



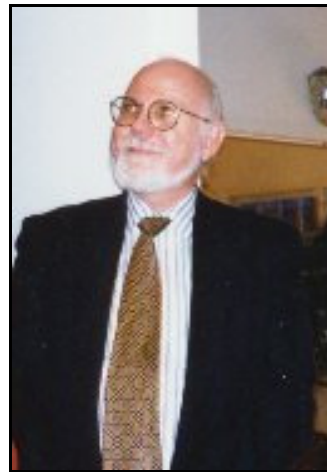
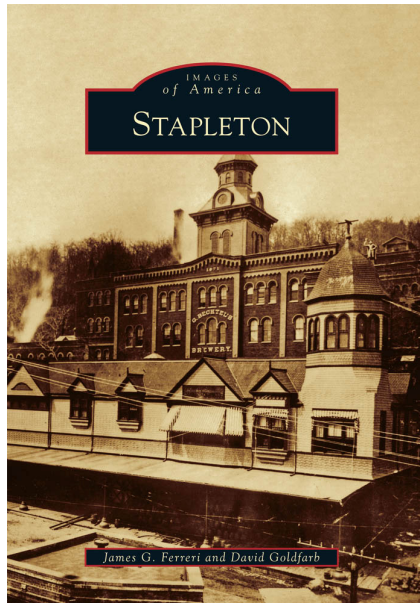
October 2010

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



- David Goldfarb
co-author of the book Stapleton
- Election of Nominating Committee

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 8:00 P.M.,
at 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:

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) 976-9248

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

The manufactured" controversy of the Islamic Cultural Center in lower Manhattan is just the latest example of how Republicans are much better at "agenda-setting" and "framing" than we are.

They were able to take an issue where one of their own pundits said, "I can't find many people who really have a problem with it," to them calling it the "911 monster mosque," less than six months later.

On December 21, 2009, Laura Ingraham, during an interview with Abdul Rauf's wife, Daisy Khan, said that she couldn't see why many people would have a problem with an Islamic Cultural Center two blocks from the WTC. Ms. Ingram went on to say, "I like what you're trying to do."

It wasn't until May 6, 2010, after the local community board committee unanimously approved the project, that the right-wing spin machine began its "framing" of the project as a "desecration" of sacred ground. On this date, Pamela Geller (More about Ms. Geller later) titled the post to her blog, Atlas Shrugs, "Monster Mosque Pushes Ahead in Shadow of World Trade Center Islamic Death and Destruction."

The next day Ms. Geller and Robert Spencer's group, Stop Islamization of America (SIOA), launched their "Campaign Offensive: Stop the 911 Mosque!" If Mr. Spencer's name sounds familiar that is because he spoke out against the MAS mosque at the Midland Beach Civic Association meeting. He is also the Director of JihadWatch.org.

A few days later Andrea Peyser devoted her entire column in the New York Post to the "Mosque Madness at Ground Zero. Ms Peyser quoted Ms. Geller and promoted the anti-mosque protest of Stop Islamization of America. She described SIOA as a "human-rights group." She also incorrectly reported that the mosque will open on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

For those not familiar with Ms. Peyser's work, in a 1998 New York Post column, she questioned President Clinton's motivation for bombing al Qaeda terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan . "On the day Monica Lewinsky was testifying before a grand jury, did the president of the United States send innocent people into harm's way for the ugly purpose of changing the subject of national discourse from oral sex and semen-stained dresses to battle scars and blood-stained uniforms?"

The Post, the right-wing blogosphere and Fox News then went into over-drive, pushing and covering what they were calling the Ground-Zero Mosque, twenty-four, seven. At this point the so called "main stream" media picks up the story, which has been framed to portray those building the "Ground-Zero Mosque" as at best, insensitive and at worst, terrorist sympathizers.

The person most responsible for framing and pushing the opposition to the “Ground-Zero Mosque” was Pamela Geller. Ms. Geller and Mr. Spencer are part of the professional anti-mosque industry. It was through Ms. Geller’s Facebook page that people learned about Mr. Spencer’s appearance at the Midland Beach Civic Association meeting and came out to cheer him on as he spoke out against selling the St. Margaret Mary convent to the Muslim American Society.

