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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Amy Porter♦

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## **Club Endorsement Meeting**

### **Come endorse for:**

- 2 Congressional seats: Districts 10 and 13  
*(Currently Nadler and Espaillat)*
- 2 State Senate seats: Districts 30 and 31  
*(Currently Benjamin and Jackson)*
- 1 State Assembly seat, Male and Female State  
Committee persons: 69<sup>th</sup> AD  
*(Currently O'Donnell, Cohen and Thomas)*  
*and*
- Selection of six Judicial Convention Delegates  
and Alternates

## **Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Sign in at 7:45 Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp!**

### **Bank Street College**

**610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)**

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Volume 45, Issue 2

February 2020

## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### Come Out to Vote for Jerry Nadler at the Broadway Democrats Endorsement Meeting Thursday, February 13!

I write this in a somewhat down mood. Trump is about to get away with subverting our democracy in the interests of a foreign power. The Democratic Presidential candidates, while all capable, intelligent, and a million times better than Trump, are also all seriously flawed. The Iowa caucuses, which never should have been given the prominence they have (and hopefully will have no more), were a fiasco, and worst yet for our side, did not feature a particularly large turnout.

So what can we do? Our newsletter and emails, and many other organizations' similar postings, are full of ways we can keep up the struggle: voter registration drives, post card writing events, early canvassing trips to nearby swing states like Pennsylvania. And here's something we can do within the next few days: *come out and vote for Congressman Jerry Nadler at the Broadway Democrats endorsement meeting Thursday, February 13.*

There is no doubt that Jerry will easily win the club's endorsement. But because he and the other excellent incumbents we'll be voting for: Congressman Adriano Espaillat, State Senators Brian Benjamin and Robert Jackson, Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell, and State Committeemembers Lynn Thomas and Dan Cohen—do not face serious opposition within the club, there is a real risk of a low turnout, which will send exactly the wrong message to Jerry's opponents and to the outside world. Because of his strong stance on impeachment and so many other issues, there is a target on Jerry's back. At least one of his opponents is very well-funded. Trump

would like nothing better than to take down his old nemesis from the West Side development wars. And Jerry's ability to fight back is somewhat reduced because of the serious illness of his beloved wife Joyce.

Jerry Nadler has spent his entire adult life fighting for us and the causes we believe in. Now he needs our support, in the ballot box this June and November, and starting with our votes at the Broadway Democrats meeting February 13<sup>th</sup>. Let's give Jerry the outstanding show of support he so deserves.



## President's Corner

Amy Porter

I am especially honored to have been elected President of Broadway Democrats during this pivotal year for Democrats and Democracy in America.

Many of you have already met me during the fall at our Debate Watch Parties with Three Parks Independent Democratic Club, which I have been co-organizing with Dan Cohen. Held at various restaurants in our neighborhood, these events have given us the chance to enjoy each other's company, eat and drink together, and meet new and old friends from the Upper West Side and all over the city. Because of our terrific turnouts, local candidates running for office have stopped by to speak with us. At our last Debate Watch Party, Gale Breuer joined us. We also had campaign workers circulating petitions for Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Amy Klobuchar. And Meika Mustrangi, now one of our new Steering Committee members, gathered signatures for her candidate, Pete Buttigieg.

As President of the Broadway Democrats, I plan to continue my work in building coalitions with other clubs and organizations on the Upper West Side. To this end, we will continue holding Debate Watch

Parties with Three Parks and inviting other clubs and organizations to join us. We have already held one event with Upper West Side MoveOn/Indivisible Action Group. For our next Debate Watch Party in February, we will join with West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club.

As in past United States Presidential elections, this year we will join with Three Parks to campaign for the Democratic nominee. With the Chair of our Go Blue Committee, Mary Peppito, we plan to work side by side with organizations and clubs in Manhattan to help elect Democratic representatives in key races on local, state, and federal levels. With the help of our new Steering Committee member, John George, we plan to engage with Columbia University students and political organizations.

I am thrilled about our new incoming group of Steering Committee members, many of whom I met at our Debate Watch Parties. For those of you who did not have the pleasure of hearing their introductions at our last meeting, please be sure to read about them here. With our excited new members and our dedicated returning members, we are now a wonderful combination of wisdom and experience with new skills and energy! Together, we hope to update our social media presence and engage and grow membership in creative new ways.

Having dedicated the last number of years of my career to mediation, I wish to encourage respect and understanding for the differences between and among Democrats. For the 2020 Presidential election, we must focus on the most significant truth: what unites us is far greater than what divides us.

Throughout our country's history and in our own lifetime, never has there been a more important time to become involved in the political process and in your local Democratic club. Uniting our forces and energies, we cannot be defeated. Please come join us!

If you have social media skills you would like to share, ideas for any activities you would like to make happen, or want to learn how you can best contribute, please contact me at [aporter.bwaydem@gmail.com](mailto:aporter.bwaydem@gmail.com).



## **New Members' Bios**

**Mav Block** is an interdisciplinary graduate student in political theory and philosophy, whose research has concerned political participation, federalism, and the relationship between politics and the Internet. Originally from Philadelphia, he attended a Quaker school, and prior to leaving for New York was a staff member of former Congressman Joe Sestak's (PA-7) Congressional and Senatorial campaigns. In New York, he studied film production at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and wrote, directed, or produced narrative work on topics which ranged from mental health care to immigration. Upon graduation, he briefly worked for the Working Families Party on several local and state-level campaigns, and freelanced within the film industry. After spending the previous two years in North Carolina at Duke University, he returned to New York to complete his thesis, settling in Manhattan Valley. He is enthused to be a new member of the Steering Committee, particularly for the crucial 2020 cycle, and plans to work towards increased membership, new opportunities for participation, and additional ties to local democratic and activist organizations.

**Heather Ducharme** is the County Committee Member of the 109th Electoral District located in Manhattan Valley. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies and Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she was a fellow of UMass Women into Leadership—a competitive program that prepares undergraduate women for careers in public service—as well as an intern for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren. After graduation, she worked for Mayor Alex Morse of Holyoke, Massachusetts as his Mayoral Aide overseeing constituent services, working with media outlets, and serving as a member of various community organizations and committees. She currently works for the Downtown Alliance, New York City's largest Business Improvement District, where she advocates for and promotes storefront/small businesses in Lower Manhattan. Heather is also a 2019 alum of Coro Neighborhood Leadership - a program for those working at community based organizations to learn how to address complex issues and influence meaningful change in their communities. In her spare time, she volunteers with New York Cares as an SAT tutor and takes dance classes.

**John George** is a first-year student at Columbia, studying political science. He has been involved in Democratic politics since 2016, when he volunteered for the Bernie Sanders campaign, and has since stayed active in the party. In New York, he has worked in multiple political offices and currently interns for a political consulting firm in Manhattan. Issues he is particularly passionate about are equitable education policy, urban inequality, and environmental sustainability. He hopes to work with fellow members of

the Broadway Democrats to improve our active membership, organize well-attended events, and increase the positive impact we have on our community. Looking forward to a prosperous and progressive year!

**Meika Mustrangi** was born and grew up in Brazil. She came to the US to continue her studies and met her husband, now a prof. of Computer Science at Columbia Univ, who had also come here to study, in his case from Italy. They became US citizens four years ago and have two daughters, one in high school and one in college. Fifteen years ago they moved from California to NYC and have been at the same address in Morningside Heights since then. Meika has been a stay-at-home mother since their first daughter was born. She has volunteered in school PTAs and more recently at a dog training club in White Plains, NY.

In 2016, Meika canvassed for Hillary in Philadelphia and since October she has been volunteering for Dem. Pres. candidate Pete Buttigieg and has been the co-lead for Congressional District NY-10 (Rep. Jerry Nadler). She regularly interacts with the other volunteer leads in New York State's 27 Congressional Districts as well as with the over 100 volunteers in the Team Pete NY-10, organizing meet-ups, debate watch parties, and service events. She will be running as a delegate for Pete in NY-10. She spent the last week going to Staten Island and Bay Ridge, Brooklyn to help NY-11 (US Rep. Max Rose) get their delegates on the ballot. She looks forward to learning and contributing to the club!



