



January 2015

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



• **Jenifer**

Rajkumar

READY FOR

Hillary

★ 2 0 1 6 ★

• Executive Committee Election

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 8:00 P.M.

Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street, 718-720-4442



Editorial Policy

Items for publication must be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: cmxbauer@yahoo.com.

Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.

Chris Bauer, Editor
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"I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical."

- Thomas Jefferson
1787

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President | Tom Shcherbenko | Member at-Large | Roy Moskowitz |
| Vice President | Joann Olbrich | Ex Officio | Michelle Akyempong |
| Executive Secretary | Mark Herman | Ex Officio | Dennis Brown |
| Corresponding & Recording Secretary | Marie Dwyer | Ex Officio | Gary Carsel |
| Treasurer | Bonita Rothman | Ex Officio | Paul Cinquemani |
| Social Secretary | Liz Price | Ex Officio | Belinda Dixon |
| Member at-Large | Carl Chew | Ex Officio | Rosemarie Mangano |
| Member at-Large | Susan Chew | Ex Officio | John Mastellone |
| Member at-Large | Bobby Digi | Ex Officio | Richard McMahan |
| Member at-Large | Mary Kain | Ex Officio | John Sollazzo |

Executive Committee Election Ballot Closing Times

At our January 20 Annual Meeting we will be electing our Executive Committee. Because there is a contested race for an officer position, and, per the S.I.D.A. Constitution, candidates for officer positions who lose have the option of being put on the ballot for Member-at-Large, there will a two-tier election process. **Please come on time** if you want to vote in the officer elections, as that ballot will close earlier (at a time to be voted upon by the membership at the beginning of the meeting) so as to allow a second ballot for Members-at-Large.

The Executive Committee recommends that voting for President has a 9:00 p.m. cut-off time to allow time for voting of At-Large candidates. This motion passed unanimously at its January 8 meeting.

Please note that 9:00 p.m. was the time the club chose in 2013 and 2014 to close the first round of balloting.



S.I.D.A. President's Statement

January 2015

2015 is going to be a significant year for Staten Island. The Republican Party leadership's promotion of District Attorney Dan Donovan as a Congressional candidate in a Special Election has stirred up passions that can assist our annual effort to get out the vote.

Mariners Harbor activist John McBeth told Metro NY, "There's no doubt that the majority of my community will be holding Donovan responsible for his actions in any election he's in." This sentiment reaches across the bay: the same newspaper quoted Bay Ridge activist Linda Sarsour, who called a Donovan candidacy "a slap in the face to the police reform movement."

Even the right-wing National Review published a column which suggested that his candidacy could backfire: "Donovan has not provided a compelling explanation as to why or how the grand jury failed to indict. Until he does, many people, including some Republicans, will feel trepidation about voting for him.... Whether reasonable or not, the narrative will be that Republicans elected the man who gave the police a pass to kill black men. It's difficult to imagine how this will help grow the Republican tent."

Unlike the Republicans the Democratic Party has not identified any specific candidate for Congress, while speculation and confusion swirls around us. Keep these three points in mind:

- The Special Election would not include a Primary: the Democratic Party candidate will be nominated by the County Committee. Political activists should know their District Leaders and County Committee representatives – ideally, activists should be on the County Committee.
- Last year, as a result of the 2013 municipal elections there were several vacancies in the state legislature, but Governor Cuomo did not schedule any Special Elections. All vacancies were filled through the regularly scheduled elections.
- A Special Election, if held at a time earlier than the regular election in November, is estimated to cost at least \$1,000,000. Given the Governor's past practice and his efforts to be perceived as a fiscally responsible leader, there is the possibility that the Special Election could be scheduled on November 3rd.

This situation makes our political work vitally important. Rather than being an 'off year election,' we will have two important elections: Congress and District Attorney. They might even be held on the same day. In any event, our club needs to be ready and active. We should have clear expectations of the candidates for both offices, and campaign as hard as we can for both.

And we need to be vigilant. Last month, I was accused of being disingenuous because I maintained that the Mayor was correct in his assessment of police-community relations. David Jones and Councilwoman Rose are still being harassed by the Special Prosecutor. In these times we need to be strong.

On a personal note, as you know this is my last President's report. I am sincerely grateful to every club member that offered assistance, suggestions and criticisms over the past two years. We need all three to get the work done, and too often we forget how important it is to recognize criticism. Criticism is what gives us the motivation to improve, and political leaders should welcome criticism and use it to sharpen their message.

I hope that our club, often called the conscience of the Democratic Party, will continue to offer the necessary support as well as criticism to political leaders. Our club was forged in the furnace of the reform Democratic movement of the 60s and we should respect that legacy. After fifty years we are still fighting for civil rights, reproductive rights, and against war; these three causes have often put us at odds with other Democrats, but this is what makes us the Staten Island Democratic Association.

- Tom Shcherbenko



Jenifer Rajkumar, Ready for Hillary

Jenifer Rajkumar of Ready for Hillary will be a guest speaker at our January 20 Annual Meeting. She provided the following biography.



Here is Jenifer Rajkumar's story: She is the daughter of immigrants who came to the United States from India with just \$300 and a suitcase. Her parents taught her that, in America, to whom much is given, much is expected. Born and raised in New York, she has dedicated her life to social justice. She is a civil rights lawyer, as well as an elected District Leader in Lower Manhattan. When she was 28 years old, she ran against a 28 year incumbent backed by the entire political establishment for District Leader in Lower Manhattan. Winning with a resounding 70% of the vote, she was labeled a "surprise insurgent" by the New York Daily News and as a "shock" to the political establishment by the Downtown Express. Her district extends from Battery Park City to SoHo to the Lower East Side to the Financial District to North of Little Italy. In 2013, she also ran for City Council against an incumbent and received the most votes of any challenger in the 2013 election cycle at 42%.

Rajkumar was named a "Rising Star: 40 Under 40" by *City & State*. She was also awarded a 2012 "Young Woman of Achievement Award" by WIN (Women's Information Network).

Rajkumar is also a civil rights lawyer at Sanford Heisler, a national civil rights law firm that litigates landmark cases focusing on women, minorities, and other vulnerable groups experiencing discrimination in the workplace. She recently filed an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court on behalf of equality for women workers in nontraditional jobs such as firefighting and construction. She also litigates cases against corporate criminals on cases combatting corporate fraud. Jenifer spent a year as a policy fellow at the National Women's Law Center in Washington D.C., where she advocated for the healthcare of low-income families during the making of the landmark Obamacare legislation.

Rajkumar is an Advisory Council member of WIN, which aims to create the next generation of democratic women leaders. Additionally, she sat on the national board of directors of the Women's Campaign Fund, a national organization that aims to increase the number of women in elected office all across the country, at all levels of government. From 2012 to 2014, Jenifer was elected to serve as the Legal Director of the New York State Young Democrats, a state-wide organization for the next generation of democratic leaders.

Currently, Rajkumar is active at the national level as Co-Chair of the Ready for Hillary National Finance Council. She is also active locally as District Leader, and in this capacity she has established herself as a voice for small businesses, tenant's rights, worker's rights, and the preservation of public space. She is a graduate of Stanford Law School (*pro bono* distinction) and UPenn (Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*).



December Minutes

General Meeting December 16, 2014

President Shcherbenko called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. The minutes from the November meeting were accepted as published. President Shcherbenko announced that he was going to be passing around a petition in favor of holding the 2016 Democratic National Convention in New York City. He urged members to sign the petition which will be sent to Mayor DiBlasio and Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz. President Shcherbenko spoke briefly about the recent grand jury decision not to indict the officer who killed Eric Garner in July. He feels in light of that decision, S.I.D.A.'s priority should be to get behind a candidate for District Attorney.

Guest Speaker

Jay Ackerman, Regional Director of the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, spoke to members about the recent passing of the Paid Sick Leave Law in New York City, the Small Business Reform Package which will help reduce violations on small businesses. Mr. Ackerman also spoke about the Earned Income Tax Credit where people earning \$18,000 or less may be entitled to a tax refund from \$2,000 - \$9,000 per year. He mentioned that there will be a phone bank set up on January 31 from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm to help families get the refunds. Mr. Ackerman announced that he would be passing around a sign-up sheet and urged members to help at the phone bank on January 31.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Joann Olbrich presented highlights from the Executive Committee held on December 4.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Mark Herman reported that former City Councilman and Borough President Jay O'Donovan recently passed away. Mark also mentioned that he was glad to see some new young people at the meetings which he feels is important for the future of the club.

John Sollazzo, First Vice Chair of the Democratic Committee of Richmond County, announced that the party plans to hold a mixer for young Dems on December 18, 7:00 p.m. at The Burrito Bar. He mentioned the purpose of the event is to inspire people from the College of Staten Island to become more active Democrats.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman reported an opening balance on December 2, 2014 of \$13, 417.42, and a closing balance of \$13,224.35.

Guest Speaker

Robert Holst of the Middle Class Action Project told members that he co-founded the organization. Their objective is to raise the awareness of the middle class on the issues that affect them the most. The group started with union members and anybody else that considers themselves middle class and wanted to help inform others like themselves.

The group aims to support organized labor in their mission, by being a group that would educate working people about the various issues, how their government works and what each individual's role is in them. Holst spoke about how injustice and inequality are dividing us and that through subverting our democracy with more money than ever, the voice of the average guy was being drowned out. It is the hope of the organization to make the middle class aware of what is being done to them by corporations, politicians, and the greedy alike. They hope to spark conversation and get middle class people to make informed decisions about their own futures.

Mr. Holst distributed an action plan for members to read and he also mentioned the organization has a blog and they are looking for writers.

Ilya Galak, another Co-founder of Middle Class Action Project, told members that he is from the former Soviet Union. He feels America is in bad shape due to jobs that are being outsourced to foreign countries. He spoke about the action plan which he wrote to help bring jobs back to America. After their presentations Mr. Holst and Mr. Galak took questions from members.

Not a scheduled speaker, attorney Matthew Smalls spoke about his candidacy for District Attorney. Mr. Smalls told members that he moved to Staten Island with his family one and a half years ago.

He was shocked and saddened by the Eric Garner incident and feels that something has to be done about it. He explained that he was not surprised by the recent grand jury decision and feels people on Staten Island are entitled to justice regardless of their race or socioeconomic level. The case is of national and international interest. He feels the D.A.'s Office should release files from the grand jury hearings. He also feels that police abuse cases should be prosecuted by special prosecutors.

Mr. Smalls feels he has the qualifications and experience to be a good District Attorney for Staten Island. He says he can empower the community and wants justice for all. Mr. Smalls said his goal is to reach out to every person to stand up for change and he is also in the process of building a leadership team.

Presentation of Candidates for Executive Committee

President Shcherbenko announced that candidates running for S.I.D.A. Executive Committee would have the opportunity to speak to the club. Sally Jones suggested each candidate be given a two minute time limit.

The following candidates addressed the club:

- Joann Olbrich - President,
- Peter Killen who submitted a signed petition for President
- Susan Chew - Vice President

- Mark Herman - Running unopposed for re-election for Executive Secretary
- Marie Dwyer -Running unopposed for re-election for Recording Corresponding Secretary
- Roy Moskowitz – Social Secretary
- Bonnie Rothman – Running unopposed for re-election for Treasurer

President Shcherbenko announced that there are five positions for Member At-Large and there are 9 candidates running: Carl Chew, Bobby Digi, Bryan Ellicott, Rich Florentino, Mary Kain, Rosemary Palladino, and Sharon Santana all spoke briefly to members. Two others, Jasmine Robinson and San Jay are on the list but were unable to speak this evening.

President Shcherbenko told members to let him know if they had a petition to hand in. No additional petitions were submitted.

Chris Bauer told candidates that they have the opportunity to submit a 200 word statement for publication in the January newsletter with a deadline of January 1, 2015. Mark Herman gave kudos to Chris Bauer who he said is not on The Executive Committee but works hard producing the club's newsletter each month.

New Business

Liz Price made a motion that S.I.D.A. endorse the plan to bring the 2016 Democratic National Convention to N.Y.C. The motion was seconded by Anne Taylor. The motion carried with one abstention.

Joann reported that at the last Executive Committee meeting she suggested sending a letter to the local elected officials and the newspapers about their feelings regarding the decision of the grand jury. She added that she prepared the letter and brought copies for members to review. There was some lengthy discussion about revising the letter and several members gave suggestions. Joann made a motion to revise the letter according to member's suggestions and send it out to local elected officials and newspapers after the club members approve the letter at the January 20 meeting. Sally Jones made a friendly amendment that the Executive Committee members approve the final draft so that the letter could go out before the January meeting. Joann accepted the friendly amendment.

President Shcherbenko announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 8 at Bonnie Rothman's home. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary
 Happy New Year to all!!!



Letters

We in S.I.D.A. like to make our views known. The following are some of the letters written by S.I.D.A. members that have appeared in print. Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were in the Staten Island Advance and/or posted on the Advance's website www.silive.com. Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.

Online December 8, 2014

Printed December 14, 2014

Why Were Fallen Blacks Left Untreated?

In the rash of recent tragedies involving policemen and black males a common theme emerges: disregard for the injured.

Tamir Rice, the Cleveland 12-year-old shot at near point blank within 2 seconds of police responding to a complaint of gun brandishing (it was a toy) was not examined for another 4 minutes when FBI personnel arrived on the scene. He later died of his injuries.

Michael Brown's bullet-ridden body lay on a Ferguson, Mo., street for four hours while the local medical examiner's office assessed the crime scene - while curiously declining to take pictures.

And on Staten Island, Eric Brown's repeated complaint that "I can't breathe" was not only ignored by arresting officers, but EMS personnel on the scene did not even attempt life-saving procedures.

In each case, the officers have argued that they either didn't mean harm or felt that their own lives were at risk. How do we justify the response to the grievously injured who no longer posed a risk? Are black lives that cheap?

- *Phil Jonas*



Online December 29, 2014

Suspend Protests Until After N.Y.P.D. Funerals

This month, we were tragically reminded of the many dangers New York Police Department officers face on a daily basis. During a season that is supposed to be joyous, I remain sick over the tragic news that two of our officers were assassinated, and I ask all New Yorkers to suspend protests during this period of mourning and to join me in prayer for the two officers and their families.

Both officers had ties to Staten Island: Officer Wenjian Liu attended the College of Staten Island, and Officer Rafael Ramos worked as a school safety officer from 2009 to 2012 at the Rocco Laurie School, named for an officer who was killed along with his partner in a similar shooting in 1972. And so this week, I pray not only for the fallen officers and their families, but all here on Staten Island whose lives these officers touched.

I have reached out to local clergy members in this holy season, asking them to continue to extend prayers for these two officers and their families. I urge religious leaders to be messengers of

peace so that we may keep our communities and our police officers safe. I am calling upon Staten Islanders on all sides to abandon divisive rhetoric. It has no place in civil discourse and moves us further away from where we must be as a just and lawful society.

Since Eric Garner's tragic death five months ago, just blocks from my district office, I have expressed my respect for the thousands of officers who risk their lives to keep our city safe every day — and do so with courtesy, professionalism and respect.

These words are backed up by solid relationships between my office and our local police leadership, ties that have only strengthened in the last five months.

I have much respect and gratitude for the Ramos, Liu and Garner families, who, in their times of unspeakable grief and loss, have made statements of conciliation and rejection of violence. We should all respect and honor their requests.

As we mourn together and honor these two brave officers, as well as their colleagues who continue to risk their lives to keep us safe, let us remember that we all share the same goals: A safe city where the rights of all our residents —regardless of neighborhood, race or occupation — are respected by all.

- Debi Rose

[The writer, a Democrat, represents the 49th (North Shore) District in the New York City Council.]



Online December 29, 2014

Mayor De Blasio is Keeping the City Together

Mayor de Blasio did not "run on an anti-N.Y.P.D. platform." The reforms that the mayor's campaign suggested will bring the police and the community closer together. The mayor made it clear, for example, that he was not going to abolish "stop and frisk" (as another candidate suggested), but instead to make sure that it was not abused. At that time, no one suggested that this was an "anti-N.Y.P.D. platform" and certainly the Advance would not have endorsed de Blasio if it was.

Neither has the mayor been "pushing" any such platform this year. In fact, protestors criticized the mayor for – in their view - allowing the police to engage in harmful tactics rather than keep his promises to reform them. Rather than engage in reckless confrontation with protestors, the mayor used persuasion and kept the Verrazano Bridge from being used as a protest site.

Look at what happened in San Francisco during the White Night Riots and the riots in Los Angeles as a result of the Rodney King verdict – not to mention Ferguson this year – and then tell me that the mayor isn't doing an amazing job of keeping our city together.

- Tom Shcherbenko



Online December 29, 2014

Honor the Late Jay O'Donovan with Mount Manresa Memorial

Former Democratic North Shore Councilman Jerome X. O'Donovan was a member of the Committee to Save Mount Manresa and was one of the first to support us in saving this precious open space. His great legacy should include rescuing historic Mount Manresa from overdevelopment.

At our first rally, he told the community Mount Manresa should have been part of the legendary Special Hillside Preservation District that he defined in 1987, and which saved both Chapin Woods and Fort Hill Park from developers. Despite his failing health, Jerome X. O'Donovan was always there for our committee, mentoring us and calling our electeds in an effort to change the fate planned for this property by the Savo Brothers. His wife, Vita, told us that he wanted so badly to Save Mount Manresa.

Our community has experienced the callousness of the trees being chopped, the cruelty of asbestos exposure, and feels the stress of the nightmare planned for our already overcrowded community.

Jerome X. O'Donovan fought his entire career against this type of overdevelopment. We sincerely ask the City of New York honor the work and dedication of Jerome X. O'Donovan and offer the purchase of Mount Manresa for Staten Island as a memorial park in his name.

- Barbara Sanchez



Online January 7, 2015

How Did Killer of Two Police Officers Obtain Gun?

When asked do you support requiring background checks for all gun sales, an overwhelming majority of Americans answer yes. And this is true whether the person was being asked is a Democrat, Republican, Independent or a gun owner.

Background checks, which have been upheld by the courts as being constitutional, have been credited with stopping more than 2 million illegal gun sales over the past 20 years. However, loopholes in the current law have allowed illegal guns to reach our streets.

The gun that was used to murder Police Officers Ramos and Liu was traced to a pawn shop in Georgia. The buyer in 1996 went through a background check. The police are trying to determine how that gun made it into the hands of the person who murdered the two police officers. As a convicted felon, he was prohibited from possessing a gun.

In 2014, 47 police officers were killed by gunfire.

If you want to make it safer for those who patrol our streets, then you need to ask those running for office whether they support requiring background checks on all gun transfers. If the answer is no, then say he/she will not get your vote.

- Richard Reichard



Executive Committee Candidate Statements

We will elect our Executive Committee at our January 20, 2015 Annual Membership Meeting. In addition to having had an opportunity to present themselves at the December 16, 2014 General Membership Meeting, the candidates were asked to submit a 200 word statement for publication in the newsletter. Here are those statements. Statements for contested seats are printed in order received.

Office.....**President**

Candidate.....**Joann Olbrich**

I am running for the office of President of S.I.D.A. because I cherish S.I.D.A., and believe in its mission of furthering the progressive principles of the Democratic Party. I want to further that mission, and the causes in which we believe. I am grateful to S.I.D.A. for giving me the opportunity to know so many members who are dedicated to making the world a better place: I look up to them as heroes!

I have served on the Executive Committee in various capacities for the last 16 years, as Vice President for the last two. While we can look for more effective ways of achieving our goals, I also respect the legacy of S.I.D.A., and its traditions.

I have worked on the campaigns of numerous Democratic candidates, as well as on behalf of the Party itself – as a result I became a District Leader of the Democratic Party. I have advocated for numerous causes, and have recruited many new members for S.I.D.A., the County Committee, and volunteers for our candidates.

If you elect me as President, I will work in a cooperative manner with the Executive Committee, and carry out the wishes of the members.

Office.....**President**

Candidate.....**Peter Killen**

Peter Killen will present his statement as a handout at the January 20 meeting.

Office.....**Vice President**

Candidate.....**Susan Chew**

I am honored to be nominated to run for vice president of S.I.D.A. for 2015. I was a member-at-large in 2007 until 2009, when I became social secretary, and again as a member-at-large in 2011 and 2014.

I was a founding member and officer of the Staten Island Head Injury Association, imparting information and assistance to victims and families of traumatic brain injury.

In 2010, I founded New Yorkers for Clean Water to counter the threat of hydraulic fracturing for methane gas in upstate New York, the origin of N.Y.C.'s clean water. I wrote a white paper with assistance of Club members, and this paper was accepted unanimously by the membership.

I have always had great respect for the members of S.I.D.A. and the investment and participation that members make in this Club as well as participation in other organizations, thereby contributing to the Democratic Party and to the health, well-being and quality of life of all Americans. As vice president, it will be my responsibility to aid our Club's president in carrying out the wishes of our members, and abiding by our constitution so that as we move forward we continue to maintain the honor, integrity and democratic processes of the S.I.D.A..

Office.....**Executive Secretary**

Candidate..... **Mark Herman**

I am running for reelection as Executive Secretary. I have been a member of S.I.D.A. since its beginning in 1961 and am the last founding member.

I have been very active in the club and in the Democratic Party these last 50 years. I have served in every elected office in the club, have been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, was a District Leader for 10 years, Commissioner of Elections for five years, and am currently a State Committeeman from the 61st A.D.

I love our club and feel it is relevant enough to last another 50 years, and remember: A bad Democrat is better than a good Republican!

Office....**Corresponding and Recording Secretary**

Candidate..... **Marie Dwyer**

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for asking me to run again this year. I have served as the club's Corresponding & Recording Secretary for the past eleven years and consider it a great honor. I would really like to continue to work with S.I.D.A.'s Executive Committee this coming year.

I find reporting on the various General and Executive Committee meetings both challenging and rewarding as I strive to do the best job I can.

I really enjoy working with S.I.D.A.'s Executive Committee to help plan interesting meetings, and events but most importantly uniting to help get more Democratic Candidates elected to public office on Staten Island and in Brooklyn .

I have learned so much about politics as an S.I.D.A. member and officer. Most importantly, that each one of our voices count and that we need to take a stand for what we believe in.

I look forward to the coming year and wish all the members and my fellow officers a very happy and successful New Year.

Office.....**Social Secretary**

Candidate..... **Roy Moskowitz**

Over the last several years, I have worked on the club's annual dinner, breaking ad sales records and securing MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell as an honoree, and will continue to devote the same energy to that event as Social Secretary. I will also try to infuse our other annual events, the picnic and holiday party, with interesting food and drink, fun and meaning.

Office..... **Treasurer**
Candidate..... **Bonnie Rothman**

I am running for S.I.D.A. Treasurer because I believe that keeping track of your money provides you with a way to empower what you want to accomplish. I was initially finagled into this job by Loretta Prisco who felt that I was intelligent and truthful, and knew enough math to keep the books honestly. I have been a member of S.I.D.A. for at least ten years during which time I attended meetings and slowly became more involved in activities. I have been interested in politics since the Vietnam War and lived in Washington during the Nixon years. I organized a telephone tree in my Philadelphia congressional district for Common Cause, which is what you did before computers came along, and also did research for an environmental bill in Pennsylvania that I'm happy to say passed. I've written some short puff pieces and letters to the editor that have been published in our local press, and I've made calls for Debi Rose and collected signatures for Democratic candidates. I think Democrats must get back to being more assertive about the civil and economic rights of working people because democracy can only flourish from the bottom up. And I believe that we need to educate people of the need to be involved and informed and to vote whenever there is an election because it is the primary power that we have to direct our future.

The statements for Members at-Large are printed in the order they were received. There are nine candidates running for five positions.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Bryan J. Ellicott**

It is an honor that the Staten Island Democratic Association has nominated me for an Executive Board position as a Member At Large. I joined because I deeply believe in the mission and work of this organization and I want to commit even further to the work of that mission in the position of Member at Large.

S.I.D.A. believes in diversity and equality, which is a big part of my core beliefs, by showing a diverse group of people from all walks of life on the Executive Committee we can serve this Island better. This organization can give a voice to those made silent in an already "Forgotten Borough", while tackling those issues we all feel are important that need a voice.

As a Member-a- Large, I bring a wealth of knowledge on a various number of issues. I have no problems taking on work such as position papers and research on issues as well as outreach to my peers to join our organization as we to grow our club and its membership.

If you vote for me you gain a younger person who understands the need to continue the mission of S.I.D.A. and the Democratic Party for Staten Island.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Carl Chew**

As a member of S.I.D.A. for several years, I am honored to be nominated for a position of member-at large.

I am a retired member of Local Union 3 of the IBEW, having served the cause of labor as shop steward, whose duties included enforcing the NYC electrical code, maintaining job fairness and labor standards. I served as a member of the wage and policy committee, the election committee, and also worked as an organizer and field negotiator.

As a former president and founding member of the Asian American Cultural Society of Local 3, I was part of the mission of helping Asian Americans and other minorities, including women, to share in the common heritage of all electrical workers. Our club is always inclusive of any Local 3 member of any demographic group.

