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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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## Ways to be an Effective Activist in These Times

*a special Zoom meeting with*



# Jessica Craven

Organizer, activist, and author of the Substack  
*Chop Wood, Carry Water*

*presented with the Westside Democrats  
and the Village Independent Democrats*

## Thursday, March 20

two registrations:

<p><b>Club Business</b> 7:00-7:30 <a href="https://bit.ly/Mar20Forum">bit.ly/Mar20Forum</a></p> 	 <p><b>Jess Craven Forum</b> 7:30-9:00 <a href="https://bit.ly/2025JessCraven">bit.ly/2025JessCraven</a></p>
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please register at **both** links, and note:

- attendance won't count towards club voting eligibility unless you register for the club business session
- if Jess Craven's presentation ends before 9:00, we'll rejoin the club business session

for more information:

[bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com](mailto:bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com)

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

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Volume 50, Issue 2

March 2025

## ZOOM MEETING THURSDAY MAR. 20: Jessica Craven: Ways to be an Effective Activist in These Times

Club Business  
7:00-7:30  
[bit.ly/Mar20Forum](https://bit.ly/Mar20Forum)

Jess Craven Forum  
7:30-9:00  
[bit.ly/2025JessCraven](https://bit.ly/2025JessCraven)

**President's Corner:** *We were warned about the right's tactics in Project 2025 and they are following that playbook to a T. We must not become complacent to authoritarianism.*

Mary Peppito

We will continue to stand up and speak out against the injustices and chaos in this administration. There have been comments made that the demonstrations are not as big or enthusiastic for Trump 2.0 as we were for his first term, but perhaps those commentators are not listening. There are grassroots actions big and small

from veteran activists to people who have never been involved before in any type of protest. I hear it anecdotally and I see them in every corner of my emails and social media. During these past, incredibly chaotic, 49 days of the Trump 2.0 administration, Broadway Democrats have showed up in force to protest during the "NO KINGS" Protest at Union Square on February 17 (Presidents' Day); we marched on International Women's Day on March 8 (a commemoration that was secretly wiped from Google and Apple calendars) at Washington Square Park; and we'll show up again to protest cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security **this Saturday, March 15** at Foley Square at 11:00 am. (Meet at the 110th St. downtown 1 train at 10:30 am)





The chaos continues on a daily, if not hourly, pace during this administration. Today the stock market continued to tank, even more Consumer confidence dropped precipitously this month and Trump acknowledged that we could be heading towards a recession.

As Dan Pfeiffer noted in his Substack, "Here's how [Reuters](#) described the situation:

*Layoffs announced by U.S.-employers jumped to levels not seen since the last two recessions amid mass federal government job cuts, canceled contracts and fears of trade wars, offering the clearest sign yet of the toll taken on the labor market by the policies of President Donald Trump's administration.*

*Global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas said on Thursday that planned job cuts vaulted 245% to 172,017 last month, the highest level since July 2020, when the economy was in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the highest February total since the Great Recession 16 years ago.*

Chaos has defined Trump's second term; and his chaotic leadership style is hurting the economy."

So we must continue to show up. We cannot allow this dangerous clown-show to go unchecked.

**And a Special Invitation:**

On March 20, the incredible activist Jessica Craven will present "Ways to be an Effective Activist in These Times" at our Zoom forum with West Side Dems and Village Independent Dems. Craven writes an activist Substack, offering news and daily actions aimed at resisting the Trump/Musk putsch: <https://tinyurl.com/JCravenSubstack>.

In the March 10 edition, Craven notes that over the weekend, we had Trump's ghastly [Executive Order](#) to decimate our national forests, the introduction of Republicans' terrible Continuing Resolution budget proposal, Marco Rubio's [announcement](#) that USAID is all but dead, the new, [alarming revelations](#) about Social Security, and more.

Please join us on March 20 to be inspired to fight back against the "flood the zone" mentality of the Trump 2.0 unconstitutional implementation of Project 2025. Please see first page for registration information.

## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### Petitioning Is Here and We're Doing Well!

We're two weeks into petitioning—three more to go—and so far we're making our best showing in some time. Desire to do *something* against Trump, the political, moral and personal corruption of Cuomo and Adams, six extremely accomplished and attractive candidates heading our slate and the excitement of getting signatures for ourselves for District Leader, Judicial Convention Delegate and County Committee have all contributed to this surge in volunteers, signatures and enthusiasm. We've campaigned in person with **Brad Hoylman-Sigal**, **Shaun Abreu** and **Alvin Bragg**. Brad H. was extremely well received by those both two- and four-legged at the Riverside Park Dog Run. I had not known Brad that well before this campaign, but I have been so impressed with his knowledge, achievements, and a rare feature in a politician: humility. And he looks like he's having fun out there! At the Columbia and Morningside Farmers Markets, some produce may not yet be in season, but Shaun Abreu certainly is. Voters love his youth, energy, grasp of the issues, accomplishments. The response to Alvin Bragg can only be termed rapturous. Trump assaults democracy and justice, here is a man who fights successfully for both. And oh yes: crime in Manhattan is down significantly!

This past weekend we campaigned with half a dozen **Brad Lander** volunteers, people of all ages and from all boroughs (Though I admit no Staten Island—yet). With the polls showing Cuomo leading and Eric Adams perhaps still in second place, it is clear that the opposition to these failed officeholders has to coalesce. With his experience at running a big important office, his vast knowledge of city government, and his steadfast support of progressive principles, Brad Lander is the best candidate to unite us and bring us once again a Mayor who fights for the people's interests rather than their own.

We know we will soon also be campaigning with our fighting Public Advocate **Jumaane Williams** and our brilliant homeboy **Mark Levine**. There are still three weeks left, and a few County Committee slots open. Join us!

### Protest the Outrageous Seizure of Mahmoud Khalil—the Right Way.

Once again showing a complete disregard for truth, justice and human decency, Trump's ICE minions seized local Palestinian activist and community resident Mahmoud Khalil not for his

actions but for his words, at a time when he was doing nothing but going about his business. Mr. Khalil is lawfully in this country and has a Green Card. He has a wife who is a U.S. citizen and 8 months pregnant. He is not accused of any crime. Not that this would have justified it, but there was nothing in particular happening with Mr. Khalil when he was seized: no protests, building occupations, hate speech, nothing. He was just there--until he wasn't. The ICE agents whisked him more than a thousand miles away to a detention center in Louisiana, without telling his wife or lawyer. It is like something out of Z, or Chile, or Kristallnacht.

People of all faiths and beliefs need to come together to protest this outrageous assault on an innocent man whose only crime was expressing his beliefs. But if ever there was a time to hang together rather than hanging separately, it is now. Mahmoud Khalil is a Muslim, but this could just as easily be happening to a Jew or a Christian that Trump didn't like. When we protest, let's do it *together*. Please, no cries of Genocide, or antisemitic tropes, which have marred so many recent protests. Let us speak and chant and sing and overcome in English, in Arabic, in Hebrew, in whatever language we speak. Today, it is Mahmoud Khalil. Tomorrow, it could be any of us.



## Protecting New Yorkers in the Age of Trump

Assemblymember Micah Lasher, 69th District

The speed and scale of the assault by Donald Trump on American values and institutions is staggering. I believe he is particularly interested in sowing discord among Democrats and putting significant financial and social strain on blue states. Trump has made the notion of the president as a unifying figure feel quaint. He is focused on political domination, and using his presidential power to damage and weaken the areas controlled by his opponents is a core part of Trump's strategy.

My own view is that there needs to be a comprehensive, national strategy that combines legal action to stop Trump in the courts; grassroots action to call attention to what Trump, Musk, and their minions are doing every day; political action to put pressure on House Republicans in swing districts, including and especially in New York, and then to win those seats back in the mid-terms; and state and local action to mitigate as much of the

damage as possible in the meantime. I strongly urge each member of the Broadway Democrats to push the party to develop this kind of strategy and to find ways to participate in it.

