
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

March General Meeting: Mental Illness and the Homeless: How Did We Get Here? How Can We Help?

Throughout history, communities have struggled to address mental illness in the population. Society has tried many things – mostly without success. This forum will review approaches to mental health care, from before de-institutionalization to today. We will look at how we got to the point of so many homeless people without services, and at the good work of agencies in the Mobile Outreach consortium in connecting with folks and getting them to accept some help. We will also look at the politics – what actions were taken after the Mayor’s 2022 initiative, and other proposals.

Richard Siegel (Steering Committee member and licensed social worker) will present, and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and a representative of the outreach consortium have been invited. Here are two links to preview the discussion:

New York’s Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Initiative: Positive Signs and a Path Forward (<https://tinyurl.com/Hastings-Center>)

A New Push to Improve Mental Health Care for Homeless New Yorkers (<https://tinyurl.com/TimesNewPush>)

Please join us on Zoom

Thursday, March 14

Club Business 7:00pm

Forum 7:30pm

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2024marforum2>



for more information: bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com

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President's Corner

Mary Peppito

Can We Save Democracy On Our Own? Yes, We'll Have To – Again

At this point it's not surprising that SCOTUS decided that being an insurrectionist doesn't bar anyone from federal office **on the same date** that the Insurrectionist in Chief was initially set to face trial for the crimes of trying to subvert democracy. Yes, March 4th was the date that Trump was scheduled to finally face the federal charges that he conspired to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

But alas, in a separate decision last week, SCOTUS proved yet again that it was in no hurry to move the prosecution of Trump along by expeditiously deciding whether Trump had immunity from criminal prosecution for crimes he committed while in office. Despite the 6-3 majority conservative composition of the court, despite the fact that a third of the Court was appointed by Trump, and despite the fact that at least one Justice has close ties to a probable co-conspirator, many thought that the Court would decline to review the lower court's thorough and well-reasoned decision, just as it had declined to circumvent the lower court by taking up the question in December. We were wrong.

And it turns out that we were very wrong. This very conservative, Trump leaning-court *does* want to put its finger on the scales once more on behalf of The Former Guy. Alarmingly, as CNN contributor Frank Figliuzzi has pointed out, SCOTUS showed its hand by re-phrasing the question Special Prosecutor Jack Smith asked — from “whether Donald Trump has any immunity from criminal prosecution for **alleged crimes he committed** while in office?” to “whether and, if so, to what extent does a former President enjoy presidential immunity from criminal prosecution for **conduct alleged to involve official acts** during his tenure in office.”

I don't think anyone is concerned with prosecuting any “official acts” of the former president. Rather, it is his criminal acts that are at issue.

By now democracy-loving Americans should be accustomed to a heavy-handed SCOTUS and a dysfunctional Congress. Despite our hopes that we could rely on justice to be impartial, we are once again faced with the reality of politics in the Trump era: it is up to us to do the work to save democracy.

As noted by commentator Robert Hubbell, “The courts aren't coming to save us—and that's okay. We were (and remain) in charge of our destiny and Trump's criminal accountability.”

So, we will once again roll up our sleeves, and do what it takes to prevent the “oathbreaking insurrectionist” (to quote Justice Sotomayor's dissent) from destroying democracy. This time the stakes are bigger. We will need all hands on deck.

The 2024 elections are exactly 275 days away. At Go Blue 2024 (tinyurl.com/GoBlue2024) you'll find lots of ways to start getting involved right now. And after the June primaries, we'll be asking you to really gear up to help prevent the dystopian future promised by The Former Guy. As always, saving democracy is up to us – all of us.



District Leaders' Reports

Curtis Arluck

Petitioning and Congressional Districts are Now Finalized

At last we know what districts our club area is in, all of the Congressional districts in NY State, and the dates of petitioning and the two primaries we will have this year.