## **Broadway Democrats' 2020 Election Results**

### **Officers**

**President:** Amy Porter  
**Vice President:** Susan Crawford  
**Secretary:** Richard Siegal  
**Treasurer:** Luis Román

### **Steering Committee**

Mav Block  
Gretchen Borges  
Heather Duchampe  
John George  
Katie Hanner  
David Isaacson  
Noah Kaufman  
Zoila Martí  
Meika Mustrangi  
Joe "Paradise" Nunley  
Barbara Trelstad  
Dan Zweig



## **From the Steering Committee**

Katie Hanner

### **SWAB PLASTIC BAG BAN WITH NOTES FROM KATIE HANNER**

*After thwarting a bill by passed by the NY City council in 2017, the NY State legislature finally passed a plastic bag ban bill in 2019. Under Title 28 of the New York State Bag Waste Reduction Act, starting March 1, 2020, businesses in New York City will be prohibited from providing single-use plastic bags to customers and be required to collect a 5-cent charge on carryout paper bags.*

*What follows are questions and answers developed by the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board. For more information visit their website:*

<https://www.manhattanswab.org/>

### **Who and what does the ban cover?**

The law will apply to any business required to collect New York State sales tax. However plastic bags are still permitted in some instances.

Exceptions include:

- "deli" wraps of meat and cheese or for uncooked fish, meat or cheese
- Sale of pharmaceutical drugs
- Newspapers for delivery
- Produce bags for purchase of loose items like fruit and vegetables
- For "Take out" or delivered foods or as "doggie bags" in restaurants
- Garment bags from dry cleaning services

The paper bag fee will not apply to any customers using SNAP or WIC.

### **What is motivating the plastic bag ban?**

Plastic bags are problematic. Derived from fossil fuels, they are a major source of seemingly indestructible litter on sidewalks, street trees and in our waterways, causing harm to marine life and habitats. Plastic bags also "gunk up" and jam recycling and sewage treatment plants, which in the end taxpayers end up paying.

In New York state it is estimated that residents consume 23 billion single use bags each year, an estimated 50% of which are landfilled.

The outlawing of plastic bags in NYC follows the ban on Styrofoam takeout containers, which took effect in January 2019.

## Plastic Bag Ban (cont.)

### What other cities in the US have bag bans?

#### What have the results been?

In Los Angeles County, which has had a plastic bag ban and a 10-cent fee for paper bags since 2010, there has been a 94% reduction in single bag use. Similarly, San Jose California, saw an 89% reduction in plastic bags in their storm drain system and a 59% reduction in street litter.

#### How can customers adapt to the ban?

As the ban applies to everyday retailers such as grocery, clothing, and home improvement stores, MSWAB recommends that citizens store reusable tote bags in backpacks, purses, and office drawers, and keep a stash near doors or coat closets for easy access. Those with cars should keep a supply in the backseat or trunk.

# BRING YOUR OWN BAG

**NYS PLASTIC BAG BAN  
BEGINS MARCH 1, 2020**

In the instance citizens forget to BYO-bag, many retailers will begin selling reusable bags or offer paper bags for purchase.

In preparation for the March 1 rule change, NYC residents can secure a free reusable tote: <https://materials.bwpronline.org/webform/become-part-solution-pledge-zero-waste>

### I use grocery bags for picking up after my dog. What do I do now?

For better or worse there will still be plastic bags in our lives. Many foods, such as bread, cereal, frozen items, etc., will still be packaged in plastic bags and can be reused for pet waste. Newspapers can also be used as can biodegradable bags specifically designed for dog waste.

### What about my kitchen garbage?

One way to reduce the need for waterproof garbage bags is to participate in the DSNY's organics program (which unlike farmer's markets takes meat, dairy products, moldy leftovers, and even left-over take-out food!). By putting food waste in a compost bin, one's "regular

garbage" not only dramatically decreases in size but practically goes dry. Thus, one can use a much smaller garbage receptacle that can be lined with bread bags, produce bags or no bag at all.

To find out more about DSNY's organic collection program, go to: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb7/downloads/pdf/Organics\\_Collection-FAQs\\_citywide.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb7/downloads/pdf/Organics_Collection-FAQs_citywide.pdf)

### Where can I recycle my existing plastic bags?

Large retailers covered under New York State's plastic bag recycling law are required to collect plastic bags and film plastics (bread bags / plastic wraps that cover cases of water, paper towels, etc.) for recycling. Large retailers are defined as stores over 10,000 square feet and chains with 5+ stores that each exceed 5,000 square feet.

**NEW YORKERS USE MORE THAN  
23 BILLION PLASTIC BAGS A YEAR.**



Are used an average of 12 minutes

Take 500+ years to break down

Harm fish and wildlife

Take up valuable landfill space

Clog machinery at recycling facilities



Have a longer useful life

Conserve natural resources

Don't harm fish and wildlife

Lead to greater waste reduction

Don't persist in the environment as litter





## Guest Submission

Laura Tavormina

### Heading to Florida this winter? Help decide the 2020 election

Millions of people visit Florida every year from other states—more of them from New York than anywhere else. How Florida votes could have a decisive impact on who wins the presidential election. A new website, **HelpFloridaRegister.org**, makes it easy for Florida visitors (or residents) to volunteer on voter registration by connecting with local community groups. (Spanish version at **RegistremosaFlorida.org**, or **PRVotaEnFlorida.org**.)

If you'll be visiting Florida this year, or know someone who is, take a look at [HelpFloridaRegister.org](http://HelpFloridaRegister.org) today. Select the area you're interested in and you'll get a list of voter-registration groups that are active there, with instructions on how to volunteer. Some groups require a training session as the first step, so advance planning is recommended.

If we can get a small fraction of Florida's visitors to volunteer on voter registration, in a state where elections are famously close, it could shape the outcome in 2020. Please tell your friends about [HelpFloridaRegister.org](http://HelpFloridaRegister.org). With your support, we can help expand Florida's electorate in 2020.

If you would like to get live links for the website, or if you want to tweet about it or post about it on Facebook or Instagram, please contact Laura Tavormina [LTavormina@gmail.com](mailto:LTavormina@gmail.com) and she will email you with the links.



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLUB CONSTITUTION

Two proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution, as stated below, will be discussed at the February meeting. Per the guidelines established in the Club's Constitution, they will also be discussed at the next club meeting and their text will run in the March newsletter.

"Create an officer's position of CORRESPONDING SECRETARY that would maintain the membership database/spreadsheet that includes dues, attendance and correspondence."

"To expand the \$10 seniors category to include students. Going forward, the membership dues categories can be changed by a majority vote of the steering committee. In addition, no one will be denied membership due to a financial hardship."

## Next Debate Watch Party

### Wednesday, February 19

Join Broadway Democrats, Three Parks Independent Democrats & West Harlem Progressive Democrats to watch the 9<sup>th</sup> Democratic Presidential Primary Debate

7:30 pm

Elysian Fields Cafe Amsterdam between (b/w 119 & 120)

RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/debate-2-19-20](http://tinyurl.com/debate-2-19-20)

# **Voting in Club Elections**

## **ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE**

To be eligible to vote, you must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay (or have paid) your dues.

### **Instant Runoff Voting**

As per the Club Constitution, there will be only one ballot. Each voting member will rank their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed in an instant runoff to the next candidate in the rankings. Any ballot which runs out of ranked candidates becomes a No Endorsement vote. No endorsement” is still a ballot option.

### **Balloting Procedures**

There will be an open ballot box which will stay open until 9:30 p.m. (or until five minutes after the last speaker has finished, if the meeting runs late).

Votes may be cast in person or by proxy, limit one proxy per voting member. A proxy must be written. The proxy giver must state the name of the proxy holder (i.e., the name can't be filled in later by the proxy holder). The proxy must be signed or verifiable, as by electronic transmission stating the person's name.

**Please build in time to sign in, pay your dues, and allow us to determine your eligibility to vote.**

## 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 \$25; senior dues are \$10.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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

FIRST  
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell  
District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,  
Paula Diamond Román  
President: Amy Porter  
Newsletter Editors: Pat Almonrode, Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Endorsement Meeting

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Sign in: 7:45 p.m. Start: 8:00 p.m. sharp**  
**Bank Street College of Education**  
**(610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive))**