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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Heather Ducharme ◆

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## **May General Meeting: All Aboard!**

### **Mass Transit: Coming Back From COVID**

a conversation with **Andrew Albert**  
*Chairman, NYC Transit Riders Council and  
Member of the MTA Board.*

Is it safe to travel in the current COVID environment?  
How much did ridership drop? How much is back?  
What are future plans for service expansion and improvement?  
Will the fare be increased? Will affordable fares be available?  
What is OMNY, and how will it affect fare collection and pricing?

*online, via Zoom*

## **Thursday, May 20**

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp!  
*registration information to come*

Submit **your** questions for Mr. Albert to  
[bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com)

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## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### Ranked Choice Voting: Before, During and After the Stringer Mess

Originally, I had planned to write a column about how we needed to vote strategically with our second through fifth place votes in the new Ranked Choice Voting system. Now, we have to be very strategic about our first place votes as well.

I am very unhappy with the way that Scott Stringer's accuser has presented herself, and even more unhappy with the way that the press has completely abandoned its investigative role. Two of the accuser's actions deserve condemnation more than praise. First, flanked by a lawyer who has nothing to do with the electoral process, she made accusations about an event that allegedly occurred almost 20 years ago, and then refused to answer any questions about it. Second, she called on Stringer to leave the race. By this logic, any political opponent could get their way simply by opening their mouth, and then shutting it again when the questions became inconvenient. Every accused person has a right to defend him or herself, every accuser must be ready to have his or her story scrutinized. The press seems to have forgotten this.

Nevertheless, our primary responsibility, as Democrats, activists, and progressives, is to get the best possible Democratic candidate and, shortly thereafter, Mayor. Though it is at least a strong possibility that Scott Stringer is not being treated fairly, the future of our City is more important than what happens to any one individual. This is especially true if you believe, as I do, that two of the eight major Democratic candidates, who also happen to be the two front runners, are significantly worse than the other six. (Though it needs to be said that these two, Andrew Yang and Eric Adams, are far, far superior to Donald Trump and his avatar, the likely Republican nominee, Curtis Sliwa.)

Until the events of last week, this column was going to be about how we should use our later ranked choices to decide between Yang and

Adams, rather than to simply vote our preferences. So, for example, after voting for, say, Stringer, Garcia and Wiley first through third, instead of then voting for Morales and Donovan fourth and fifth, because we preferred them to Adams and Yang, we should figure out which of Adams and Yang we like best, or dislike least, and vote for that candidate in a later ranked choice. Nothing is certain in life, but it seems much more likely that in the later rounds, after the other candidates are dropped, Yang and Adams will still be alive, and Morales and Donovan won't be. So why vote for them out of sentiment when you can really influence who our next Mayor will be? At this point I prefer Yang to Adams, because I think he would be much better on issues relating to our community such as overdevelopment, but that's a subject for another column, and is also subject to change. But whoever you prefer, this may well be the most important choice you make.

Now, alas, we face an even more important decision, who to vote for first, and to a lesser extent, second and third. Assuming that Adams and Yang are still the front runners, we must figure out who among the others is most likely to get enough first place votes to dislodge one of them from the top two positions. In my case, my top three preferences, Stringer, Garcia and Wiley, in that order, were also the three generally perceived as having the best chance of finishing ahead of Adams or Yang, though the conventional wisdom was that Wiley had a better chance than Garcia to make the final two. Now, with Stringer badly weakened, no matter how unfairly, it is really unclear what we should do.

And here's where it gets really difficult: the first place vote in this New World is *much* harder to figure out than is the Adams/Yang down ballot decision. With that, it is virtually certain that if we get to fourth or fifth place votes, it will come down to Adams vs. Yang, our favorites having been eliminated. With the first place votes for a candidate who winds up being eliminated, since a significant number, perhaps a majority of them, are not going to wind up going to the candidate who is one's second choice, it is really important that we not cast a first place vote for a candidate who winds up being weak.