Although Ms. Geller has been very visible as the face of the opposition, there has been very little discussion as to who she really is and what she represents.

A simple Internet query would have revealed that Ms. Geller has supported white-supremacists in South Africa and has defended Serbian war criminals. Her “Atlas Shrugs” web site had a video suggesting Muslims have sex with goats, showed a doctored picture of President Obama urinating on an American flag, and a fake image of Supreme Court Justice Elana Kagen in a Nazi uniform.

How the media has portrayed Ms. Geller is only one example of how the media treats right-wing pundits, columnists and those from the right-wing blogosphere.

Andrew Breitbart, who was responsible for posting the video on his web site that resulted in the demise of ACORN, was still being treated as someone who performed due diligence before he posted something to his web site, even after it was discovered that the video turned out to be scripted, staged and edited. Therefore there was no “can we trust him” when he posted an edited video portraying Shirley Sherrod as a black federal employee who used her position to discriminate against whites.

Unmasking the identities of the messengers is the best way to fight the right-wing misinformation machine. Therefore every time a right-wing blogger, pundit or columnist attacks one of our Democratic candidates or one of our issues, such as health care reform, we need to run to our computers to find out the background of the attacker and their funding source.

We then need to demand from the media that they disclose the background of those they quote or allow to speak.

When the public finds out what these people truly believe and represent, they will have a hard time believing what they say and write, and supporting their positions.

Sincerely,

Richard Reichard

President, S.I.D.A.

Stapleton/David Goldfarb

S.I.D.A. member David Goldfarb is a co-author of the recently published book Stapleton. He was invited to be our guest speaker at our October 19 General Membership Meeting to talk about the book. The following information about the book and David's biography were provided by the publisher.

Stapleton

Stapleton history began in 1832 when William J. Staples and Monthorne Tompkins purchased a large parcel of land to establish their real estate venture. Many New Yorkers were attracted by this desirable new community and quickly it became a popular destination and residence.

In a new book by Arcadia Publishing, local authors and preservationists James Ferreri and David Goldfarb have collaborated to provide a pictorial overview of Stapleton's beginnings.

Highlights of *Stapleton*:

- Features never before seen vintage photographs from both public and private collections
- Depicts the importance of beer brewing in Stapleton and how it impacted the town's development
- Showcases the many Victorian homes and buildings that still stand today
- Includes snapshots of the Staten Island "Stapletons" football team founded in 1915
-

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Arcadia Publishing is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Our mission is to make history accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places. Have we done a book on your town? Visit www.arcadiapublishing.com.

David Goldfarb

David Goldfarb has lived on Staten Island in Stapleton and St. George for over 37 years. He is active in historic preservation on Staten Island and in New York City and is an attorney in New York City. He is the managing partner of the law firm of Goldfarb Abrandt Salzman & Kutzin LLP. The firm of Goldfarb Abrandt Salzman & Kutzin LLP concentrates in health law, elder law trusts and estates and the rights of the elderly and disabled.

David is a nationally recognized authority in the field of elder law, Medicare, Medicaid and the use of trusts in health care planning. He is the co-author of the legal treatise *New York Guide to Tax, Estate & Financial Planning for the Elderly*, (Lexis-

Matthew Bender, 1999-2008). He maintains the firm's website SeniorLaw.com. He is listed in New York Super Lawyers 2008 and has achieved the highest rating (AV) in Martindale-Hubbell.

David was President of the Historic Districts Council (2003-2007) and is now a chair of Preserve & Protect, Inc., a counsel to the Friends of the Alice Austen House, and is on the board of the Preservation League of Staten Island. He is the past president of Staten Islanders for a Unified New York and the St. George Civic Association. He is also active in the New York State Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He has written extensively on civic and legal issues including two op-editorials in the *New York Times*. His promotion of neighborhood and historic preservation on the web has received extensive coverage including articles in *Preservation, the Magazine* of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the *New York Times* and the 2000 Statewide Preservation Award from the Preservation League of New York State.

David is married to Elizabeth K. Goldfarb, a school librarian at Booker T. Washington Middle School (MS 54) in Harlem and a consultant for the Staten Island Children's Museum. Liz was formerly a staff developer for New Visions for Public Schools. Their son, Daniel K. Goldfarb, graduated in 1999 from M.I.T and now lives in Seattle, Washington.

Vote November 2!!

Advertisement

Advertisement

Advertisement

The Staten Island Democratic Association newsletter is accepting advertising.

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

If you would like to place an ad, please contact newsletter editor Chris Bauer at 917-576-9248 or e-mail him at cmaxbauer@yahoo.com.

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.

On-line September 14, 2010

Printed September 14, 2010

Bloomberg, Klein Telling Lies about Education

Using test scores, Klein/Bloomberg brag about their "miracle." Recalibrated scores nixed that. Turning water into wine requires divine intervention. Educating children requires an understanding of what an education is and bears no relation to scores.

Klein/Bloomberg boast about graduation rates. Another farce. Regents are dumbed down and some require passing grades of 38 percent! Failing students pass by completing a project. Result: CUNY offers more remedial classes.

Another boast (or a lie?): The achievement gap between white and black students is narrowing. According to the NAEP tests, there is no significant closing of the gap in any grade/subject since 2003. The ELA gap between these students grew from 22 points to 30 last year, and Math from 17 to 30.

The Department of Education claimed not to have funds for summer school for incarcerated youth. "Liar, liar, pants on fire." One such school was \$485,270 in the black in 2009-10. Check it out online at NY1, "Bars to Education."

The DOE claims it is "open to parents." Noses are growing. Go to the videotape, ednotesonline. Watch the PEP shut down a meeting when parents had questions. Watch guards escort a child, attempting to ask a question, off the stage.

- Loretta Prisco

On-line September 15, 2010

Printed September 15, 2010

Assembly Must Pass Bill to Halt Hydrofracking

The New York State Assembly will soon be considering the moratorium bill on hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking) in New York State.

This unconventional drilling, which uses hundreds of chemicals forced underground vertically and horizontally to break open shale for the extraction of natural gas, is being proposed for New York State, including in our upstate New York City watershed.

This must be stopped! Here are just three examples of hundreds why we cannot allow this in our state:

In Pennsylvania, wells are being contaminated with chemicals and gas.

In Wyoming, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency is doing a study on water contamination near drilling sites. Houses have filled with methane in Pennsylvania and other states and exploded.

Please call or write to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (212-312-1420; speaker@assembly.state.ny.us) and ask him to bring the moratorium bill to the floor of the Assembly for a vote. And, ask him to work to prohibit this devastating drilling in New York State.

Also, contact Assemblyman Kevin A. Cahill, the chairman of the Energy Committee (cahillk@assembly.state.ny.us; 845-338-0610) and tell him you want a prohibition of hydraulic fracturing in New York State.

*-Susan Chew
[The writer is affiliated with Clean Water New York.]*

On-line September 18, 2010

Printed September 18, 2010

As Bad as Things Are, They Are Better Than They Were

I would agree with most people that the economy has not returned to its pre-recession numbers. An unemployment rate around 9.5 percent shows that there are still too many people out of work. However, I would disagree that the economy is headed in the wrong direction.

From late 2007 until President Obama took office, the country lost over 4.5 million jobs. Since December 2009, the country has added 723,000.

It will take several years of job growth for us to make up for the jobs lost during the recession and to return to a pre-recession unemployment rate.

And as bad as things appear now, they could have been worse. Economist Mark Zandi, advisor to John McCain's presidential campaign said that, "If we had not had the stimulus . . . we would have 2½ to 3 million fewer jobs today than we actually have."

Facts are facts and spin is spin. The facts are that the country is now adding jobs and that the stimulus did save millions of jobs. The facts are that Republican policies put us in a recession which resulted in the loss of millions of jobs and that they opposed the stimulus.

The economy is headed in the right direction.

- *Richard Reichard*

On-line September 20, 2010

Printed September 21, 2010

We Must Start Making Our Own Goods Again

Let me see if I have this right. Big Business imports everything from foreign countries so they can realize bigger profits and we can better afford to buy these things. Problem being we can no longer afford to purchase anything because we're out of work. The main reason is because 80 percent of the items on the store shelves are made in foreign countries.

We won't be able to collect unemployment because the government will go bankrupt. That will happen when we can no longer pay the taxes the government needs to survive. Consequently, big business goes bankrupt because sales are way off.

Can anyone with half a brain see how to fix this? Cut imports. We're on the road to becoming a Fourth World country. Who do you think will give us foreign aid? Don't look for any lines to form.

Cut unemployment by cutting foreign imports. By buying these imported commodities, we're cutting our own throats.

Let's put our own people back to work. Remember the words of John F. Kennedy, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

- *Paul Cinquemani*

On-line October 3, 2010

Printed October 3, 2010

Does Balanced Budget Precede Our Country's Welfare?

A destructive policy proposal from the Tea Party's "Contract From America" concerns achievement of a balanced federal budget. As spelled out in Dick Armey's and Matt Kibbee's "Give Us Liberty: A Tea Party Manifesto," a balanced budget can be achieved by beginning the constitutional amendment process with the idea that raising taxes could only take place with a two-thirds majority by the Congress.

The proposal effectively cripples the national government in an emergency. Another 9/11? Forget a timely U.S. response, a balanced budget is more important. Katrina or

another BP oil spill? Ignore them, because a balanced budget takes precedence. Welcome to government via The Articles of Confederation, where the power to tax was also curtailed.

I say throw this idea into the harbor and the "Contract From America" along with it.
- *Richard Currie*

On-line October 3, 2010
Printed October 3, 2010

Health-Care Reform Law's Benefits Cannot be Overlooked

The health-care reform law is under attack. Republicans say they will repeal it. Before you lambaste "Obamacare," see what it has to offer, starting last week:

- Your children can now be covered under your policy up to the age of 26;
- The Medicare Part D "doughnut hole" will be closed. Seniors will not have to cover thousands of dollars for their medications like my 90-year-old mother who paid \$8,000 last year;
- Health-care plans will be prohibited from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions in 2011 and everyone else by 2014;
- There will be no annual or lifetime coverage limits;
- State insurance exchanges will be established for people who don't have coverage through their jobs with subsidies for those who can't afford coverage.
- And much more.

And yes, everyone will have to buy insurance, just as we have to buy automobile insurance. Because when some people aren't insured, those of us with insurance end up having to pay for them, either through increased taxes or premiums to cover their visits to hospital emergency rooms. If everyone doesn't participate, we all pay.

- *Susan Rappaport*

NY Teacher Newspaper
Published September 30, 2010

Members Sound Off on Endorsements

When UFT President Michael Mulgrew attended a rally at Wagner College on Sept. 3, he was introduced by state Sen. Diane Savino, who joked that he should run for the state Senate seat representing the southern part of Staten Island.

I wonder how many people realized how funny the senator was. The UFT never endorses Democrats running in that locality, only the incumbent Republicans.

This year, the only Republicans endorsed by the UFT were the assemblyman and state senator from the southern part of Staten Island. Last year, the UFT endorsed the Republican city councilmen from that area.

If Mulgrew ran, he wouldn't be able to get his own union to endorse him!

- *Tom Shcherbenko*

On-line October 5, 2010

Printed October 5, 2010

How Can Assembly Candidate Link Herself to Paladino?

I find it troubling that Nicole Malliotakis, the Republican Candidate for Assembly, so quickly embraced Carl Paladino (Advance Sept. 22: "Candidate hitching her wagon to Paladino").

If she is trying to characterize herself as a "reformer," how can she associate herself with such an unapologetic racist and sexist with extreme anger management issues?

Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer comes from a background of protecting victims of domestic violence from just such types. If anyone has proven herself a reformer it is Janele.

She stood up, literally, with the parents of children being deprived of school bus service. She consistently stands with seniors, most recently helping to keep some of their life-line centers from being closed.

She alerted Staten Islanders to the danger to our water and helped write the legislation which succeeded in putting a moratorium on gas drilling in our upstate watershed. Much more needs to be done on that issue and many others.

We need Janele Hyer-Spencer to continue to fight for us in Albany!

- *Joy Robins*

On-line October 10, 2010

If It weren't for the Stimulus, Economy Would be a Lot Worse

It is widely believed that the stimulus bill failed.