For my part, in addition to speaking out publicly against some of the cruelest policies of the Trump administration and working to help individual constituents who are in the line of fire, I am focused on advancing State legislation to help protect New Yorkers more broadly from the effects of the Trump agenda.

I am a proud co-sponsor of the [New York For All Act](#), to limit cooperation between state and local law enforcement and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as well as of legislation to [protect providers](#) of abortion and gender-affirming care, [expand abortion access in New York](#), strengthen safety net programs, and [bolster State environmental protections](#) — all of which are more important now than ever before.

I am working directly with the Office of the New York State Attorney General, Letitia James, on legislation to enable her to enforce [housing discrimination](#) and [consumer protection](#) laws as the Federal government withdraws from the field. And I have introduced the [“MEGA Corporations Act,”](#) which would recover for New York State hundreds of millions of dollars currently being lost to tax avoidance by large multinationals — money that could be used to make up for Federal funds that Trump is poised to slash.

I would not be being forthright if I did not acknowledge that State action can only go so far in mitigating the actions of a federal regime that controls both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court. But I am committed to doing everything that I can. Let us all keep up the fight.



## Green Bills in Albany

Katie Hanner

New York State is suffering from a solid waste crisis. Our municipal governments spend an estimated \$400 million per year on curbside recycling, while NYC alone spends nearly \$500 million a year just to send trash to landfills and incinerators. Meanwhile less than 20% of NY State’s waste ends up being recycled while many landfills are nearing capacity.

Plastic production continues to grow, with 33 billion pounds of plastic pollution entering the ocean each year worldwide. Plastic waste persists in the

environment, harming wildlife and breaking down into microplastics that disrupt the food chain and enter human bodies. Microplastics have been found in the air, drinking water, human blood, lungs, and placentas.



What can we do about it? There are two important bills currently before the NY legislature that would reduce trash, especially plastic trash. They are:

- The New York Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S1464/A1749)
- Better Bottle Bill (S5684)

**Under the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act**, companies would be required to reduce plastic packaging by 30% gradually over the next 12 years. The bill also prohibits 17 toxic chemicals known to harm humans and the environment, including PFAS, vinyl chloride, and lead, from being used. The Act would require companies to pay a modest fee for the disposal of the packaging they create. This would not only save tax dollars but also help fund long term solutions by providing grants to refill and reuse projects.

**The Better Bottle Bill** would increase the deposit rate from 5 to 10 cents (it has not been raised since 1982!) and would expand the types of bottles subject to the law, including sports drinks and flavored water. Deposits on wine and liquor would be phased in later. Michigan and Oregon have already increased bottle deposits to 10 cents, leading to an immediate increase of almost 90% in recycling redemption rates.

Both bills have the support of Assemblymember Micah Lasher and State Senator Cordell Cleare. Let’s thank them for their support and ask what we

can do to move them through legislature, so they become law. Let's start reducing our trash now!



## Stop Cuts to Medicaid and Medicare!

March 15, 11 am - 1 pm

Foley Square

Meet at 110th St. downtown 1 train at 10:30 am

Republicans have proposed devastating proposals to cut **\$2 Trillion** in Medicare, Medicaid, housing, food assistance and other vital programs to fund a massive tax giveaway to the wealthy and corporations. Tell Congress and the billionaires to stop the cuts. Bring a sign!

Endorsed by: **Broadway Democrats**; 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers; East Citizen Action of New York; Communications Workers of America District 1; Indivisible OneNYS; Invest in Our New York; Make the Road; Communities for Change; New York State Nurses Association Professional Staff Congress/CUNY AFT Local #2334; Public Employees Federation SEIU 32BJ; Strong Economy for All; United Auto Workers, Region 9A; Working Families Party Women's March.