Petitioning began on February 28th and will end on April 4th, but we need your petitions back by April 1st. Even though all of our candidates except State Assembly candidate **Micah Lasher** appear to be unopposed, they still need to gather petition signatures. As is described elsewhere in the newsletter, there are many petitioning opportunities in our neighborhood. Join us! For more information, feel free to email Paula and me anytime, at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org.

Our **Congressional district lines** are now set, and are unchanged from last year. **Congressman**

Jerry Nadler will continue to represent our area west of Broadway from 106th to 113th, and west of West End from 104th to 106th. **Congressman Adriano Espaillat** will continue to represent the rest of our area, except that the 113th-114th, Broadway-Riverside block is confusingly divided between Nadler and Espaillat.

There will be two primary elections this year: **April 2** for President and **June 25** for all other offices. Only opposed candidates' names will be on the primary ballot; if a candidate is unopposed, their name will not appear on the ballot and they are deemed elected (for party positions such as State Committee and Judicial Delegate) or nominated (for public offices such as Congress or State Legislature) to run as the Democratic candidate in November.

NY's Congressional Districts were slightly improved by the State Legislature over the ones produced by the Redistricting Commission. Most notably, newly elected Congressman **Tom Suozzi** (congratulations!), gains Democratic-leaning North Shore communities in adjacent Suffolk County and loses Republican Massapequa near the South Shore, which was incongruent with the district to begin with. Also improved is NY 19, which the IRC tried to make more Republican (political deals, anyone?), and is now restored to the winnable (52% for Biden in 2020) district Josh Riley lost in 2022 and has a good chance to regain this year. Democrats have already won and should hold the Suozzi seat, have an outstanding chance to pick up the Syracuse seat, and have good prospects in NY 4 (Nassau County), and 18 (Mondaire Jones vs. Mike Lawlor). Counting Suozzi's win, it looks good for regaining the four NY Congressional seats lost in 2022.

I note with sorrow the passing of **Susan Baldwin**, who was the State Committeewoman when I first joined Broadway Democrats and was a great writer, housing activist and progressive champion. Condolences to her husband Will and daughter Emily.

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Paula Diamond Román

Petitioning!

It's that time of year again! From now until March 30th, Broadway Democrats will be on the street, collecting signatures on petitions to help all our endorsed candidates get on the ballot for the June 25th primary, and you can help us!

Every weekend this month, Broadway Democrats will be collecting signatures at various locations in the district, including the Columbia

University Farmers' Market, the Morningside Park Farmers' Market, and West Side Market. We can also provide you with petitions so that you can collect signatures in your building.

You don't need to have any prior experience to petition; there will be at least one person with experience at every table to answer any questions and show you how it's done! We will also be joined by our endorsed candidates, such as Micah Lasher, State Senator Cordell Cleare and candidates for Civil Court.

Petitioning is one of the most enjoyable and morale-building activities we do all year, and we would love to have you join us as we support all our endorsed candidates and meet the voters of our district. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com. We'll be tabling every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, as well as some weekdays and evenings. If you want to petition in your building, let us know how many petitions you'll need and we will provide you with them. We're looking forward to seeing you out on the street!

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Congratulations to our club officers and Steering Committee members for 2024:

President: Mary Peppito
Vice President: Laura Danford Mandel
Recording Secretary: Jacob Kimbarow
Corresponding Secretary: Luis Román
Treasurer: Dan Zweig

Steering Committee:

Pat Almonrode	Peter Flom
Gretchen Borges	David Isaacson
Amy Brundage	Susan Mehlman
Shelby Drescher	Angela Rooks
Liam Elkind	Richard Siegel
Mercedes Estrada	Nathan Gelbert

☞

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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Broadway Democrats Petitioning with Assembly Candidate Micah Lasher (and Meiji)

🐾

**Come meet Micah Lasher
Broadway Democrats endorsed
candidate for the 69th Assembly District
at the 105th Street Riverside Dog Park
7:30-8:30am on Monday, March 11**

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**Broadway
Democrats**

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 11th 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**

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 2024

FIRST
CLASS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED