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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Pat Almonrode◆

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## Happy Holidays!



**Please join us for the annual  
Broadway Democrats' Winter  
Holiday Party**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016 2-5 p.m.**

**At The Martins' Home  
390 Riverside Drive Apt. 12D  
(Entrance on 111<sup>th</sup> Street)**

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Volume 41, Issue 9

December 2016

## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Still too heartbroken to write a *What Went Wrong?* column, I will instead Look Ahead, in hope, rather than Looking Back, in anger.

### March on Inauguration Weekend

While I'm sometimes dubious about generalized marches, the takeover of our government by authoritarian forces is the exception: on January 20, the extremely successful Obama Administration is going to turn over the reins of government to a group that is not merely conservative, but believes that citizens must sacrifice at least some of their liberties to a strong Leader who will make everything good. There were elements of this thinking in the Nixon, Reagan and George W. Bush administrations, but nothing like we have already seen with Donald Trump. Reagan, Bush and (usually) Nixon were at least men of modest demeanors. So whether it's On Washington, as part of the Million Women or other marches, or here in New York, where other plans are crystallizing, we must all come out to show that we are not going to allow our neighbors to be deported, our health care destroyed, our liberty and our pride in what kind of people we are to be shattered. Broadway Democrats is planning to run a bus to Washington either ourselves or in concert with others, and to keep all of us informed of these and other activities. Watch your e-mail box and our Facebook page!

### More Elections In 2017

And I don't just mean the regular municipal elections, where Letitia James, Scott Stringer, Gale Brewer, Mark Levine and Helen Rosenthal are unlikely to face serious opposition, and no major contender against Mayor DeBlasio has yet emerged. A domino effect in Central Harlem may cause at least some area voters to trudge to the polls two more times next year. 9<sup>th</sup> District City Council Member Inez Dickens was just elected to the NY State Assembly from the 70<sup>th</sup> AD, the seat just vacated by Keith Wright, who did not seek reelection. She will resign her Council seat at the end of this month, which under the NYC Charter means there must be a special election within 45 days, or by around Valentine's Day. ("This year, don't give Valentine Cards, give Palm Cards.") This election will be "nonpartisan", meaning that the usual parties—Democrat, Republican, etc.—will not nominate candidates, but candidates will petition under their own made-up party labels: Good Government, Kardashian, or whatever. (How this charade is supposed to be more "democratic", or less influenced by outside

money, than a regular election is a topic for another time.)

Since only one 9<sup>th</sup> CD election district (covering the Towers on the Park building on the north side of Frederick Douglass Circle) is in the official Broadway Democrats area, we won't endorse in this race. But since the leading (of 17 or so total) contenders is State Senator Bill Perkins, if he is elected that will mean another special election for State Senate, involving the two thirds or so of our area that Bill now represents. This special election would be called by Governor Cuomo, who could either call a special general election for some day in April or May, which would mean that the Democratic County Committee for the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District (of which we have about 42 members) would pick the Democratic nominee, or he could schedule the State Senate election for the regular November 7 general election, which would mean the September Democratic (Mayoral etc.) primary would pick the Democratic Senate nominee. Good government—giving our district a voice in this year's state budget negotiations, or saving money—one less election—what will the Governor decide? I think I know.



## From the Steering Committee

Joe Paradise

### BEGINNING TO REFLECT

(This article was almost entirely written on Black Wednesday, the day after the day that will live in infamy.)

Donald J. Trump is President Elect of the United States of America.

There's shock, disbelief, fear and sadness in much of the country today. I've seen people actually crying in the subway. Hillary Clinton must be miserable. It's terrible that we have not elected our first woman president. All liberals and progressives have been hit hard in the solar plexus, the wind knocked out of them. Barack Obama's legacy is in probable shambles. The leading articulator of his illegitimacy as president is now the president.

What have we learned? We've learned that white working class people want to say that they, too, live in America. They exist, they are struggling, they try to do the right thing and they are never listened to by Washington or the establishment elites of either party.

They are talked down to, they are treated with condescension, they are called "deplorables" they are called racists and bigots and xenophobes and misogynistic and sexist and they don't like it. They really don't like it.

First of all, they're not racists. Whole counties of white working class Americans overwhelmingly supported Barack Obama in 2008 in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and New Hampshire and Pennsylvania They supported him in 2012 but less so. The problem was that people's lives were not getting better. Obama did some very good things, but he did not deliver on the change he promised in large part because of Mitch McConnell and the Republican Party. The selection of his cabinet indicated a favoritism to Wall Street interests. The most remarkable and ignored of all the WikiLeaks emails is the one of the chief executive of City Bank to Obama a month before the election suggesting all of the people who should be in his administration and in what posts. It was exactly who Obama selected.

Obama put Wall Street insiders in charge of the Wall Street bailout. The nation saw billions of dollars going to bail out huge companies that had behaved recklessly and perpetrated fraud which resulted in nine million families losing their homes. There was no one there to help these people at that time. No one was held responsible. No one was prosecuted. And small struggling businesses that had existed for 20 to 30 years could not get any loans at all.

They spoke last night. They spoke the only way they could; at the ballot box. They spoke from their deep pain and from their anger. They are "the forgotten people". Trump spoke to them. Trump, the con man, recognized their misery. The democrats did not. On the left, only Bernie Sanders spoke to them and they responded en masse. Of course, he should have been our candidate. Elizabeth Warren is presently the only democrat of note who can make strong connections to working class whites.

Clinton, despite all of her extraordinary gifts, was absolutely the wrong candidate at this time. She was the quintessential Washington insider. She was carrying the baggage of Bill Clinton. She couldn't attack programs like NAFTA which ruined American lives when her husband signed it and she had previously cheered for it. She had to overcome the problem of President Obama supporting the TTP. The Republicans outflanked us on trade, jobs, Wall Street, and corporate greed and we can never ever let that happen again.

The Democratic Party made it quite clear in this election that we were the party of big money, of Wall Street, of Hollywood, of multi-national corporations, of the Democratic and Republican establishments, of hawkish neo-conservatives, of the mainstream media and press, of blacks, of Hispanics, of feminists, of gays, of undocumented immigrants, of the college educated, but not the party of working class whites.

Clinton's shenanigans, her lies to the American people regarding her emails which was well documented by the Fox network, her using her leverage as Secretary of State to make millions of dollars for her husband and their foundation, her leveraging her obvious coming candidacy for the White House to receive 21.6 million dollars in speaking fees, mostly from firms like Goldman Sachs, her refusal to reveal the transcripts of these speeches, the never ending stories of US deals with Russia, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Bahrain, Ukraine, coupled with donations to the Clinton Foundation and speaking fees for Bill Clinton, was too much for the American people to deal with.

She is responsible for her own image of untrustworthiness. She told the American people she had one server. The FBI said she had 13. She said that she had never sent out any material marked classified at that time. The FBI said she had sent out or received 110 classified emails, marked so at the time. And it goes on and on.

The collusion of our corporate media and the Clinton campaign has also exasperated the voters so that Trump's calls on a corrupt media fell upon welcoming ears. Our media has been disingenuous. A commentator on CNN last night decried the interference of Russia on this election. It's laughable. That was a spin plan to deflect attention from the content of the Wikileaks emails. Julian Assange says that Russia was not the source and I believe him. Wikileaks has published 10 million emails in ten years regarding governments and corporations all over the world and have not once released any false content. When Hillary Clinton said that seventeen U.S. intelligence agencies agreed that Russia was interfering in our election, that was a blatant lie left unchallenged by the corporate media. Not one intelligence agency has publicly stated this.

This devastation that lies before us is frightening. One thinks back to the Civil War or the Great Depression and how fearful Americans must have been then to equate to what we fear now. Senator Charles Schumer, who is not a progressive, now becomes the most important defender of the progressive cause and of civil liberties in America. We must give him all of our support. I know that he will do what he can to defend our democratic institutions and, if need be, our Constitution itself.

## 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  
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New York, NY 10025

FIRST  
CLASS

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Broadway Democrats Annual Holiday Party**  
**Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**      **2:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Directions inside newsletter**