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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Noah Kaufman ◆

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## **Climate Change and the Green New Deal**



Just what *is* the Green New Deal? What other legislation – on the national, state, and city levels – is being put forward to fight climate change? And what can we as individuals do to help in this existential battle?

*A discussion with Special Guest*

**Mark Dunlea**

*Veteran climate activist,  
founder and chair of the Green Education and Legal Fund*

**Thursday, February 14th**

Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp with important club business –  
*see inside this edition*

**Bank Street College**

**610 W. 112<sup>th</sup> Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)**

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## February Club Meeting

### Club Endorsements

At our meeting on February 14 we'll be endorsing candidates for District Leaders for the 69th Assembly District, Part C (1 female, 1 male), and for Delegates (6) and Alternates (6) to the Judicial Convention. We'll also call for nominations for County Committee Members.

**February 14, 8:00 pm, at Bank Street.  
Voting will be at 8:00 sharp; please be prompt.**

In order to vote, you must be an enrolled Democrat registered to vote from an address in the Club's catchment area; you must be a dues-paid member of the Club; and you must have signed in for at least one of the previous nine Club meetings.

Voting is by "instant runoff":

- Each voting member will be entitled to cast one ballot, which will list the candidates known to be running for each office, as well as a "no endorsement" option.
- If there are only two candidates running for an office, the candidate with a majority of votes shall receive the Club's endorsement. If there are more than two candidates for an office, each voter shall rank no more than three choices (including "no endorsement").
- A count of first-place votes shall then be conducted, and any candidate who receives a majority of the votes will be endorsed; otherwise, the candidate who (other than "no endorsement") has the fewest total votes shall be eliminated from further counts, and his/her votes shall be redistributed on each ballot to that voter's next choice. Where no further choices are indicated on a ballot, that vote shall be redistributed to "no endorsement."
- Any candidate who receives a majority of votes as a result of such redistribution(s) will be endorsed. If "no endorsement" receives a majority of the votes, the Club will make no endorsement.

### Forum: Climate Change and the Green New Deal

Once we finish with Club business we'll be joined by Mark Dunlea, a lawyer, climate activist, and founding chairperson of the Green Education and Legal Fund (GELF), who'll give a presentation on legislative initiatives to combat climate change.

Mark's presentation could hardly be more timely. At this writing, new legislation has been or will be introduced on the national, state, and City levels, including a Green New Deal for New York State. Both Congress and the State Senate are holding hearings, including a NYS Senate hearing in the City *on the very day of our forum*:

**Thursday, Feb. 14, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, 250  
Broadway (across from City Hall Park).**

**To sign up to testify, send an email to  
encon@nysenate.gov.**

Mark will help us make sense of the various proposals, so we can each decide what we want our representatives to do. Mark has long been a strong voice in statewide campaigns to convert to 100% clean energy by 2030, create a state carbon tax, and divest the state pension funds from fossil fuels. He's a member of Common Farms, an intentional community in Poestenkill where he and his wife built their own passive-solar home in 1985.

Come to our Valentine's Day forum, and show some love to Mother Earth!



**Climate Fact: 2018 was the  
fourth hottest year recorded (avg.  
surface temp.). The three hotter  
years were 2017, 2016, & 2015.**



## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### 40 Years

That's how long I will have been Broadway Democrats' and our community's (Male) Democratic District Leader come September. When I started out, I was in my 20's, and our founding leaders, State Senator Franz Leichter and Assemblyman Ed Sullivan, were in their 40's, as was Congressman Charlie Rangel. Franz, Ed and Charlie have retired from office, but they're as active and as progressive and as determined as ever, still speaking out for justice and against injustice-- and this year staunchly supporting, as am I, Danny O'Donnell for Public Advocate.

When I was first elected, the great Ted Weiss and Charlie Rangel were our Congress Members, and the great Ruth Messinger, still an important voice, was our City Council Member. President Jimmy Carter was nearing the end of his political life; Assemblyman Jerry Nadler was still near the beginning of his. They, too, are still with us, still speaking out, with great intellectual and moral clarity. Jimmy was the last President to so avowedly use his religion to try to do good; Jerry may soon be helping to decide the fate of a President who so disgustingly uses religion to do evil.

We had 16 years of great Democratic Presidents. Barack Obama's brilliance and voice and achievements are still fresh in our minds, but let us not let the recent troubles make us forget the economic recovery during Bill Clinton's years—which began right after he raised taxes on the wealthy—or the fact that he was the best since Roosevelt in explaining to Americans who were working or in need of work what government should do, can do, and is doing for us.

My last two terms have been full of the outrage and despair of the Trump Presidency, and similar defeats throughout the world. But look what happened last year! Look at all those new and diverse Democrats in Congress! Look at the overthrow of the IDC and then the Republicans in the New York State Senate, and the Ten Days (well, more like three weeks) That Shook the World once the Democrats took power in Albany! And think, admittedly through the provincial eyes of a New Yorker, of the three victorious women who together embody just about everything that today's Democratic Party is, and stands for: Nancy Pelosi, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

I have been honored to be a part of all this. 40 more years is perhaps a bit of a stretch, but I would love to begin my "second half" with your endorsement this Valentine's Day.



## President's Column

Noah Kaufman

Dear Broadway Democrats,

Greetings of the New Year! If you did not attend the previous meeting, you missed our Club's endorsement vote for Public Advocate. We voted **unanimously** to support Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell (NY 69<sup>th</sup> District) for that important Citywide position.

Danny O'Donnell, who is running on the "Equality for All" line, is the right person for the job. I know several of the other candidates on the ballot for this first-ever Citywide Special Election are well-meaning and capable, but it is Danny O'Donnell who best fits all the requirements of the job.

I hope you will share this endorsement in all your circles across the City. The Special Election is Tuesday, February 26th, and the polls will be open all day. Everyone's vote counts; please cast yours for Danny O'Donnell.

In other meeting news, we held club elections! I am pleased that you have returned me to the office of Club President for one more year. I appreciate your support. I am equally pleased that the Club has reelected Amy Porter as our Vice President. The Club Officers are ably complemented by the election of Luis Román as Club Treasurer (after a 6 year sabbatical), and Shelby Drescher as Club Secretary. We thank the effort, attention and enthusiasm of both our "term-limited" past officers, Treasurer Katie Hanner and Secretary Barbara Trelstad.

The entire Steering Committee acknowledges, with thanks and appreciation, the efforts and contributions of out-going members Norm Levine, Willie Mae Anderson, and Pat Almonrode, and we welcome our newly elected member Alexandra Wood.

The work of the Steering Committee is constant. We have met and considered various "planks" that will help build our Broadway Democrats "platform." From each Electoral District and polling place here on the northwest corner of Central Park, on all sides of Morningside Heights, and up the mighty Hudson River to our State House and the

Governor's Mansion in Albany, we have a **commitment** to build a strong Democratic Party that will make our Empire State a first among the 50 proud States.

Our commitment to the children of our community and our planet means we must support a clean environment and a strong sound education. Our commitment to justice means we must always support community policing reforms and improvements, as well as opportunities for legal representation and appropriate bail conditions, to ensure an effective and efficient court system. Our commitment to accessible and affordable housing and strong communities means we must push an agenda that protects all New York tenants and continues to increase the supply of all housing. New housing must not just be "starter homes for millionaires."

City planners are happy to have the problems that occur when "everyone wants to live downtown." New York City is a dynamic, intense exercise in how 8 or 8.5 million people live together. Our city and our region need good jobs, clean air, affordable health care and city services for all. Let us do our part to guide and support policies that keep all Knickerbockers moving forward on our Blue Wave.

The other day I was on the steps of the massive Bronx County Courthouse on the Grand Concourse. The stairs leading to that impressive building are embellished with allegorical sculpture, and each doorway is capped with an inscription. On the East Face is this quote from Edmond Burke:

*Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants. Men have a right that these wants should be provided for by this wisdom.*

Burke's essay was a discussion of the overreaches of revolution. But this quote suggests that we establish, as noted by Lincoln, a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." It doesn't happen by itself.

See you all February 14!



**Disclaimer:** 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.

## The Urgency of Now

Joe Nunley

According to the recent report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United States' own National Climate Assessment, mankind is in a crisis. The scientific evidence is telling us that unless we take major action immediately, there will be irreversible damage to our planet.

We are not behaving as if we are in a crisis. Maybe this is the nature of human beings. It's certainly the nature of our own history. The US was hugely isolationist in 1939 when war erupted in Europe and the nation wanted no part of that. Even as late as June 1941 the House voted by a razor thin margin, 203-202, to extend the peacetime draft (thanks specifically to Speaker Sam Rayburn). If that bill had not passed, we would have been tragically unprepared for World War II.

Do we need a Pearl Harbor to mobilize our nation against this current crisis? Do we need thousands to die in a storm or a fire? Three million people died from air pollution in the world last year. If they had died on a battlefield our public would of course have a different response. Meanwhile President Trump plans to pull out of the 2015 Paris Climate Accord and instead bolster the fossil fuel industry. In 2016, after the accord was announced, there was a sharp drop in bank financing of extreme fossil fuel projects (those that contribute most significantly to global emissions). In 2017, however, bank holdings in extreme fossil fuels skyrocketed to \$115 billion during Trump's first year in office.

In 2017 our club's own bank, JPMorgan Chase, passed the Chinese banks to become the bank with the biggest holdings in extreme fossil fuels. It increased its coal funding by a factor of 21 and quadrupled its tar sands assets. In protest, by unanimous consensus of the Steering Committee, the Broadway Democrats has moved its modest funds to a new bank.

Last August the DNC issued a statement saying that it would welcome contributions from the fossil fuel industry. This is disgraceful and shows that despite some significant reforms, the DNC is still filled with corporate lobbyists. I hope that the club can pass a resolution on February 14 reflecting our displeasure over this.

Newly elected representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and others have called for a Green New Deal; that's a decent analogy but what's really needed is a Green World War. The stakes are as

high as they can get – reversing the human-caused destruction of all living things on our planet. This is what our February 14 forum is about and I hope that you'll be there.



## The “Circular Economy” and Climate Change

Katie Hanner

When most people think about ways to reduce greenhouse gases, they envision replacing coal fueled power plants, overheated oil and gas heated buildings with solar and wind power plants and heating systems, and inefficient SUVs with electric cars, mass transit and maybe bicycles. While alternative energy is crucial to the reduction of greenhouse gases, we also must think about the impact our “disposable” economy has on our environment.

Although renewable energy and energy efficiency play key roles in ameliorating climate change, so too does material efficiency. That Starbucks coffee cup tossed into the garbage each day, or the new iPhone bought every year or two are just two examples of inefficient and unsustainable ways of using our natural resources. Indeed, a recent study by the Amsterdam-based not-for-profit Circle Economy estimates that 62 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions (excluding those from land use and forestry) are released during the extraction, processing and manufacturing of goods.

We need to move to a circular economy in which the producers and sellers of products end up being responsible for their reuse and recycling (aka Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR). The positive news is that maintaining and repairing (rather than tossing out) consumer goods as well as recycling and re-manufacturing is generally more labor-intensive than most mining or manufacturing; so a circular economy could create new jobs as well as clean our air and water and restore our climate. Changing how we produce and consume will not be easy, but the time for EPR is now.

And while we're on the subject of EPR, there is some good news from Albany. In case you missed it, last July New York State enacted (yes, even before the new State Senate was seated!) the Drug Take Back Act. Under this law, pharmacies with ten or more U.S. locations are required to provide drug collection sites for consumers who want to return unused pharmaceuticals, thus keeping them out of landfills and our waters. While full implementation of the program, which will be overseen by the NY State

Department of Health, will not take effect till mid-2019, some stores have already begun to accept drop-offs. The nearest ones in our area are the Duane Reades at Columbus and 97th, and at 94th and Broadway. For a full map of sites, go to: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/ekmz/index.html?url=http://www.dec.ny.gov/maps/gmnysmeddropbox.kmz>.

If you're interested in reducing methane gas in our landfills, **please note that the program is accepting applications from multifamily buildings in Manhattan** (despite a rather confusing article in the *NY Times* some months ago about DSNY's decision to temporarily halt expansion of organics collections). Indeed, to make this program efficient, more buildings need to enroll! For more about how the program works, check out the DSNY website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/service/2165/organics-collection-program>.

For more tips on how to get your neighbors to join the organics collection program or to do a better job of recycling, download these free guides from the website of the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board: <http://www.manhattanswab.org/residential-recycling-reuse-guides/>

These are some small ways we can all help protect our environment – and more importantly, start to get people thinking and recognizing that a lot more work needs to be done.



## Danny O'Donnell for Public Advocate Special Election Tuesday, Feb. 26



To volunteer, drop by Campaign HQ (Bdwy / 103rd) or email [jennashapiro1@gmail.com](mailto:jennashapiro1@gmail.com)

## Broadway Democrats – Upcoming Events

Endorsements and Forum: "Climate Change and the Green New Deal"	Thurs., February 14 Bank Street, 8:00 pm
Special Election for NYC Public Advocate polls open 6:00 am to 9:00 pm	Tues., February 26
Petitioning for June Primary begins please email <a href="mailto:districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org">districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org</a> if you're able to staff a table	Tues., February 26
Manhattan Valley Town Hall	Thurs., March 14 8:00 pm (location TBD)

# The Broadway Democrats Newsletter – February 2019

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

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

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