For example, let's say we cast a first place vote for Stringer who then (through little fault of his own), winds up a distant sixth. And let's say that Wiley—it could also be Garcia—was our second choice. This could mean that Wiley would then get just a few fewer first place votes than Adams or Yang, and then not pick up enough from dropped candidates to overcome the gap on later ballots. Banking the most first place votes is still by far the best recipe for success. So we should vote for the strongest first place candidate. *But who is that candidate?*

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## President's Corner

Heather Ducharme

Members and friends,

Happy May! I'm very excited to experience the warmer weather over these past few weeks and am looking forward to taking in the sunshine after a long winter.

About one-third of New Yorkers have been vaccinated, and for the first time, it feels as if I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I've received my first dose and am getting my second this Friday, and I encourage you to schedule your vaccination if you haven't yet. Find more information at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines.page>.

Due to the Mayoral Debate that will be held next Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 pm, we will be having our forum on Thursday, May 20th instead. This forum will focus on transportation and infrastructure in New York City, and I hope you are able to attend. I also hope you can attend some of our other upcoming events including our Go Blue Committee's activities as well as our book club. There are articles included in the newsletter with more information on those events.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at [president@broadwaydemocrats.org](mailto:president@broadwaydemocrats.org) to learn more about the club or to join us!

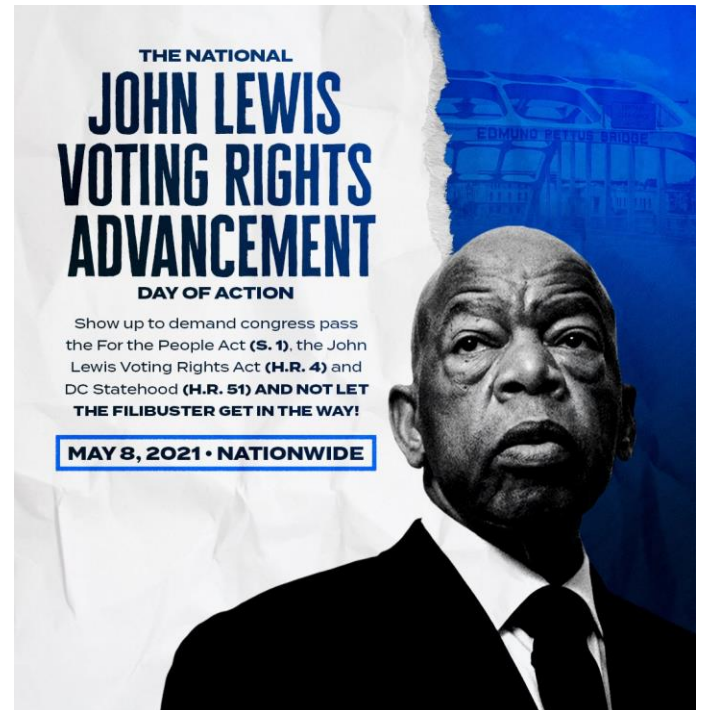
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**Disclaimer:** unless otherwise indicated, items herein reflect the views of their authors only. They are published as a part of our club's commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas on topics of interest, but their publication should not be construed as an endorsement by the editor, the Steering Committee, or the Broadway Democrats club.

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## National John Lewis Day of Action – This Saturday, May 8

Meika Mustrangi



This coming Saturday, May 8, people across the country will be demonstrating and showing support for the For the People Act (S1), John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR4), DC statehood (HR51), and reforming the filibuster.

Here in NYC the event will start at 2pm in front of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Bldg. on 163 West 125th St., New York, NY 10027. From there we will walk south to the Frederick Douglass Sculpture on the circle at 110th St. and Frederick Douglass Blvd./Central Park West.

If you're ready to get together to march, join us! Let's put pressure on the Senate to do their work and secure everyone's right to vote. Bring your sign!