Other affiliations include the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. I also was a founding member of the Asian-Pacific American Labor Alliance, (APALA). I and other electricians donate our time to and the Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals, a voluntary health-care provider.

As a member-at-large, I will use my experience to further S.I.D.A.'s integrity, progressiveness and cohesiveness. I hope to bring my negotiating skills to the table to assist the executive committee in resolving issues.

Thank you for your support.

Office..... **Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Richard Florentino**

I believe in democratic principles to my bones. This year I worked extensively with the Recchia campaign and also helped Gary Carsel and Marybeth Melendez. It's troubling they all lost. Even more troubling - Borelli was allowed to run unopposed.

I want to work on doing a better job of getting our ideas across to Staten Island.

Whenever a speaker comes to S.I.D.A. I always engage them to clarify views.

Also see the energetic discussions on the S.I.D.A. Facebook regarding the democratic message.

My many letters to the *Advance* express a deeply held commitment to best of liberalism.

I continue to seek discussion with the 'other side'.

My issue papers, "Income Inequality" and Economic Justice" were unanimously approved by S.I.D.A.. These concepts, presented correctly, have appeal to all Staten Islanders.

I am on the board of the Just Economic Communities group of the national Universalist Unitarian Association and was instrumental in getting our 'issue paper' on "Escalating Inequality" selected for a four year country-wide study program.

On January 25, I'm conducting the service at the UU Church of Staten Island: "Brother, Can You Spare the Time?"

Keep my voice on the Executive Committee of S.I.D.A..

Office..... **Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Rosemary Palladino**

I joined S.I.D.A. about 14 years ago and was honored to serve as Vice-President and Executive Committee member. My hope is that our club can do more to educate Staten Islanders about the contributions the Democratic Party has made to their lives, and what more

it can do for them. I understand the issues that concern our members, and believe I can help our Executive Committee meetings to run smoothly, allowing everyone to be heard and encouraging respectful open exchange of differing viewpoints. My work in city government includes as District Manager of Staten Island Community Board 1 and Commissioner of the N.Y.C. Board of Standards and Appeals, I have proudly worked for many Democratic candidates over many years, and look forward to supporting more strong Democratic candidates in the future. I am cofounder of SI Stonewall, which aims to harness the power of Staten Island's L.G.B.T. community. I have lived in several Staten Island communities, and now reside in Grasmere with

my wife, Marianne. I am retired from government service and maintain a busy law practice. I also participate in several volunteer legal programs and have served as pro bono counsel to several clients and non-profit organizations. Thanks for your consideration.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Sharon Santana**

My name is Sharon Santana and I am asking for your vote as a candidate for member at large. I am a proud mom of two young men (and S.I.D.A. members as well) and a recently retired high school assistant principal (CSI HS). I spent the first sixteen years of my career teaching in an alternative high school in Brooklyn, (closed by the Bloomberg administration), working with students in low income areas who were faced with so many challenges in life that education was not always their priority. In 1994, I became an Assistant Principal at Concord HS, another alternative school. In 1999, I asked for a transfer back to a Brooklyn school, where I lived at that time, when the cost of the bridge became too much, and I accepted an alternative school position in East New York (closed four years ago.) Dealing with the struggles of so many of my students and the issues they faced in their lives has only helped deepen my sense of responsibility and my desire to make a difference.

I entered the political world as a teenager, collecting signatures at the Avenue M station in Brooklyn and hanging campaign signs on lampposts around my neighborhood. After college, I became a Department of Elections poll worker for several years. Last year, I was the Staten Island representative for New Yorkers for Great Public Schools, working with

a speaker I met while attending one of my first S.I.D.A. meetings.

As a retiree with more time on my hands, I look forward to working more closely with S.I.D.A. to make a difference in our city and our country. I believe that together we can make things happen.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Bobby Digi**

S.I.D.A. believes in diversity and a Staten Island that appreciates and celebrates the multi-cultural communities that make up our unique borough.

I also share this belief, and I am proud to be a member of an organization that continues to work towards achieving such an idea. I will always remember and appreciate the support S.I.D.A. gave me in the inaugural year of the 2007 African Heritage Day Parade.

As the founder and elected president of North Shore Business Association (N.S.B.A.), a membership organization, our volunteer board is comprised of local business owners whose goal is to bring cohesion and a voice to the North Shore of Staten Island. The organization was developed after Hurricane Sandy devastated the businesses on the North Shore. The N.S.B.A. became the leading local organization providing support and resources for North Shore businesses that needed help rebuilding after the storm. I testified at the N.Y. Senate Hearing Committee on the Hurricane Sandy Recovery, and my testimony was documented in the Preliminary Response & Recovery Report. Recently, I was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the N.Y. Rising Committee. I am currently the Staten Island Borough President African Advisory Council director.

If I win a seat in the Executive Committee, I will bring a wealth of organizational knowledge and experience that I gained locally and internationally. I will work diligently to accomplish

S.I.D.A's visions and goals. I will provide input and advice, e.g. on fundraising, social media, advocacy, outreach to segmented demographics, immigrant communities, and businesses on Staten Island.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Sanjay Sharma**

Thank you so very much for my nomination as a member-at-large with S.I.D.A.. I can see clearly how great a match this job is for my skills, abilities, interests, and experience. It would be a great privilege to contribute to your organization's success.

I am an active member of the Save Mt. Manresa group and a recent immigrant to Staten Island. Accordingly, I see that I have to be an active member in our community and be vigilant to keep the community safe and preserve the quality of life here on Staten Island. With this same determination I have expressed at various Save Mt Manresa meetings and events, I believe I will be able to leverage my experience from Save Mt Manresa to S.I.D.A.. I found that I have to be active in our community and will bring the same resolve to S.I.D.A..

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions. Thank you again for your consideration.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Mary Kain**

I joined S.I.D.A. in 1968, during the height of the Viet Nam war when most of the Staten Island Democrats were wearing flag pins on their lapels to show their support for war. S.I.D.A. was, and is still an oasis of political sanity and purity in a community buying into right wing madness. We support those candidates who come the closest to agreeing with us, knowing that perfection is not reality in elections, but we don't compromise our own conversations about truth and fairness. While all of us may not agree on each issue, S.I.D.A. is a much needed support system for the majority of beliefs of all of its members and a venue where all opinions can be heard. In the interest of promoting progressive principles and sustaining the valuable role of S.I.D.A. in the community, I am running for re-election to the Executive Committee to fill an At-Large position and I would welcome your vote.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Jasmine Robinson**

My name is Jasmine Robinson and I am a member of S.I.D.A.. I appreciate being nominated for At-Large. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I know some of you through the Board of Elections, rallies and marches. I also volunteer my time and services on the campaigns for local politicians. I enjoy participating as much as I can in politics. It is a different perspective as a woman of color (Black and Puerto Rican) to take part of something that was blatantly denied to my people.

I am proud that I can vote, help candidates get elected, and participate with the Board of Elections. When I visit my family in the South, the older relatives are so proud of me. Many of them were denied the opportunity to vote. The ones who were brave enough to participate in the Civil Rights Movement look at me with such pride when I show the letters that I receive from politicians thanking me for my services.

I want to encourage and inspire the young adults, Blacks and Latinos to vote more regularly. We need to wake up and stand up because both houses of Congress are going to dismantle

President Obama's agenda. The same effort you use to go hang out in clubs, stand on line for the new iPhones and Android phones or new Jordans should be the same effort you make to vote. I hope that I can inspire more people to attend our meetings and participate in the voting process. We need to be aggressive progressive Democrats who are willing to stand up against these Fox (Faux) News, Rush Limbaugh, Bill (O'Racist) O'Reilly, John (Orange Man) Boehner, Tea Party clowns who have held our government hostage long enough.

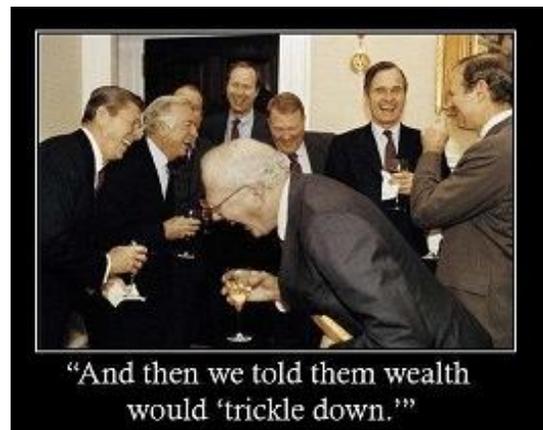
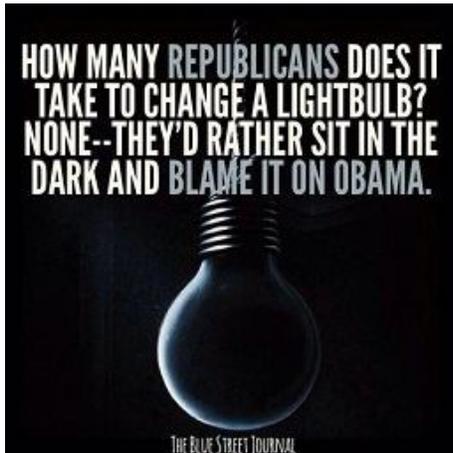


Ad Rate Card

The S.I.D.A. newsletter takes advertising.
The following is the rate card:

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Full -page..... | \$85 |
| 1/2 page | \$45 |
| 1/4 page | \$25 |
| Booster | \$5 |

To place an advertisement in the newsletter, please contact S.I.D.A. President Tom Shcherbenko at 718-687-2788 or shcherbenko@aol.com.



Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund



The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.

A 501 (c) 3 Nonprofit Community Organization

P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304

www.lvmsf.org

President: Cindy Voorspuy, Vice President: Joann Olbrich, Treasurer: Neale Steiniger, Secretary: Joy Robins

January 5, 2015

Dear SIDA members and friends:

Watching the news lately, it is clear how important dedicated community activists can be. It is the mission of the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund to encourage that kind of grass-roots activism by underwriting the costs for Staten Islanders to attend programs that will train them in community organization and electoral campaigning.

We have given scholarships to a diverse and energetic mix of community activists ranging from an outstanding high school student who attended a National Student Leadership Conference to a local environmentalist who attended the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. To learn more about these awards, please visit our website, www.lvmsf.org.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to apply. **There is no age restriction.** Most of our scholars have attended courses that lasted over a weekend or for a week during the summer, courses that are convenient for people with jobs, or for students. Applicants of all political persuasions are encouraged to apply. A sample list of courses is on the enclosed application form, but they are there as examples only – applicants may suggest other courses. The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund covers the cost of the program, which usually includes room and board, but not transportation.

The Fund is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization registered with the Federal government and the State of New York. You can make a donation in support of the Fund's purposes by mail with the enclosed form or by using PayPal. **Also, we hope that you will join us at our Twelfth Annual Awards Brunch and Fundraiser, currently scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015, at the Colonnade Diner, 2001 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY.**

Sincerely,

Cindy Voorspuy, President



The Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund Inc.
A 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit Community Organization
P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304
The mission of the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund is to encourage
grass-roots activism by underwriting community members in selected programs
that train for community organization or for political candidacies.

Names of candidates must be submitted by Saturday, February 28, 2015. To submit names, call Joy Robins at 718-816-4128. Applications may be made by mail to LVMSF, P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304, by e-mail to joyrobins@si.rr.com, or via the web at www.lvmsf.org. The winners of the scholarship will be announced at the Award Presentation Brunch on Saturday, May 16, 2015. The event will be a fundraiser for the next round of awards in 2016.

Application for the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Training Program you are applying for: _____

Do you have housing in the location, if not included in the program, and a means of getting to the program?

1. Why are you interested in learning community organizing/campaign skills?
2. What do you most hope to get out of the training program?
3. What previous social justice/organizing/campaign efforts have you been involved in, either as a volunteer or paid?
4. Thinking of your previous experiences, tell more about one particular thing that you did. Explain why you either felt great satisfaction in the experience, or did not feel satisfied.
5. How would you apply the skills you learn in this program?
6. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?
7. How did you hear about this scholarship?

LIST OF TYPICAL or SAMPLE PROGRAMS: (Other programs will be considered at applicant's request.)

- <http://www.midwestacademy.com/> The Midwest Academy - Training That Works For Citizen Organizations
- <http://www.southernempowerment.org/> Southern Empowerment Project
- <http://www.emilyslist.org/> Emily's List
- <http://www.wcsyale.org/> The Women's Campaign School at Yale University
- http://www.wellstone.org/camp/category_page.aspx?catID=3752 Camp Wellstone
- <http://www.eleanorslegacy.com/html/program.html> The Agnes Varis Campaign Institute of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy
- <http://www.highlandercenter.org> Highlander Center, New Market TN.

LVMSF Donation Form

LATHROPE VOORSPUY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND Inc.

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ to the Fund.

**Make checks payable to the Lathrope Voorspuy Memorial Scholarship Fund Inc.
and mail to LVMSF, P.O. Box 40409, SI, NY 10304, SI, NY .**

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zipcode _____

Contact phone number _____

E-mail address _____

(Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes)

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED VIA PAYPAL

Bulletin Board



Community Health Action of Staten Island
 ***Valentine's Dinner Dance***
Friday, February 6, 2015

at [Nicotra's Hilton Garden Inn](#)
1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, NY
Extended Cocktail Reception
begins at 7:00 pm

This year, Community Health Action is proud to honor

Amie Gross, AIA
President, Amie Gross Architects
for her enduring commitment to create innovative, healing
spaces for New Yorkers to live, work, and play

Samuel MacMaster, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President & Chief Clinical Officer,
JourneyPure
for his outstanding counsel and expertise to heal families
impacted by substance use, incarceration, and domestic
violence

*To purchase tickets or journal ads over the phone,
please call 718-808-1402.*



Bulletin Board Policy

Items posted on the Bulletin Board are done so at the request of an S.I.D.A. member and are for informational purposes only. A posting on the Bulletin Board does not imply endorsement by S.I.D.A.

We endorse

Joann Olbrich for President of S.I.D.A.

and

Susan Chew for Vice President of S.I.D.A.

because they:

- have years of experience on the Executive Committee of S.I.D.A.
- have worked to elect Democratic candidates over the years
- have advocated for many of the causes important to the membership of S.I.D.A.

- Steve Harrison

- Helen Settles

- Past President*

- Sanjay Sharma

- Jay Bocchicchio

- Susan Rappaport

- Richard Reichard

- Past President*

- Nick Popolo

- Past President*

- Mary Kain

- Bill Kain

- Maryann Brennick

- Rosemary Palladino

- Carlton Chew

- Dennis Brown

- Past President*

- Fran Brown

- Richenda Kramer

- Bonnie Rothman

- Ricki Lee Woytowich

- Rosemarie Cavanaugh-Mangano

- Phil Jonas

- Joy Robins

- Past President*

- Ralph Dickar

- Jeff Stonehill

- Kevin Peter Carroll

- Marie Dwyer

- Shawn Dwyer

- Past President*

- Chris Bauer

- Past President*

- Belinda Dixon

- Oran Brown

- Sharon Santana

- Elizabeth McCombs

- Sally Jones

- David Jones

- Mark Herman

- Past President*