## Consequences of Cuts to Healthcare

Richard A. Siegel, LCSW-R, HEC-C

There has been a lot of talk about “reforming healthcare.” The budget proposals call for significant reductions to federal support for healthcare—specifically Medicaid and the insurance subsidies provided by the Affordable Care Act. Here are some examples of the cuts and the potential impacts.

Of note, in 2010, 16% of US citizens and Green Card holders did not have any health insurance. **In 2023, thanks to the ACA and Medicaid expansion, that number fell to 7%.**

### Key Proposed Cuts to Medicaid

- **Adding a work requirement to remain on Medicaid.** The majority of folks covered by Medicaid are already working or have a disability or childcare responsibilities. Currently, only the state of Georgia has a requirement (80 hours per month). Other states' attempts to impose this have been blocked in courts. This would **cut people from the rolls.**

It targets single men. But moms or single parents who can't afford childcare could also be affected. These “work-for-benefits-rule” have not been

effective when it comes to Welfare (TANF) or other entitlements. It simply implies that many people are the ‘undeserving poor’ who need to stop being lazy. The consequence will be that fewer people and families will have healthcare coverage.

- **Eliminating federal support for the Medicaid expansion** (from 100% to 138% of the federal poverty level). All but ten states expanded Medicaid coverage. This expansion enabled working individuals and families now have access to healthcare.

**The Federal government currently pays 90% of that cost** (up from the usual 50% share of Medicaid costs). Cutting those federal dollars will most likely create more uninsured adults and families, as the states cannot make up that loss. These cuts will have a big impact on individuals with disabilities. (Of note, **20 million people got coverage from this expansion and the ACA subsidies**). The folks that will lose coverage are the working poor—families that earn just enough money to be over the federal poverty line. One would think that the government would want to support those who are trying to support themselves.

In addition, most analysts believe another consequence of either or both of these proposals will be that hospitals, especially in rural areas, will close. They will still have to treat people when they get sick—but will not get paid for care delivered.

### Major Cuts to the ACA

A likely scenario is that Congress will allow the ACA premium subsidy increases—initially in the American rescue Plan and extended by the Inflation Reduction Act off 2022—to expire in this year. The AARP said this best,

*The American Rescue Plan, enacted in 2021, enhanced premium subsidies for ACA plans, but that additional assistance was scheduled to go away at the end of 2022. Had the ACA subsidy improvements not been in place in 2022, the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that in the 33 states that use the ACA's federal Health Insurance Marketplace, premiums enrollees paid would have been 53 percent higher. The foundation also predicted that more than 3 million Americans could lose their health coverage if the subsidy support wasn't extended because they couldn't afford the premiums. The new law will extend this subsidy support through 2025.*

Again: fewer people will be able to afford care. When they get sick, providers and hospitals will not

get paid for treating them. Providers will go out of business and hospitals will close.

For everyone, these cuts will probably mean that the cost of ALL insurance will go up. There will likely be an expansion of deductibles and co-pays. As you know, Insurance companies want to maintain their profits. A simple way is to increase the deductibles and increase co-pays for visits. People will either pay more out of pocket or avoid some care.

We need members of Congress to stop these cuts. Please call or write elected officials—particularly Republicans—and urge them to vote against any bill that cuts healthcare coverage.



## Poetry Corner

Peter Flom

A Poem for Elon

Divorced three times with 14 kids,  
His Tesla stock is on the skids.  
All his spaceships just explode,  
His Swastikars he can't unload.  
What else is the DOGE-bag doing?  
It's not just all his wives he's screwing.



# Broadway Democrats

## SAVE-THE-DATE!

## 2025 SPRING FLING

Sunday, April 27th  
3:00pm to 6:00pm

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

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

## March 2025

FIRST  
CLASS

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

Assemblymember: Micah Lasher  
District Leaders:  
    Curtis Arluck,  
    Paula Diamond Román  
President: Mary Peppito  
Newsletter Editor: Pat Almonrode

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED