



March 2017

## Staten Island Democratic Association

*est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club*

*www.sidems.org*

At our Next Meeting:



# Organizing the Resistance to Trump's Bad Policies

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- **Amy Zarkos & John Hagan**

South Brooklyn Progressive Resistance

- **Teresa Caliarì**

How to Organize

- **Dennis Brown, Richard Reichard, & Nick Popolo**

Running for Office: NYC Council

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 8:00 P.M.

Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, 1001 Goethals Road North



## Editorial Policy

Items for publication should be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: [cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaxbauer@yahoo.com).

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

Chris Bauer, Editor  
(917) 576-9248

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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

# Submission Deadline for April's Newsletter is April 3

### S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President.....	Bobby Digi	Member at-Large .....	Clara Ogburn
Vice President .....	Bryan Ellicott	Member at-Large .....	Liz Price
Executive Secretary .....	Dennis Brown	Ex Officio.....	Michelle Akyempong
Corresponding & Recording Secretary .....	Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio.....	Belinda Dixon
Treasurer .....	Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio.....	Joann Olbrich
Social Secretary .....	Sharon Santana	Ex Officio.....	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large .....	Pearl Minsky	Ex Officio.....	John Mastellone
Member at-Large .....	Radhakrishna Mohan	Ex Officio.....	John Sollazzo
Member at-Large .....	Roy Moskowitz	Ex Officio.....	Tom Shcherbenko
Member at-Large .....	Radhakrishna Mohan	Ex Officio.....	John Mastellone
Member at-Large .....	Roy Moskowitz	Ex Officio.....	John Sollazzo
Member at-Large .....	Clara Ogburn	Ex Officio.....	Tom Shcherbenko

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

March 2017

I want to welcome all new members to Staten Island democratic club fondly known as S.I.D.A. We are Staten Island's progressive club. We want to be your new home, friend, and eventually family; we understand and share your frustration and are just as fired up to do something about our current political climate, and we will!

Thanks to the long-time S.I.D.A. members for all the years of hard work and dedication, it is time to get in the saddle. There is work to do and some of our new members will need your guidance and experience, as will I. We are all in this together.

Given what is occurring nationally and locally it is time we Progressives begin to galvanize and organize grassroots campaigns on every level to disrupt the bad policies and unAmerican behavior that has become Trump's America.

S.I.D.A. will continue to connect the dots on and off Staten Island, city and state-wide. We will continue to engage, outreach to, educate, and expand our base and database. We will hold local elected officials accountable for how they vote from now on.

Join us not only as we rally, advocate, and forge ahead in solidarity with the victimized, bullied and disenfranchised Americans, especially on behalf of our Muslim, undocumented, and LGBTQ brothers, sisters and family members. Join us as we fight for a truly better America one that remains a beacon of hope to the world.

We are currently working on a few initiatives to both educate our membership and immediately address some policies that we are unhappy about so therefore we have written letters to our U.S. senators. Also we are currently planning the installation and inauguration of our executive members. If you are interested in joining a planning committee please inform our Vice President Bryan Ellicott.

Thank you and let us remain resilient!

RESIST RESIST RESIST !

*Thanks,  
Bobby Digi  
President*



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## Organizing the Resistance

*At our March 21 General Membership Meeting we will have a series of guests speaking on organizing, with a focus on resisting President' Trump's and the GOP's bad policies and actions.*

### **South Brooklyn Progressive Resistance**

South Brooklyn Progressive Resistance is a non-hierarchical, consensus-driven action group devoted to electing progressive political leaders in South Brooklyn and beyond, registering voters, supporting peace, justice and the environment. They are an informational, active and motivational channel that helps aid in networking and linking coexisting groups - so we can unify more cohesively against oppression and for our progressive causes. Speakers will be Amy Zarkos and John Hagan.

Amy Zarkos is a lifelong Democrat and Bay Ridge resident. By day, she is a production editor of science journals for the American Geophysical Union, and by night, she is a freelance editor, writer, political junkie, and sports fan.

John Hagan is a lifelong New Yorker and Brooklynite who moved to Bay Ridge ten years ago. He is a social studies teacher with a passion for history, consumer technology, sports and good television. His inspiration for activism is to help create a country that resembles the America that many people think we already have, to make our actions live up to our ideals. That's real patriotism.

### **Teresa Caliari on How to Organize**

Teresa Caliari has lived on the island for 35 years. Her first foray into island politics was working on the presidential campaign of Jerry Brown- that went real well. She founded Staten Island for Change in 2008 as part of Organizing for Obama in support of his presidential run of that year. In this capacity she has led organizational training workshops, and all manner of "actions" in support of gun violence prevention, comprehensive immigration reform and of course to get the passage of and now uphold the Affordable Care Act.

### **Running for Office: NYC Council**

Since last November's election, many people are asking themselves how they can get involved in more meaningful and effective electoral politics. For some, this means running for elective office themselves.

The Staten Island Democratic Association understands that many of those interested in running for elective office may not be familiar with campaign finance laws and the steps that must be taken to become a candidate.

At our next S.I.D.A. Meeting on March 21, we invite members and guests to participate in the first phase of exploration regarding campaign finance laws and other issues as they pertain to running for the New York City Council. There are currently Republican-held Council seats on Staten Island which are of interest as we look toward furthering progressive Democratic leadership in the upcoming election cycle.

Subsequent S.I.D.A. meetings will afford us the opportunity of fully exploring what it takes in order to become a candidate for US Congress, State Senate and State Assembly seats. Please join us for a series of educational and informative explorations of the electoral process in the hope that the Democratic party will be able to field progressive, prepared and successful candidates for public office.

Dennis Brown, Nick Popolo and Richard Reichard will make the presentation, lead the discussion and answer questions at the meeting.



## February 2017 Minutes

### **General Meeting February 21, 2017 Charlie Brown's Steakhouse**

**P**resident Bobby Digi called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. He encouraged members to utilize the club's monthly newsletter which he said is very informative.

#### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Bryan Ellicott encouraged members to send their email addresses so they can be included in e-mails that he sends out.

#### **January Minutes**

Joann Olbrich made a motion to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter. Clara Ogburn seconded the motion. Richard Reichard asked that the minutes be amended to clarify that he had suggested that members attend civic association and other community meetings to gather information that could be used for candidates running for office, and that the Executive Committee should reach out to the other Democratic clubs to help cover all the meetings. Dennis reported that the January minutes should have included that there was a vote by acclamation for his re-election as Executive Secretary.

Michele Karlsberg, liaison to Democratic clubs on Staten Island, reported that after the most recent election she has found a "home" in S.I.D.A. She also has been gathering information from the other Democratic clubs and is creating a website "Staten Island Democratic Pathway". She also plans to go to High schools and colleges to recruit young people.

#### **Executive Secretary's Report**

Executive Director Dennis Brown welcomed new members under the new leadership of President Bobby Digi. He said we should build on the past and work towards the future to become a stronger club. He thanked members for coming out and getting involved. He said we should continue to get out and work, defeats Trumps initiatives and work towards winning more elections.

#### **Social Secretary's Report**

Social Secretary Sharon Santana mentioned that the club hosts three major functions each year, i.e. the summer Mark Herman Picnic, the annual banquet, and the All Dems Holiday Party. She encouraged members to get involved and support these functions.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bonne Rothman provided members with account balances. She also reminded members that as of January 1, 2017 the dues were increased by \$10 in each category. She mentioned that anyone who paid dues before January 1 was not charged the new rate. She advised members to check the mailing label on their monthly newsletter to determine if their dues are up to date.

Assemblyman Matt Titone thanked members for their support for the last election and also throughout the past years. He encouraged members to maintain momentum and feels it will be an exciting midterm election.

### **Guest Speaker**

Tom Shcherbenko introduced the guest speaker, George Albro. Mr. Albro had been working to support Bernie Sanders' campaign and was a Bernie delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He explained that after the Democratic convention he went to work for Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire. He mentioned that after that Dems came together and formed a group called New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN). NYPAN is a newly formed state-wide organization that is bringing together the largest progressive coalition this state has ever seen. It is a collection of 27 independent chapters in New York. Mr. Albro is one of the three statewide chairs of NYPAN.

He explained that NYPAN is a coalition of grassroots progressive activists groups working together to ensure that all people can live in a safe, just and sustainable world. After his presentation, Mr. Albro took questions from several members in attendance.

Richard Reichard, last year's Democratic candidate for Congress, reported that the Republicans are working to do away with regulations. Richard presented the following motion: "The Staten Island Democratic Association asks that Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand assure that the three antiregulatory bills already passed by the House, The Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017, and the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017, are not brought up to a vote in the Senate." The motion carried.

### **New Business**

President Digi spoke to members about some of his plans as President of S.I.D.A.

Pat Kane of the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) reminded members about a rally scheduled in front of Congressman Donovan's office. She also told members about the Staten Island Healthcare Town Hall sponsored by 1199 SEIU and the Healthcare education project scheduled for February 23, 6:30 -8:30 pm at Central Family Life Center, 59 Wright Street.

Chris Bauer reported that Assemblyman Titone was the only member of Staten Island's Albany delegation who recently voted yes on three legislative packages concerning women's issues, immigrant issues and the DREAM Act, and criminal justice reform.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Marie Dwyer  
Corresponding &  
Recording Secretary*



## NYPAN Conference



Sunday, March 26, 2017  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Binghamton High School  
(Foley Auditorium)

**J**oin New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN) for a full day of interesting panels and presenters!

We will feature rising elected officials and candidates who combine the best of progressive thinking and practical solutions for working class families in New York's Southern Tier. The Southern Tier has the highest rate of poverty in New York state, resulting from years of neglect from Democrats and Republicans alike. Newly activated and empowered citizens (many inspired by the Bernie Sanders phenomenon) are ready to roll up their sleeves and help make a difference.

Come learn why New York's unique decision to push medicaid funding down to the county level has hurt Southern Tier property owners severely (while letting 1%ers in NYC off the hook) and learn what may happen next if the ACA is repealed. Learn about media and messaging from a variety of experts. Listen to panelists discuss Environmental Democracy and how it could bring good-paying jobs and a cleaner environment to the region. And naturally, learn about the importance of getting involved -- supporting good progressive candidates but also running for office oneself, at all levels of government.

**9:00 a.m.** - Registration

**9:30** - Opening remarks from Arthur Schwartz

**10:00** - A Panel on Medicare, Single Payer, Social Security and other topics with Eric Kingson (Syracuse University, HOR candidate '16), Susan Soboroff MD, Carolyn Kenyon and Anita Watkins

**11:00** – Environmental Democracy panel with Adam Flint (Southern Tier Solar Works program manager, NY Energy Democracy Alliance Steering Committee) and Gay Nicholson (Sustainable Tompkins, President)

**Lunch** with a performance by Joe Driscoll

**1:00 p.m.** – Teleconference with Arun Chaudhary (Partner - Revolution Messaging, former First Videographer of the United States under Obama, digital creative director, Bernie '16) regarding media/multimedia and his unique experiences working on campaigns from Obama '08 to Sanders '16

**1:50** – A Panel on running for various local offices featuring Anna Kelles (Tompkins County Legislature), Conrad Taylor (Binghamton City Council), Leslie Danks-Burke (State Senate

candidate '16), Ryan Reynolds (Mayor of Whitney Point, NY) and Jesse Lenney (NY Working Families Party Upstate Political Director)

**3:00** - Zephyr Teachout

**3:30** – Stephanie Miner (Mayor of Syracuse, NY)

**4:00** - Jeff Cohen (Founding Director, Park Center for Independent Media, Ithaca College) Ann-Marie Adams (Ithaca College) and Nomiki Konst (Investigative Reporter, The Young Turks) will speak and entertain questions about their experiences in media and in the Media.

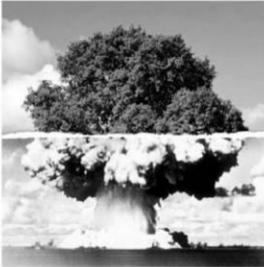
Organizers will provide an optional meal at lunch time, but attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch from home to eat on the premises.

In order to make this conference as accessible as possible to people of all backgrounds, we allow attendees to choose their ticket price based on a sliding scale. If you can afford to pay more, that will allow us to keep prices low for those who need it.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nypan-conference-march-26th-in-binghamton-tickets-32200440384>



## Peace Action of Staten Island



A talk by Joseph Gerson and Reiner Braun  
**“US and European Union  
Militarism and the Risk  
of Nuclear War in the  
Trump Era”**

**Monday, March 27, 7-9 PM**  
College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd.  
Williamson Theater, Center for the Arts, Bldg. 1P, Room 116

The Obama administration, though rhetorically diplomatic, largely continued the military policies of Bush. Under Obama, the US bombed seven Islamic nations, supported proxy wars and attempted regime change in multiple countries. What can we expect from a Trump administration? How can activists organize for peace under Trump?

**Dr. Joseph Gerson** is Director of Programs for the American Friends Service Committee's Northeast Region. His books include *Empire and the Bomb*.

**Reiner Braun** is Executive Director of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, Germany. His books include *Einstein and Peace*.

Sponsored by College of Staten Island Professional Staff Congress, Peace Action of Staten Island

**PASI General  
Meeting and  
Potluck Dinner**

**Sat, April 1, 5-7 PM**

Unitarian Church of Staten  
Island, 312 Fillmore St.

Peace Action of Staten  
Island will announce the  
slate of candidates for the  
next PASI board. Current  
members who are present  
can ask to add their names  
to the slate.

We will also be forming  
committees to work on  
issues. Bring your concerns  
and knowledge. Help PASI  
plan our future while  
enjoying food and  
fellowship.

  
**PEACE ACTION**  
of Staten Island





Please join  
**The South Shore Democratic Club**  
for an event in support of  
**Mayor Bill de Blasio**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017  
7:00PM – 8:30PM

Old Bermuda Inn  
301 Veterans Rd W.  
Staten Island, NY

Contribution:  
Guest: \$50 | Friend: \$100 | Supporter: \$175 | Host: \$250

Personal contributions only. Corporate, LLC, and LLP contributions are strictly prohibited. Please make checks payable to:  
**“de Blasio 2017”**

Please RSVP online using this link  
<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/southshoredems>  
Or Ashley Taveras at [Ashley@BilldeBlasio.com](mailto:Ashley@BilldeBlasio.com)

Paid for by de Blasio 2017



**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.



<b>March 21, 2017</b> <b>General Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Charlie Brown's Steakhouse</b> <b>1001 Goethals Road North</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing the Resistance to Trump's Bad Policies</li> </ul>	<b>April 18, 2017</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Charlie Brown's Steakhouse</b> <b>1001 Goethals Road North</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaker TBD</li> </ul>
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**It's Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!**

To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Bonita Rothman at (917) 596-3724, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.



2017 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$15 Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (payable to: S.I.D.A.)    \_\_\_\_\_ Cash

I understand SIDA is a Democratic Party club. I (or we, if this is a Family Membership) am (are) at least 17 years of age and an enrolled Democrat, or intend to enroll as a Democrat upon becoming eligible.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to S.I.D.A. and send to:      S.I.D.A.  
P.O. Box 140371  
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

For internal use only:

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