



March 2016

# Staten Island Democratic Association

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

*www.sidems.org*

At our Next Meeting:

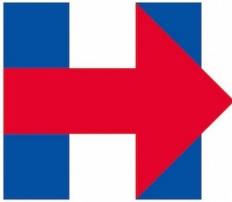
## • **Richard Reichard**

Democratic Candidate for  
Congress



## • **Bay Street Corridor**

## • **Presidential Endorsement Vote**



Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 8:00 P.M.

Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, 1001 Goethals Road North



## 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](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

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

President .....	Joann Olbrich	Member at-Large .....	Clara Ogburn
Vice President .....	Bobby Digi	Ex Officio .....	Michelle Akyempong
Executive Secretary.....	Dennis Brown	Ex Officio .....	Gary Carsel
Corresponding & Recording Secretary .....	Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio .....	Paul Cinquemani
Treasurer.....	Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio .....	Belinda Dixon
Social Secretary .....	Bryan Ellicott	Ex Officio .....	John Mancuso
Member at-Large .....	Carl Chew	Ex Officio .....	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large .....	Susan Chew	Ex Officio .....	John Mastellone
Member at-Large .....	Robert Holst	Ex Officio .....	John Sollazzo
Member at-Large .....	Roy Moskowitz	Ex Officio .....	Tom Shcherbenko

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**PLEASE NOTE APRIL MEETING  
IS APRIL 26!!**

Mark Herman's family  
would like to invite all of you to attend a  
Memorial for

# Mark Herman

The Harmon's Funeral Home  
571 Forest Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10310  
Phone:(718) 442-5056

March 19, 2016  
Noon - 2 p.m.

Mark was a founding member of SIDA,  
and meant a great deal to this organization.

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

March 2016

### **Whose Interests will be Protected?**

**T**here are big changes coming to the north shore of Staten Island. I can look out the window of my office across to the Staten Island Ferry terminal, and watch the new Outlets go up. Nearby, the "Wheel" will be built, the Lighthouse Museum finally has opened, with numerous plans for other attractions in that area, and a few blocks away, the Bay Street Corridor has seen several new buildings go up. All of these developments and plans could be very good for the community as a whole, or they could benefit only the moneyed interests, while causing problems for those residents of these communities. What will happen when all of the new attractions bring a huge increase in traffic? What are the plans to address that concern? How will those who live, work and go to school in this area cope when the demand for already insufficient parking increases? Will the jobs provided by all the new developments provide a living wage, or more subsistence paying jobs, that already make up too many of the jobs available locally? Can we protect the interests of the regular people of Staten Island, while bringing changes that are good for business?

This has been a theme that has impacted Staten Island for much of the last half century at least. The opening of the Verrazano Bridge brought an explosion of new development to Staten Island that did not allow for careful planning and the provision of infrastructure improvements commensurate with the drastically increased population. There were attempts to bring some order to the orgy of over development: I remember the "South Richmond Plan" of 1970, which attempted to do just that. But the moneyed interests, the well-connected developers and real estate industry, made sure that there would be no constraints on their maximum profits. This continues to the present day, as we have seen with the Savo Brothers and the atrocity of Mount Manresa.

The quality of life has been seriously impacted, as wetlands that should have been left wild became the sites of massive developments, and lovely old homes were torn down only to be replaced with dozens of dwellings in the same space, with no green spaces and completely inadequate parking spaces. Attempts to control this trend by "downzoning" often are useless, as the developers have their well-connected "expeditors" procure for them waivers that flout the zoning regulations.

The great Tip O'Neill said "All politics is local"! We need to pay attention to these matters, as they have a serious impact on the day to day lives of the people of Staten Island.

- Joann Olbrich  
President



**N.Y.S. Presidential  
Primary is April 19!**

**S.I.D.A. April Meeting  
is April 26!!!!**

## Richard Reichard

*S.I.D.A. member Richard Reichard is a Democratic candidate for the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and will be a guest speaker at our March 15 General Membership meeting.*

**R**ichard Reichard served as President of the Staten Island Democratic Association from 2009 through 2010. He retired as Personnel Director for the New York City Department of Finance after 36 years of City service. He received a baccalaureate degree from Bernard Baruch College.

Richard understands that the number one priority of the American people is the economy. People worry about losing their jobs, finding a job that pays enough to support a family, stagnant wages, paying for their children's college education and being able to have enough resources to retire.

He knows that we can address the American peoples' concerns about the economy if we are willing to invest in the development of new technologies, infrastructure and in making college affordable for all.

If it wasn't for the government's investment in the development of the internet, there would not be a Google, a Microsoft or an Apple and the millions of good-paying jobs that they provide. Government investment in the development of new technologies will lead to new industries and the jobs that will follow.

Further, Richard knows that industries require a workforce with the education necessary to fill their positions. The cost of higher education has become a barrier for too many Americans. We need to lower the costs for both parents and students.

After years of underfunding maintenance and new construction, the nation's infrastructure received a grade of D- from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Since you cannot ship a bridge or a road overseas, we can put thousands of Americans to work building and rebuilding the infrastructure needed to move our economy.

Richard's position is that finding the revenue necessary to fund these investments will require that we move away from the tax system that gives preference to the wealthy and corporations. While this tax system, which is known as trickle-down economics, has allowed the top 1% share of the economic pie to double over the last 35 years, the middle-class have seen their share decrease by 40%. Trickle-down economics has also diverted resources away from the investment in new technologies, infrastructure and education.

Richard understands that by bringing fairness to our tax system, such as shutting down offshore tax havens, adopting the "Buffet" rule which states that a billionaire should not pay a lower tax than his secretary and closing loopholes that allow corporations that make billions to avoid paying any U.S. taxes, [took out that] we can raise the revenue necessary to invest in our nation's future.

He agrees with the majority of Americans that Social Security and Medicare are two very successful government programs. Social Security keeps 22 million seniors and 1 million children out of poverty. A 65 year-old now lives 18 years longer than a 65 year-old lived in 1965 before Medicare became law. Richard opposes any plan that will phase out either program or that will raise the Social Security retirement age or the Medicare eligibility age.

<http://richardreichard.com/>



## Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island

*A guest speaker will present on the Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island at our March 15 General Membership Meeting. The following was taken from New York City Planning Department's website <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/bay-street-corridor/bay-street-corridor.page>*

The Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island Neighborhood Planning Study aims to examine key land use and zoning issues in the neighborhood, but also take a broader, more comprehensive look at current and future community needs to identify a wide range of strategies and investments for the Bay Street Corridor's growth and vitality. For example, we would look at creating a new mixed-use district on the North Shore of Staten Island to support the borough's downtown neighborhoods, provide a wider range of retail and services, and expand affordable housing options for a range of income groups, including seniors and young adults within walking distance of the ferry.

### [View the Study Area and Context Area boundaries](#)

The Study is a part of *Housing New York*, the Mayor's housing plan to build and preserve affordable housing through community development initiatives and to foster a more equitable and livable New York City. Housing is considered "affordable" if a household spends no more than a third of its total income on housing costs.

The Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island Neighborhood Planning Study aims to include strategies for:

- [Affordable Housing](#) – preserve and create affordable housing;
- [Economic Development](#) – foster jobs and economic development;
- [Community Resources](#) – invest in services and infrastructure; and
- [Land Use and Zoning](#) – promote growth of livable neighborhoods.

### **Why Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island?**

This study builds on the [North Shore 2030 Report](#), released in December 2011. This ground-up planning process intends to leverage \$1 billion public and private investments recently devoted to St. George and along the Stapleton Waterfront.

Surrounded predominately by residential zoning districts along the principal connection between St. George, Stapleton, and the Verrazano Bridge, the Bay Street Corridor study area is defined as an existing M1-1 manufacturing zoning district, where as-of-right residential development is currently not permitted. Rezoning this area is an opportunity to reimagine this urban corridor to enable development which will better serve the surrounding neighborhoods and capitalize on the existing transportation infrastructure within one of Staten Island's most transit rich areas.

The Context Area has been defined by the 2010 US Decennial Census Tract boundaries and have enabled a more robust demographic analysis of the area to be undertaken. The Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island initiative will evaluate identified neighborhood needs within the Context Area and evaluate potential strategies to meet these identified needs.



## February 2016 Minutes

### **General Meeting February 16, 2015**

President Olbrich called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. President Olbrich announced that the Executive Committee voted to switch the April 19 meeting to April 26 because it conflicts with the New York Presidential Primary which will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup>. She also announced the passing of Mark Herman who was one of the founding members of S.I.D.A. and asked for a moment of silence in his honor. President Olbrich announced that Mark's family planned a Memorial Service for him on March 19 from 12 – 2:00 p.m. at Harmon's Funeral Home.

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

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown told club members that he is proud to carry on as Executive Secretary for Mark. He also mentioned that he suggested some Committees at the recent Executive Committee meeting: Civil Rights Committee, Labor Committee, and he wants to re-establish an S.I.D.A. Campaign Committee. Dennis added that he wants to re-establish a unified calendar to list events for county and all the clubs. He hopes to be able to circulate it via e-mail.

Dennis feels it is important to develop an annual budget. He wants to re-invigorate the club to make it more proactive. He also mentioned adding an Environmental and Sustainability Committee to be headed by Susan Chew. Dennis thanked Rich Reichard who plans to continue to chair the Issues Committee.

Bryan Ellicott made a motion to accept the December and January minutes as published on pages 8, 9 and 18 of the February newsletter. The motion carried.

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

Social Secretary Bryan Ellicott announced that he established a Twitter account for the club. The handle is @demssinyc. He is also posting monthly events on Facebook. He explained that he is trying to push social media. He will be asking for help with the annual picnic and he urged members to email him with suggestions for honorees for the annual club banquet. Bryan's email address is [ellicottbryan@gmail.com](mailto:ellicottbryan@gmail.com).

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

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman reported an opening balance of \$8,881.54 and a closing balance on February 16, 2016 of \$9,136.74. Bonnie told members the balance was actually lower because we have to maintain a \$1,500 balance in the account and she is waiting for three invoices from the printer for the newsletter. Bonnie also told members that the club didn't make as much money at the banquet this year because we didn't have much lead time to send out invitations.

#### **Prisco Essay Competition**

Susan Chew reported that the committee met on January 20. They discussed details about the competition and mentioned that the awards will be given at the June 23 general meeting. Susan made a motion to have a 50/50 each month to generate seed money for the competition. The motion carried.

They will be 6 for \$5.00 12 for \$10 and 20 for \$25. Susan mentioned that interested members who would like to serve on the committee should email her at [schew61@aol.com](mailto:schew61@aol.com).

### **Guest Speaker**

New York State Senator Diane Savino gave a very informative presentation about the Governor's budget proposals including increasing the minimum wage and establishing family paid leave. After her presentation she took questions from several members in attendance.

### **Issues Committee**

Committee Chair Richard Reichard reported that Phil Jonas wrote an Issues paper on Climate Change and told members to contact him if they are interested in joining the committee to review the paper. Richard asked members to think about a name for the new Staten Island Ferry. He also announced that he contacted County to request an interview to run for Congress. He spoke briefly about his ideas and visions if elected.

Sally Jones told members that Dave Seeley had been diagnosed with A.L.S. and is in the hospital. She mentioned that she has his address for anyone that plans to send him a card. She also urged members to attend the Forum on the closing of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, which will be held on February 18.

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

Vice President Bobby Digi provided a summary of the recent Executive Committee meeting. Bobby also reported that the Executive Committee voted to support the upcoming Youth Empowerment Summit with a \$100 contribution. He added that the event is going to be held on Saturday February 27 at Wagner College. President Olbrich asked for volunteers to staff the table at the event.

Gary Carsel announced that his wife Anne Taylor is going to be honored by the Soroptimist International of Staten Island on March 13 and told members to look at page 21 in the newsletter for more details. The winner of the 50/50 to raise seed money for the Prisco Essay Competition was announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Marie Dwyer*  
*Corresponding &*  
*Recording Secretary*

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## **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](http://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 February 17, 2016  
Printed February 28, 2016

### **Slap at 'Leftist' Protesters was Wrong**

Your editorial "A Fearful Cop and a Young Dead Father" gives admirable regard to many viewpoints - particularly in mentioning that it's no "wonder some people remind us that Black Lives Matter."

I only take exception to the slap at "leftist" protesters. I agree that those who "condemn" police officers "whenever" they see an "opportunity" can be "overreacting," but "idiotically wrong" is too much. "Leftists," I would say, are just more emotionally averse to arbitrary uses of force. And per the editorial itself, "there have been far too many 'mistakes' for any rational [not idiotic] person to shrug off."

Officer Liang's use of deadly force in a moment of panic in a darkened stairway is beyond sad. Moreover, his manslaughter conviction seems an arbitrary use of state force in prosecution, especially in comparison to Officer Panteleo's prolonged choking and restraint of Eric Garner with six other officers present in broad daylight that never drew a charge of even "reckless endangerment." That is patently unfair.

Both the Left and the Right agree on fairness as the basis of justice. It's just that the Left makes a more sensitive and widespread, not "idiotic," application of the principle.

- Rich Florentino

*The following letter appeared in The Daily News.*

On-line February 25, 2016

### **Hope > Math**

Staten Island: *The Daily News* quoted an open letter from four economists who described the Democrats "as the party of responsible arithmetic" ("Waiting for Clinton," editorial, Feb. 22). I'm glad they weren't around to criticize our greatest President, Franklin Roosevelt, when he pulled us out of the Great Depression. I'm sure they would have pooh-poohed John F. Kennedy's call to put a man on the moon, too. The Democratic Party is the party of vision and hope. We are a country of people, not numbers to be crunched.

- Tom Shcherbenko



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## QR Codes

Thank you Social Secretary Bryan Ellicott for starting an S.I.D.A. Twitter account (follow us!) and for developing the following QR codes:

S.I.D.A.'s Twitter account:



S.I.D.A.'s website:



[www.sidems.org](http://www.sidems.org)



March 15, 2016	April 26, 2016
<b>General Meeting</b> <b>8:00p.m.</b> <b>Charlie Brown's Steakhouse</b> <b>1001 Goethals Road North</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>• Richard Reichard, Democratic Congressional Candidate</li> <li>• Bay Street Corridor</li> <li>• Presidential Endorsement Vote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker TBD</li> <li>• Congressional Endorsement Vote</li> </ul>

**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.



2016 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$15 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$10 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$5 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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