxes for billionaires. They want to impose a 30% national sales tax. And they want to cut Social Security and Medicare."

While some moderate Republicans have realized that the threat to Social Security is unacceptable to voters, many in the GOP have openly expressed their desire to cut these programs (looking at you, Ron Johnson and Rick Scott), despite the fact that Social Security comes from a completely different fund and therefore does not contribute to the national debt. (Anyone remember Al Gore's promise of a "locked box"?)

Thus, cutting Social Security benefits or raising the age (again) will not lower the national debt; it would be a further gift to those who benefited under the Trump tax cuts for the rich: the Republicans and their donors. Nevertheless, the Republicans have once again taken aim at cutting programs for working class people and seniors, rather than looking to Corporations (i.e., their donors) to pay their fair share in taxes, or making other reforms. For example, *The New York Times* reports that a pharmaceutical company has cost Medicare over \$2.2 billion extra from 2016-2019, by manipulating the price of a popular arthritis drug (Humira) through litigation and other tactics in order to extend the expiration of the patent to dramatically increase its profits. Reigning in such corporate abuses would be a common sense tactic to reduce Medicare's cost and reduce costs for regular Americans.

Together, we must work together, within our club, with sister clubs and other Democratic leaders to show voters that the ideas and goals of Republicans are a real threat to the lives and livelihoods of everyday Americans, to elect Democrats in order to protect civil rights and to also hold our own party to account in order to effect change. Together, I'm hopeful we will move toward those goals in 2023



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again: renew your membership in the Broadway Democrats!

Dues are \$25/year (seniors and students \$10/year), and help defray the costs of presenting forums and our monthly newsletter.

send a check to:

BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

P.O. BOX 1099 CATHEDRAL STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10025

or renew online at

www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html



District Leader News

From Curtis: No full article from me this month. I've been a bit distracted, because Katie and I are the proud grandparents of Madeleine Densen Arluck-Fisher, born January 23, 2023, weighing 9 pounds, 9 ounces. She's a big girl, but an adorable baby! Mama Kate Fisher and Madeleine are doing great; Katie and I and proud papa Jake Arluck are ecstatic but still somewhat stunned.

From Curtis and Paula: Lots of other things going on, but we still want to formally ask for your support for re-election as your Democratic District Leaders at the Broadway Democrats February 9th meeting. We've loved working with you in the past two mostly successful years, and are looking forward to the challenges of the next two. Onward to continued community activism and Democratic victories!

District Leader's Report

Paula Diamond Román

It's always nice to start a new year of the Broadway Democrats with a new Steering Committee and officers and a new plan for the year. I also feel like it's a chance for me to make some plans around projects I've gotten involved with and would like to get involved with. (Since it's also an odd year, it's also time for me to ask for your support for a new term as District Leader!) Here are a few ideas and issues to start with.

The New York State Democrats

We as a club have had some concerns about the recent statewide elections. In 2021, five ballot proposals were voted down as a result of a large amount of last minute money to the Conservative

Party and no planning or coordinated activities by the state Democratic Party. (Ballot Proposal 1 would have moved incarcerated voters from their temporary upstate districts to their previous address, mostly in New York City districts. It would have been a game changer for the NYS Dems.) In 2022, we lost four Congressional seats in New York, to the shock of many; this includes the seat Republican George Santos holds for the time being. While ultimate responsibility has to go to the individual campaigns, there are ways the NYS Dems could have addressed some of the issues raised by the majority of the Republicans running, including Lee Zeldin.

There have been a lot of conversations about what needs to change moving forward, especially among the Manhattan District Leaders. We had the opportunity to meet with current NYS Dems' chair Jay Jacobs in January to ask questions, and we got some clarifying answers but some confusing or non-answers. One of the conversations we've been having is around who might be the best person to move forward with, especially in preparation for 2024.

Another conversation that I'm very excited about is whether the NYS Democratic Party can be structured differently to achieve our goals, what can it do differently, how do we achieve that. I attended a fascinating webinar where a former chair of the Ohio State Party talked about how they made changes and what they accomplished. It will involve some rules changes that we can work with our state committee people on and some fundraising which we can all get involved with but I'm looking forward to more conversations and more knowledge for the future of our State Democratic Party.

Resetting the Table & Purple Politics

Speaking of conversations, I also recently attended a discussion around a short documentary film called "Purple: America, We Need to Talk" which documents some of the conversations that Resetting The Table is training people to engage in healthy public debate, as well as moderate these conversations, so that they can reach across the terrible divides we're experiencing these days around fault-line issues. The film takes place in rural Wisconsin and Iowa, two swing states where "red" and "blue" still live in the same neighborhoods and where many people feel unrepresented by the two-party system. This politically pivotal region was home to the greatest concentration of counties that flipped Obama-to-Trump in the 2016 election.

We may feel this doesn't apply to us in Blue New York but it does in so many ways. More and more New Yorkers are remaining unaffiliated when they

register to vote. The recent gubernatorial election underscored the divide between upstate and down state, as well as cities, suburbs, and rural areas in New York, on those fault-line issues. In addition, we want to be able to influence voters in "purple" areas in 2024. Resetting The Table and "Purple" can help us develop these skills. I'd like for us to sponsor a screening of the film but, more importantly, I'd like for us to work on incorporating these communication techniques in all our organizing.

Recruiting Young Voters

A couple of years ago, we were tabling with petitions and voter registration forms in front of Cathedral Park Towers on 109th Street. CPT has a very high rate of registered voters and a very high rate of regular voters. A large number of the tenants are African American, Blue Democrats to the core, many of whom registered to vote in their youth down South. After a while, we noticed that a steady number of tenants kind of mumbled as they walked by us hyping the registration forms and they were all young. After that, I started asking around to young people in the neighborhood and their parents and grandparents and found a theme. The grandparents and parents were life-long registered Democrats; the young people weren't voters.

I would like us to focus on young voters in the lead-up to the 2024 election, especially young voters of color. I'd like for us to find out more about why they often aren't registered and, when they are, it's unaffiliated with a party. We've already started conversations at CPT around getting people more involved, especially young people. The next step would be to invest in an infrastructure where young people registered young people, eventually sharing in the management of the group. The Broadway Democrats' Racial Justice Action Committee, which my husband Luis and I chair, will also be involved. We'd love it if you'd send your young people our way to get involved in whatever way they chose.

Since I am running for re-election, I should probably mention something I was already able to accomplish with a group of Manhattan Dems, that also directly affects the district leader race. Members of the group lobbied the NYS legislature and, in June, the Governor signed the Gender Inclusive Ballot Act. This new law makes it possible for people who don't exclusively identify as male or female to run for party positions; instead, there will be two District Leaders of different genders. This was followed with a change of the by-laws voted on at the last County Committee meeting by all the members. It was a small but important fist raised against the Republican attack on gender rights.

I hope at least one of these ideas speaks to you. We have so many opportunities to work together in our community, our state, and across the country. Despite its shortcomings, I believe that the Democratic Party is potentially the best vehicle for achieving the changes we want to see, even if it means tweaking the Party itself. Please join me and we can make these changes together.



Club Endorsements

At our February 9 meeting we'll be endorsing for the following offices:

- **City Council, 7th District.** Candidates: Shaun Abreu, Keith Harris, Ruben Vargas
- **Democratic District Leaders, 69th AD Part C.** Candidates: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román
- **Manhattan Civil Court Judge (Countywide).** Candidate to be Determined

We'll also be electing Judicial Convention Delegates and Alternates

To be eligible to vote, you must pay your dues by the end of our meeting on February 9. More information on paying dues and voting eligibility is included below.

All eligible voting members will receive a **voting link**. If you do not receive your link or you need a paper ballot, please contact Laura Mandel at bdemsgeneral@gmail.com.

If you have not attended a club meeting since February 2022, you are **not eligible** to vote at the February 9 meeting.

Eligible members will be able to participate by phone, even if you can't use the video features.

Eligibility to Vote in Club Elections

To vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention delegates, amendments), you must be an eligible voting member of the Broadway Democrats:

- You must live in the 69th Assembly District, or an area that used to be in the 69th AD before redistricting;
- You cannot have voted in any elections in any other club in calendar year 2023;
- You must have attended at least one of our previous nine monthly public meetings; and
- You must be current with your dues.

All About Dues

- Dues are \$25 (\$10 for students and seniors)
- Dues may be paid by check to be received by February 9. Mail check to Broadway Democrats, P.O. Box 1099, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025
- Dues may be paid using PayPal or credit/debit card at www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html.
- When you pay your dues, please include your email address and telephone number.
- Dues paid in October 2022 or later count for the full year 2023 membership.

How to Vote

- Voting will be conducted electronically, using the OpaVote software.
- We'll email a link to you with the OpaVote ballot and instructions after the meeting on February 9. You'll have until Friday, February 10 at 10:00 pm to cast your ballot.


If you have questions about your eligibility or the voting process, please email Laura Mandel at bdemsgeneral@gmail.com.

If you're interested in being a Judicial Delegate or Alternate, or a County Committee member, please email districtleaders@broadwaydems.org.




Judicial Candidate Virtual Forum
Thursday, February 2, 2023
7:00-8:00 PM
via Zoom

Presented by Manhattan District Leaders
Meet Civil Court Candidates



Hon. William Smith
CO-MODERATOR



Hon. Mike Corbett
CO-MODERATOR

Zoom: <https://bit.ly/Judicialforum>
Dial in: 646 931-3860
Meeting ID: 840 9070 8601 Passcode: 389001

The 2022 Judicial Nominating Convention*

Alan Flacks, Judicial Delegate, 69th AD

The 2022 Democratic Party Judicial Nominating Convention to designate the Democratic Party's judge candidates for the New York State Supreme Court trial bench to go on the November 8th, 2022, General Election ballot in the First Judicial District (Manhattan) was held August 9th, 2022, in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

This year there were three vacancies for trial Justice of the State Supreme Court. (The three Justices who left the court are Matthew Cooper, who reached the Constitutional retirement age; Judith Gische, who took early retirement; and George Silver, who also left early to do arbitration and mediation work.)

Sixteen lower court panel-screened judges were nominated, seconded, and gave a short speech about their qualifications, but thirteen withdrew their candidacies realizing even before the evening of the convention, that they failed to garner the necessary votes.

The actual convention one might say took place during the week's run-up to the convention when candidates and their floor managers lobbied the delegates for support.

The three winners are Sabrina Kraus, Dakota Ramseur, and Lisa Sokoloff, who were unopposed in November. It was a dog-and-pony show, and orchestrated somewhat Soviet-style. The losing candidates, in alphabetical order, were: Suzanne Adams, Shahabuddeen Ally, Jim Clynes, Denise Dominguez, Althea Drysdale, Lyle Frank, Judy Kim, Gerald Lebovits, Ilana Marcus, Lou Nock, Phaedra Perry, Leslie Stroth, and John Wang.

* This article was inadvertently omitted from our December 2022 issue.

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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.

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We Want To Hear What You Have To Say!



Email submissions to the editor
(in MS Word, please) at palmonrode@gmail.com.

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

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Comptroller Lander Puts Climate-Killing Banks on Notice – Now What Can You Do?

Pat Almonrode

The battle for the climate is increasingly a battle about *money* – specifically, a battle about financing for climate-killing fossil-fuel exploration, extraction, and infrastructure projects. In just the seven years since the Paris climate accords were signed, Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo and Bank of America have collectively invested **\$1.2 Trillion** in the fossil-fuel industry since 2015, according to the 2022 edition of [Banking on Climate Chaos](#), a publication by Rain Forest Action Network, Sierra Club and others.

Moreover, that's *our money*. Remember the scene in *It's a Wonderful Life*, when Jimmy Stewart tells the panicked townspeople that the money they're trying to withdraw from the bank isn't *in* the bank, it's in their neighbors' homes and businesses? Well, in the same way *your* money has been loaned out to finance that pipeline, that oil well, that strip mine. If you have \$62,500 in one of those Big Four banks, that investment effectively pumps about eight tons of climate-killing carbon into the atmosphere – more than what is produced by all the heating, driving, flying, cooling and cooking the average American does in *six months*. Your bank is almost certainly the biggest part of your carbon footprint.

The climate movement has worked for quite some time to get banks and asset managers to invest more responsibly. And the movement has a real ally in Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller. In a January 30 email, the Comptroller wrote:

The financial industry has a major role to play in mitigating the worst effects of climate change and financing a just transition to clean energy. But they currently aren't moving fast enough to prevent the costly and catastrophic impacts of rising seas and temperatures.

Lander has what might almost be called a running feud with Larry Fink, CEO of BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager and a major investor in the fossil-fuel industry. Last September, Lander sent the BlackRock CEO a [letter](#) demanding stronger action toward net zero emissions across the company's entire portfolio. Lander called on BlackRock, which manages about \$43 billion of the investments of three New York City pension funds, to put some teeth into its climate commitments.

And Lander's January 30 email shows that he's continuing this approach with the big Wall Street

banks as well, many of which also manage NYC pension fund investments. He announced that three of the City's pension funds will bring shareholder proposals calling for Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, and Royal Bank of Canada to set absolute greenhouse gas emissions targets for 2030, and will be supporting resolutions urging a set of banks to stop altogether the financing new fossil fuel infrastructure. Find out more about the Comptroller's efforts to confront the climate crisis: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/confronting-the-climate-crisis/overview/>.

It's great to have such a powerful ally in this fight, But while those shareholder resolutions play out, *you* can do something – **move your money**. There are greener alternatives; you can find loads of information at [bank.green/sustainable-eco-banks](#) and tinyurl.com/Third-Act-Resources, as well as plenty of other places.

And you might consider joining Third Act NYC, the local affiliate of Third Act, Bill McKibben's new organization for “experienced Americans” (60+) working together to protect and restore both our fragile climate and our endangered democracy (more info at thirdact.org/working-groups/nyc/).

Third Act will be staging a **Nationwide Day of Action on March 21:**



In New York City the Day of Action will include a rally downtown and a symbolic card-cutting action at JPMorgan Chase headquarters. Please go to www.mobilize.us/thirdact/event/547915/ or email me at palmonrode@gmail.com for more information We'd love to see you there!

FOSSIL-FUEL FINANCING SINCE 2015

JPMorgan Chase:	Citi:	Wells Fargo:	Bank of America:
\$382B	\$285B	\$272B	\$232B

MOVE YOUR MONEY!

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

February 2023

FIRST
CLASS

P.O. Box 1099
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New York, NY 10025

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED