

Presidents Day

Though we officially celebrated Presidents Day last weekend, we cannot let the day go without comment. On this week's publication date we are in the middle of the birthdays of two of the star presidents of America, George Washington (February 22nd) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12th). We are quite sure neither president needs any introduction or excuse for being celebrated, but for the younger readers, Washington was our first president and as general helped win our independence from Britain. Lincoln saved the country when it was in danger of splitting in half in the Civil War and abolished slavery. Another major president in our history is Franklin

Delano Roosevelt, who successfully shepherded us through World War II and the Great Depression with his iconic programs, many still in effect today, such as the Social Security Act, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to protect our savings, Fannie Mae, National Labor Relations Board, Securities Exchange Commission. We still treasure many fine achievements that grew out of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) relief program. Some presidents were not quite as successful. Be that as it may, the president of the United States has a place among the most powerful people in the world, and it is an office that deserves the highest re-

spect. The president must lead both wisely for the greatest good, and also represent the people's most worthy goals; do what is best for the entire country while remaining a good neighbor to the world. It is an awesome responsibility, and one need only look at the presidents' before and after pictures to see the toll it can take on an individual, who must match hard work with knowledge, wisdom, and conscience. As John F. Kennedy said, "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." We tip our hats to the greatest presidents we have had throughout our history; may there be many more to come.

(A Special) Election Day

On Tuesday, February 26th, the city will hold a special election for the office of public advocate. The city has had only four public advocates, since it is a recently created office. The public advocate is second to the mayor in the city's hierarchy and, as the name implies, serves as an ombudsman for the people – or watchdog, investigating complaints against city services. Some say the office is merely a springboard to higher office, as the public advocate does not have voting power, but he or she can introduce legislation and attend City Council meetings. Former public advocate, NYS Attorney General Letitia James was quite active, filing nearly a dozen lawsuits against various city agencies such as the NYPD and the Departments of Finance and Education. Mayor de Blasio is another former advo-

cate.

As this is a non-partisan race, all candidates had to choose a party name not resembling established parties. Some chose very specific names to represent their platforms (Nomiki Konst – Pay People More, Ydanis Rodriguez – United For Immigrants, David Eisenbach – Stop REBNY, Anthony Herbert – Housing Residents First, Melissa Mark-Viverito – Fix the MTA); some picked more general names, but with a hint at their political philosophy (Ron Kim – People Over Corporations, Jumaane Williams – The People's Voice); some chose generic concepts (Eric Ulrich – Common Sense, Daniel O'Donnell – Equality For All); or simply slogans based on the person's name (I Like Maio was chosen by Danniell Maio, who is not on the ballot).

Though there were 23 who announced their candidacy, six were disqualified for filing errors or insufficient petition signatures, whittling the field down to 17 candidates, so it is still quite a long ballot. While still on the ballot, Latrice Walker is not running.

While there has not been as much fervor as there is over most elections, we believe it is always important to exercise our rights, and voting is the supreme political right of citizens. So if you haven't already, please do make your choice and plan to get to your assigned polling station. The more involved we are in the process, the more accurately our representatives can reflect us. We hope to see you at the polls on Tuesday!



Medea At Queens Theatre

A copy of this letter was received at the offices of the Queens Gazette.

February 23, 2019
Pancyprian Association
Theatrical Division
23-15 31st Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone who will gather for the gala performance of Medea by the Pancyprian Association, Theatrical Division, at Queens Theatre.

The Empire State is fortunate to be home to the world's finest cultural institutions, and we gratefully acknowledge the emotional depth and enrichment they bring to our lives. Since 1975, the Pancyprian Association has fostered a great appreciation and awareness of a treasured Hellenic legacy, and with the advent of the Pancyprian Theatrical Group, they continue to promote a dynamic image of the Greek experience through first-rate productions of the ancient Greek tragedies of Euripides, Aeschylus, and Sophocles.

On February 23rd you will come together to enjoy an exciting performance of Medea presented in English. I commend director Leonidas Loizides, the talented cast of professional stage actors, the gifted musicians, the hard-working crew, and all who have contributed to this terrific production. Their outstanding efforts on behalf of the Pancyprian Association to preserve these ancient and revered works is noted and appreciated, and I wish you an enjoyable evening at what promises to be a truly stellar dramatic performance.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,
Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York

Stay With The Herd

To the Editor:

Patrick Henry famously said, "Give me liberty or give me death!" After that remark he participated in the Continental Congress, but was never notable again.

Radicals may be what is needed to begin a revolution, but for achieving independence, practicality becomes the means of achieving success. Cooler heads combined to make compromises that permitted a land of colonies to become a nation.

The newly constituted House of Representatives celebrates a freshman class in large measure elected in opposition to Trump. Their constituents voted for an alternative to Trump's excesses. Many newly elected congressional members have come to the House with "progressive" ideas, that to a nation that often finds itself in the political center, seem extreme.

To govern a nation that is divided, idealism must be tempered by reality. Failing to comprehend the limits of the support for revolutionary change, the power structure that is the opponent will be empowered and may well maintain control and even expand their reach.

In making the case for change, the

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While you're online check us out at **www.qgazette.com** Please include a name and address on all correspondence, names will be withheld on request.

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