Does anyone remember the economic crisis of 2008? The banking system was frozen and at risk of collapsing. In the last quarter of 2008, the Gross Domestic Product had fallen 5.4 percent and 1.9 million jobs were lost.

During 2008, there were 2.8 million home foreclosures and between June of 2007 and November 2008, the American public lost over a quarter of its net worth. Businesses and consumers were frightened and unable to spend.

Fearing a deeper economic collapse, the government stepped in. Despite continuing weakness in the job market, the economy has begun to grow again. The stimulus bill succeeded in preventing the economy from going off a cliff and provided the public a protective cushion.

It did so through tax breaks to consumers; by providing aid to the unemployed and other vulnerable groups; assisting state and local governments so they did not have to raise taxes or reduce spending thus saving the jobs of teachers, policemen and firemen, and funding infrastructure and research projects in health, science and clean energy.

Examining the facts shows that the stimulus bill got us back on track.

- *George Rappaport*

Minutes

General Membership Meeting September 21, 2010

President Richard Reichard called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. He briefly reviewed the agenda for the evening.

Joann Olbrich made a motion to close voting for the endorsement vote for the Governor, Lt. Governor, both U.S. Senate Seats, Congress, and Attorney General races at 9:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. Peter Killen, Cindy Lowney and Phil Jonas volunteered to count the ballots.

A motion was made to accept the previous month's minutes as published in the newsletter. Treasurer Gary Carsel reported that there was an error regarding the Treasurer's Report, on page 13 of the newsletter. Income was reported as \$2,575 and should have been reported as \$3,395. Joy Robins made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

President Reichard announced that Congressman McMahon had stopped by and wanted to speak to the club. Congressman McMahon addressed the members: He said that he would love to have S.I.D.A.'s support. He feels he has done a good job during the last 20 months in office.

He mentioned that he was the first Democrat to be elected to congress from the 13th Congressional District in 28 years. He said that he votes in the best interest of the people. He asked members to keep an open mind. He says he receives our e-mails and respects S.I.D.A. members and how we feel. In closing, the Congressman asked for S.I.D.A.'s support based on what he has done for the past 20 months.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Dennis Brown presented a summary of the highlights from the recent Executive meeting. He mentioned that we have a new Social Secretary, Liz Price, since Alex Baltovski left for a new job in Boston. He also mentioned that S.I.D.A. marched in the recent African American Parade. He also mentioned that plans were finalized for an S.I.D.A. sponsored fundraiser for Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer.

President Reichard spoke about re-doing the S.I.D.A. website. He mentioned that he wanted to put in a bid for \$200 (\$750 value) and that a motion regarding this issue would be introduced later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Gary Carsel reported the following balances:

Balance 8-31-10...\$11,386.52

Balance 9-21-10.....\$8,033.68

Gary urged members to take ads in the newsletter. He also thanked several members for helping him at the recent dinner.

1st Guest Speaker

Councilwoman Debi Rose was the first guest speaker. She mentioned that she likes to keep S.I.D.A. informed and that she was glad to be here with S.I.D.A..

She announced that the City Council will be holding a hearing on "Stop, Question and Frisk" on September 28th, 250 Broadway 10:00 a.m. She spoke about the "Stop, Question and Frisk" policies of the N.Y.P.D. at Housing Authority facilities. Ms. Rose also said that Governor Paterson had signed legislation that limits the data N.Y.P.D. can store on people who are subjected to searches by its officers through stop and frisk practices.

She mentioned that there is aggressive police behavior in housing projects and something needs to be done. She also mentioned that the numbers have increased since early 2000 and the black and Latino communities have been the target. She said that the overwhelming majority of those who are stopped and frisked are innocent and that Police Officers had quotas to fill. She said that she would come back to S.I.D.A. with more information. After her presentation, Councilwoman Rose took questions from several members.

2nd Guest Speakers

Our second guests were Gonzalo Mercado, Executive Director of El Centro de Hospitalidad, and Rev Dr. Tony Baker, Sr. of St Philips Baptist Church. Mr. Mercado and Rev Baker came to S.I.D.A.'s meeting to discuss the recent spate of attacks on members of the Mexican community in Port Richmond and the community's response.

Mr. Mercado thanked Debi Rose for being accessible and for being there in Port Richmond. He mentioned that since last April there has been an increase in attacks in the

Port Richmond community. He has had meetings with other community organizations to discuss ways to diffuse and attack these bias crimes.

Mr. Mercado said that they need more resources to be able to give kids things to do. He mentioned the activities that they been able to provide such as midnight basketball. Mr. Mercado said that we have to be there for young people and that we need to educate and provide immigrants with history about the community.

He said that these problems are community issues and we need civic groups and elected officials to come together. He mentioned that we need more cultural opportunities for people. He said to celebrate diversity. That is what has made this borough great, this city great and this country great. After his presentation, several S.I.D.A. members expressed their concerns and asked questions of Mr. Mercado.

Rev. Baker spoke about the many initiatives and services that they are working on to help the Port Richmond community. Rev. Baker said that due to the increase in attacks that there has been an increase in police presence in the Port Richmond community, including the N.Y.P.D. Hate Crimes unit, Community Affairs, patrol cars from five boroughs, the New York State Attorney General's Office, and the New York State Justice Department. They are now trying to step down that presence. He also spoke about Councilwoman Rose's Safety Zone Program where people in distress can go for help.

Both Gonzalo Mercado and Rev. Dr Tony Baker are working very hard to help the community in light of all the problems. Their presentation was very interesting and informative. After the presentation, President Reichard thanked both them both for coming and speaking to the Club.

Mark Herman, State Committeeman spoke to the club about the recent semi annual meeting he attended in Syracuse. He felt that it was a very good meeting. He also mentioned that there are some serious elections in New York and throughout the country this year. After his presentation Mark encouraged members to ask questions about the state committee meeting.

New Business

Joann Olbrich made a motion to place a \$200 bid to re-do the club's website. President Reichard said that the current website is hard to work with and should be redone. Roy Moskowitz asked whether the company that would be re-doing the website would be including maintenance. President Reichard said that the agreement would include six months of free maintenance in the package. After the six months is over the web site has to be user-friendly and we should be able to update the site easily. Rosemarie Palladino made a motion that we form a sub-committee to work with the web designer. The motion passed unanimously. President Reichard said that the formation of a sub-committee will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Marie Dwyer made a motion that S.I.D.A. take a full-page ad (\$150) in the Democratic Gala journal, the Gala being held on October 14. After some discussion, Tom Scherbenko made a

friendly amendment that the ad would not congratulate the honorees but instead the message would be to support the Democratic candidates for the upcoming election. Marie accepted the amendment and the motion carried.

Announcements

Councilwoman Rose spoke about the recent yellow school bus cuts. School bus service has been taken away from 7th and 8th grade children. Ms. Rose made the point of how much this is affecting approximately 1,000 kids on the North Shore. She said that these kids are left to traverse roads alone and use public transportation. She suggested we write letters.

President Reichard reminded the members about the upcoming fundraiser for Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer to be held on September 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Prisco's. He encouraged members to attend the fundraiser to show their support. He also mentioned that Assemblywoman Hyer-Spencer needs volunteers to write letters to the *Staten Island Advance*.

Oran Brown asked about the recent news on the issue of hydro-fracturing. He was told that there is a moratorium on hydro-fracturing while the E.P.A. is conducting a study. President Reichard reminded the members that Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer has been at the forefront of this issue.

Anne Taylor reminded members about the candidate's forum to be held on October 19 at the Staaten, sponsored by The Coalition of Staten Island Women's Organizations.

Results of Endorsement Vote

N.Y.S. Governor/Lt Governor

Andrew Cuomo/Robert Duffy	43
No Endorsement.....	2
Write-In - David Paterson....	1

N.Y.S. Attorney General

Eric Schneiderman	40
No Endorsement.....	2
Blank	2
Write-In - No name	2
Write-In - Sean Coffey.....	1

U.S. Senator

Chuck Schumer	45
No Endorsement.....	1
Write-In - No name	1

U.S. Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand43
No Endorsement.....3
Write-In - Gail Goode.....1

U.S. Congress

Michael McMahon.....40
No Endorsement..... 6
Write-In - No name.....1

President Reichard announced that the next Executive Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 28 instead of the usual Wednesday because of the fundraiser for Janele on the 29th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Dwyer

Corresponding & Recording Secretary

View from the First Row

DO YOU....

Do you ever remember a time when...

All schools were great?

All kids learned? Every last poor and hungry one?

There wasn't an achievement gap between White and African American children?

All teachers had the skills of John Dewey?

When schools were fully funded?

Every classroom had all the materials needed?

It never existed! Not now, not then, not ever!

Do you ever ask yourself...

Why, then, is there such a focus on education now?

Why Billionaire Mike and Lawyer Klein never gave a thought (or a penny) to education until now?

Do you ever wonder why...

Melinda and Bill Gates, the ilk of the Waltons and Broads and those desperate hedge fund managers have a sincere urge to "save" our schools?

They are allowed to determine educational policy that has no basis in research and contradicts what we do know?

Those that don't send their kids to public school able to determine our agenda (high stakes standardized tests, destruction of teacher unions, elimination of tenure, closing of schools, merit pay, attacks on teacher pensions, charterization and privatization of schools, evaluation of teachers by test scores?)

Do you honestly believe that...

Hedge fund managers who brought us to the brink of economic disaster are sincerely interested in your kid and mine?

Bloomberg's national ambitions are not driving his moves?

Arnie Duncan, when Superintendent of Chicago's schools had 22 of his schools on the list of the 100 worst schools in America, should be our educational czar?

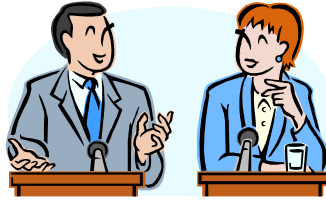
We can be sure that the forces determining the education agenda are not interested in what is good for kids or learning. As Naomi Klein details (*The Shock Doctrine*), the privateers of capitalism hype the crisis to dooming proportions and foist their agenda attacking public systems and unionization. All while our kids only get one bite of the apple.

- *Loretta Prisco*

"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

Bulletin Board



Candidates' Night

*Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30 PM at
The Staaten, 697 Forest Ave.

Sponsored by:

- The American Association of University Women;
- The New York State Women, Inc. of Staten Island
(formerly The Business and Professional Women's Club of S.I.)
- The Coalition of Staten Island Women's Organizations;
and
- The Staten Island Women's Political Caucus.

*All candidates in Staten Island local elections are invited to talk about their aspirations
to election or re-election.*

Dinner is \$25


For information and to RSVP
call Christine Donahue 718-986-6129

*I know that is the night of our meeting but it is possible to do both. Support our
endorsed candidates! Some need it badly.

- Joy Robins



ALL DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY



Come join your fellow



Staten Island Democrats
Staten Island Democratic Association
Democratic Organization of Richmond County
North Shore Democratic Club
Anthony R. Gaeta Democratic Club
Young Democrats of Richmond County
South Shore Democratic Club

In Celebrating the 2010 Holiday Season


The Crystal Room

(67 Olympia Boulevard)



Thursday, December 9, 2010

7 PM – 11 PM



\$45 per person

(\$40 with a new, unwrapped toy)

Make checks payable to: "S.I.D.A."

Mail checks to: S.I.D.A. - P.O. Box 140371, Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

Proceeds for this event are being divided between the six Staten Island Democratic clubs, so please indicate the CLUB AFFILIATION(S), as well as the NAME(S), of those attending.

Please RSVP by November 24, 2010

For Further Information Contact:

Liz Price at 347/415-4555



**You are invited to the
S.I. Women's Political Caucus
Women in Leadership Forum,**

Saturday October 23, 2010
10 AM to 1 PM, at the
Richmondtown Library Auditorium
200 Clarke Ave. SI, NY 10306

*The
Elizabeth A. Connelly
Leadership Award
will be presented to
Lilian Popp*



Plus a distinguished panel of women educators will discuss their experiences in various aspects of the field.

Free and open to the public!

Light refreshments served

To RSVP or If you need a ride or can offer one, Call Joy, 718-
816-4128