Sign up here to get up-to-the-minute information:

<https://www.mobilize.us/publiccitizen/event/385554/>

If you can't join the march, there will also be virtual events. You can find out more here: <https://www.johnlewisdayofaction.org>

Our group is meeting at 1:30 pm at the 96th St./Broadway subway station to take the subway together to 125th St./Malcolm X Blvd. station. We'd love to see you there!



**We want to hear what *you* have to say!**  
Please email submissions to  
bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com (in MS Word format if  
possible, please).

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



## May Book Club Meeting

Heather Ducharme

For May we'll be reading *Where the Past Begins* by Amy Tan. In this memoir, Amy Tan explores her traumatic childhood and how it has impacted her fiction writing.

Our meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:00 pm, and a link will be sent out through the listserv and posted on our Facebook Group "Broadway Democrats." Please email Heather Ducharme at [heatherducharme15@gmail.com](mailto:heatherducharme15@gmail.com) if you're interested in hearing more about the book club. All are welcome!



## From the Membership Committee

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor. Encourage them to join The Broadway Democrats. There is an important election here in New York City this fall and we will be gearing up for the Federal mid-term elections in the fall of 2022.

An active electorate informs and encourages thoughtful voting. Voter participation is crucial to the health of our democracy. Join us!

## From the Campaign of Candidate Dan Cohen for City Council

You can help Broadway Dems-endorsed City Council candidate Dan Cohen! Join phone banks or take part in street canvassing to reach out to voters in the 7th Council District. Here is a list of upcoming events.

### Thursday, May 6

**9:00 - 11:00 am:** street campaigning at 114th St. and B'way greenmarket

**5:00 - 7:00 pm:** phone banking

### Friday, May 7

**9:00 - 11:00 am:** street campaigning at 97th St. and Amsterdam Ave. greenmarket

### Saturday, May 8

**9:00 - 11:00 am:** street campaigning at 110th St. and Manhattan Ave. greenmarket

**3:00 - 5:00 pm:** street campaigning location TBD

### Sunday, May 9

**9:00 - 11:00 am:** street campaigning at 114th St. and B'way greenmarket

### Sign up for phonebanking:

<https://tinyurl.com/DanCohenPhonebank>

**For more information:** email field director Chloe Armstrong at [Chloe@Cohen2021.com](mailto:Chloe@Cohen2021.com)



**Did you know:** Mayor de Blasio has announced that the City will restart the Curbside Composting Program, which had been put on hold due to the budgetary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program will once again be available to the 3.5 million New Yorkers who previously had curbside collection service, with buildings and residents able to voluntarily opt-in to receive free weekly curbside composting pick-up.

Enrollment begins in August, with collection set to begin in October and expand as more buildings opt in. School Curbside Composting service will also return in the 2021-22 school year, and nearly 1,000 schools that had service prior to the pandemic will resume curbside composting.

Also, SAFE Disposal Events, which collect Solvents, Automotive, Flammables, and Electronics products as well as other regulated waste, will expand from two per borough each year – a total of 10 – to nearly 60 per year, one for each community

district. This six-fold expansion means fewer dangerous chemicals and products on our streets, in our waterways, or in landfills.



# Register Democrats – Save the World

Join **Go Blue** (a committee of the Broadway Democrats) for a postcard-writing Zoom! We're working with Field Team 6, a grassroots organization that focuses on registering likely Democratic voters in districts whose representatives supported overturning the Biden/Harris election victory. **Let's flip those seats blue!** We'll be mailing these beautiful postcards (designed by Shepard Fairey, who created the Obama HOPE artwork) to **Colorado**.



**Online Sunday, May 16 at Noon**

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/May16GoBlue>

We provide postcards, script, addresses and stamps (*first come, first serve*).  
You provide pens and colorful markers!

**Donations to defray some of the costs are welcome!**

*Please note that we're a group of volunteers and are able to deliver to addresses above 96th and below 116<sup>th</sup>, between Riverside Drive and Amsterdam.  
If you live outside that area, packages can be available for pick up.*

Questions? Please email [lauradmandel@gmail.com](mailto:lauradmandel@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 – May 2021

FIRST  
CLASS

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED