

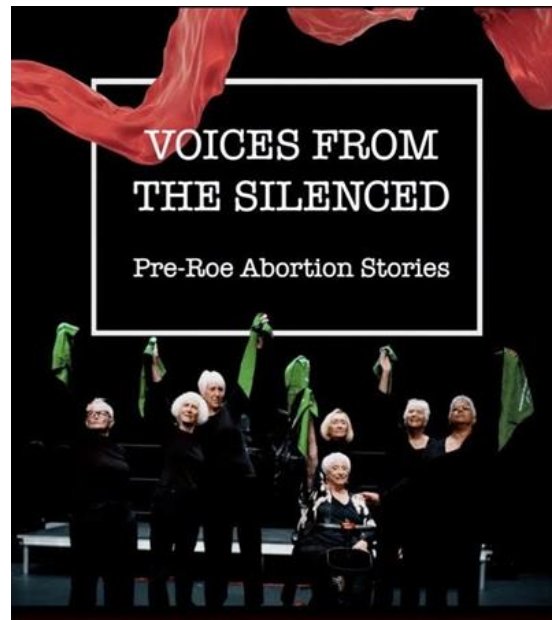
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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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## May General Meeting: *Pre-Roe / Post-Dobbs*



After the *Dobbs* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*, playwrights and directors Victoria Rue and Martha Boesing wanted to help women who might now experience the harassment and pain women experienced pre-*Roe v. Wade*. They created “Voices from the Silenced” ([voicesfromthesilenced.com](https://voicesfromthesilenced.com)), based on stories contributed by women who had abortions during that period. The filming of the play was accompanied by a “making of” documentary which we will watch together, along with Celenia Delsol, a former resident of Manhattan Valley and a member of the cast. Following that, we’ll discuss the documentary with an activist working to defend choice. We’ll also discuss how the abortion issue will impact upcoming elections, and what we can do to ensure that women continue to have the right to control their choices regarding their bodies.

## Thursday, May 9

7:00pm Club Business

7:30pm Film & Discussion



Register for Zoom or in person: [bit.ly/2024mayforum](https://bit.ly/2024mayforum)

for more information: [bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com](mailto:bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com)

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Volume 49, Issue 4

May 2024

## President's Corner

Mary Peppito

**Five Out-of-State Candidates to Support:  
Bob Casey (PA), Jon Tester (MT),  
Sherrod Brown (OH), Jacky Rosen (NV),  
Tammy Baldwin (WI)**

These five Democratic incumbents must keep their seats to maintain Democratic control of the Senate in our razor-slim 51-49 seat majority. All five are in races that are ranked "Leans Democrat" or "Toss-up" by Cook Political Report, but they are running against political headwinds in states that Trump won by a large margin in 2020 or are battleground swing states. We must go all out to defend these Senators who are fighting for their political lives.

**Bob Casey, 3-term incumbent in Pennsylvania  
v. David McCormick, wealthy carpetbagger.**

David McCormick, the Republican Senate candidate, lives in Connecticut, and "appears to have massaged facts from his biography during the current contest and his unsuccessful Senate primary bid two years ago." As the NY Times noted, "He has explicitly said and strongly implied that he grew up on a farm, claimed in 2022 that he had 'started with nothing' and that he 'didn't have anything,' and he and his campaign have recently described his parents as schoolteachers." However, in fact, "Mr. McCormick is the son of a well-regarded college president who later became chancellor of higher education systems in Pennsylvania and Minnesota. He largely grew up in the president's sprawling hilltop residence, which students called the president's mansion, at what is now Bloomsburg University." (NY Times, 4/19/24) It's not an issue that "[McCormick] didn't grow up a poor kid" but, voters don't appreciate that he "pretended that [he did]."

Further, in an attempt to avoid the carpetbagger label that hurt Mehmet Oz, McCormick frequently emphasizes his Pennsylvania roots. However, while McCormick does own property in Pittsburgh, "a review of public records, real estate listings and footage from recent interviews indicates he still lives on Connecticut's 'Gold Coast,' one of the densest concentrations of wealth in America. The former

hedge fund CEO rents a \$16 million mansion in Westport that features a 1,500-bottle wine cellar, an elevator and a 'private waterfront resort' overlooking Long Island Sound." (AP, 8/24/23 "David McCormick is gearing up for a Senate run in Pennsylvania. But he lives in Connecticut").

**Jon Tester, 3-term incumbent in Montana  
v. Tim Sheehy, rich Trump-backed dissembler.**

The Trump-backed Republican Senate candidate frontrunner in Montana's U.S. Senate race, Tim Sheehy, seems to have a casual relationship with the truth. He now reports that his 2015 fine stemming from an accidental gun discharge in a National Park that resulted in a wound that required an immediate hospital visit was due to the fact that he lied to a Park Ranger about the origin of the bullet wound in his arm. I know, confusing. He now says the truth about his gunshot wound is that he lied about its origin to a federal officer.

The Washington Post reported that Sheehy was fined in 2015 for discharging a gun in Glacier National Park after a local hospital reported Sheehy's gunshot wound to law enforcement. According to the fine, Sheehy told the responding Ranger that his Colt .45 revolver had accidentally fallen in the park and discharged, lodging a bullet in Sheehy's right forearm. However, he now says he lied about the gunshot wound. Sheehy told the Post he had actually sustained the injury while in Afghanistan as a Navy Seal in 2012. But he said he never reported it, fearing it may have come from friendly fire. Sheehy said he lied about its origin in fear the hospital or the Ranger would report the gunshot wound to the U.S. Navy, sparking an investigation into his platoon.

Finally, Sheehy is trying to distance himself from his privileged backstory and make himself sound more folksy by claiming he grew up next to farmlands. In fact, he grew up in a wealthy suburb in Minnesota and he graduated from a private high school while living in a lake house outside the Twin Cities.

**Sherrod Brown, 3-term OH incumbent  
v. Bernie Moreno, Trump-backed extremist.**

Moreno's positions on abortion, immigration, anti-LGBTQIA+ issues and Trump's election lies

won him the MAGA base. But he also may have issues with the truth. The Associated Press recently reported that in 2008, someone with access to Moreno's work email account created a profile on an adult website seeking "Men for 1-on-1 sex." Moreno countered that it was a former intern who allegedly created the profile.

Additionally, Moreno faces questions about his touted loyalty to American-made vehicles and labor when he was found to have lied about selling China-manufactured GMs on his lot.

**Jacky Rosen, first-term moderate NV incumbent v. Sam Brown, alleged moderate with slim resume.**

Sam Brown is leading in fundraising and polling and will likely be the Republican opponent seeking Jacky Rosen's Senate seat in the upcoming June primary. Brown asserts he is a moderate, but he is still seeking Trump's endorsement. And while Brown is politically unknown, he has an incredible backstory as a West Point graduate who nearly lost his life in Afghanistan. Brown has lived in Nevada only since 2018, and first ran for Senate in Nevada in 2022 after unsuccessfully running for a seat in the Texas State Legislature in 2014. Brown views abortion as a state's rights issue and supports Nevada's state law allowing abortion up to 24 weeks.

**Tammy Baldwin, WI incumbent v. Eric Hovde, California Bank CEO and Real Estate developer who says most nursing home residents shouldn't vote and derides single parent households and benefits for the poor.**

Mr. Hovde, whose bank is being sued as owner of a nursing home accused of elder abuse, recently said that residents of nursing homes "have a five-, six-month life expectancy" and that "almost nobody in a nursing home is at a point to vote." Recently, he doubled down on this belief, saying, "a large percentage" of nursing home residents "are not in the mental capacity to" vote.

Moreover, in his bid for the Senate in 2012, he alleged (without offering any evidence) that participants in the SNAP food program for low-income individuals and families were trading benefits for drugs at Disney World and in Las Vegas and that there was "massive amounts of food stamp fraud." Hovde urged news organizations to stop covering SNAP beneficiaries as a "sob story" and instead focus on the federal deficit.

Finally, he has carpetbagging issues as well. He is/was living in a \$7 million mansion in Laguna Beach, CA. He missed most Wisconsin elections in the past decade, and when he did bother to vote he

had his ballot sent to his California mansion. ([www.californiahovde.com](http://www.californiahovde.com))

It's important to support these five incumbent Democratic Senators in order to safeguard democracy and maintain control of the Senate, especially given that body's important "advice and consent" role in filling judicial vacancies – no matter who wins the presidency.



**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.



## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### June 25th Primary Ballot Set: Races for Assembly and Judicial Convention Delegates.

As reported last month, our endorsed candidate **Micah Lasher** will face four other candidates for the Democratic nomination to succeed outgoing Assembly Member **Danny O'Donnell**. All the other races are unopposed, except we've now learned that there will also be an election for Judicial Convention Delegates. This challenge has been fielded by perennial candidate Carmen Quinones, who is also running for Assembly as well as Judicial Delegate, but was thrown off the ballot in her attempt to run for yet another office this year, Democratic District Leader.

Our slate is full of political and judicial activists from Broadway, Three Parks and West Side Democrats. They take their roles as Judicial Convention Delegates very seriously. In a race which even the most informed voters know very little about, we will have to work hard to elect every member of our slate. Vote for all 16 (the Broadway Dems members names are in bold): Alan Flacks, **Catharine Grad**, Polly Spain, Elizabeth Kellner, **Luis Roman**, Stephanie Pinto, Aaron Mendelsohn, **Noah Kaufman**, Greer Mellon, Deborah Thomas, **Patrick Almonrode**, Christine Annechino, Joshua Pepper, **Mary Peppito**, Valerie Horst, Judith York.

## The Columbia Occupations: Time to Divest from the Divestors

There have been many beautiful and soul-searching statements of principles from people in our community, our city and our country offering a path forward from the horrors of Israel and Gaza. The specifics of course differ, but here are the principles, as eloquently compiled by State Senator Liz Krueger:

### I Support:

- Israel's right to exist
- Palestinians' rights to self-determination [Curtis: I would add "including a Palestinian state in the West Bank."]
- Immediately freeing all the hostages
- Immediately stopping the killing of civilians
- Immediate aid for the people of Gaza [Curtis: "and a long-term plan for its reconstruction."]
- The right to protest peacefully
- The right to live without fear

### I Do Not Support:

- Anti-Semitism
- Islamophobia
- Hamas
- Netanyahu
- Killing Civilians
- Kidnaping
- Arresting Peaceful Protestors
- Intimidation or Harassment
- Political Opportunism

I would also add, of special relevance to the situation at Columbia, is that there is a big difference between the right to speak and demonstrate, which is a sacred right that should hardly ever be abrogated, and the right to occupy public (including privately-owned) spaces and prevent people and institutions from doing what *they* want to do, especially when the majority of people want to do what the space is designed for and the minority is preventing from them from doing this.

Most disheartening to me is that I am no longer able to see this as a situation where the demonstrators/protestors/occupiers have worthy goals but their methods are questionable or illegal. I

*disagree* with the protestors' main specific goal, that Columbia divest. And I am disgusted by their hatred of Israel as a country, and their complete exoneration of Hamas, who started this war, and all of the Gaza wars.

If you are horrified, as I and most of us are, by the slaughter in Gaza, the corrupt and scheming Netanyahu, and the completely unjustified West Bank settlements, there are many productive ways to express your outrage, *and* work for a peaceful and just result for the people of Gaza and Israel. Be guided by the principles at the beginning of this article. Join true peace groups here and abroad. Work with your Congress Members to make sure that Israel is not given any more offensive weapons that kill five innocent civilians in Gaza for every one Hamas fighter, even as they continue to support its right to defend itself against the murderers of Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas.

I agree—and we should still forcefully make this point against far right provocateurs like Stefanik who claim to be fighting antisemitism when they are really fighting to overthrow the democratically elected government of the United States—that most of the demonstrators are themselves peaceful, and are being unfairly accused of antisemitism. But their demands are unreasonable, their actions are infringing on the greater rights of their fellows in the Columbia community, and, wittingly or not, they are marching behind a banner whose main goal is not a peaceful two-state solution but the destruction of Israel. We should no longer be associated with this movement. We should be divested from it.

As I was finishing this article, the NYPD was gathering outside my window. What followed was sad but necessary, admirably restrained but emotionally draining. Hopefully only a few of those arrested will face serious consequences, as only a few deserve them. May graduation day at Columbia be a time of celebration and joy, silent protest for those so inclined, and reconciliation.



## Common Sense and E-Bikes

Richard A. Siegel

Many in our neighborhood are continuously traumatized by people on e-bikes who ignore all traffic laws. There have been many near-misses in crosswalks and on sidewalks. It appears that this problem is most severe in the confines of the 26th Precinct.

While there are many good-faith efforts to legislate registration and other legal requirements,

there is a much simpler solution: the city could **simply enforce the existing traffic laws**. This brief summary was pulled from the web:

*Bicyclists have the legal right to share the road on most public highways, but they are prohibited on interstate highways and expressways.*

- *Bicycles are considered vehicles, and cyclists must obey the same traffic laws as motorists.*
- *Ride in the street, not on sidewalks (unless the rider is age 12 or younger and the bicycle's wheels are less than 26 inches in diameter).*
- *Stop at red lights and stop signs.*
- *Ride with traffic, not against it.*
- *Use bike paths whenever possible.*
- *Bicycles must be equipped with a brake and red reflector.*

One way to accomplish this is to first reach out to gathering places for delivery people and in every building. The above bullet points can be distributed in all appropriate languages. Next, those who disobey the traffic laws could be issued a warning. Finally, after a week or two, tickets could be issued. Paying a small fine is a strong deterrent.

We trust the police to use appropriate restraint. No one wants to see chases, arrests or confiscation of bikes. The goal is to appeal to everyone's better angels to achieve a safe community.

Many of us slow down driving when there is a speed camera or when we know the road is patrolled. Some appropriate, targeted enforcement really does act as a deterrent.



## Stay in touch!

visit us at

<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org>

or

join us on Facebook at

[facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/)



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Become a member of  
the Broadway Democrats!

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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](mailto:palmonrode@gmail.com).

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



**SAVE-THE-DATE!**

**2024 SPRING FLING**

**Sunday, May 5th  
3:00pm to 6:00pm**

The Ellington  
2745 Broadway  
(corner of West 105th Street)

Presenting

The Excellence in Democracy Award

**Councilmember Shaun Abreu**

⌘

The Ida and Jesse Frankel  
Community Service Award

**West 111th Street**

**Block Association**

⌘

In Recognition of his Commitment to his Community  
and his Longevity in Public Service

**Assemblymember**

**Daniel J. O'Donnell**

For more information,  
[BwayDemsFundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:BwayDemsFundraiser@gmail.com)

## The Broadway Democrats Newsletter May 2024

FIRST  
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