

President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

What does a virtual campaign storefront look like? What does it do? How can we reach our Upper West Side neighbors and carry on campaign activities in the middle of a pandemic? These are the questions that the Three Parks board asked itself when we realized that a bricks-and-mortar storefront wasn't possible this year.

I'm pleased to report that our online virtual storefront has been in full swing since September 3. It lists all our campaign activities with easy sign-up links. Check it out on our web page, www.threeparksdems.org. It has been great to see that in just the past three months, since we started mobilizing for the 2020 election campaign, the volume of traffic on our website has tripled.

Three Parks has also launched a full lineup of daily sidewalk tables up and down Broadway. Corinne Constantine and I host two tables on the northwest corner of Broadway and 104th Street every afternoon, weather permitting, where we hand out voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications, accept contributions for campaign buttons, and provide answers to our neighbors' voter- and election-related questions. This week Steve and Lynn Max started hosting another daily table in the 97th Street area, and Deborah Thomas and Dan Cohen are stationed

near 106th Street and Broadway every Thursday and Sunday. More than 25 club members have come to take their turns at the tables and hand out flyers listing club-related campaign activities.

Three Parks has also been sending postcards to voters in Maine, urging them to oust Republican Sen. Susan Collins and elect Democrat Sara Gideon in her stead, thereby helping to gain a Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate. Cheered on by coordinator Chuck Wall and with guidance from the Gideon campaign in Maine, as of today, more than 140 volunteers have written almost 7,000 postcards.

Corinne Constantine, aided by Daniel Tsadok and Jessica Haberstock, is hosting phone calls for Biden/Harris every Thursday night from 6:00-8:00 with the help of experts from the New York for Biden Campaign. Each calling session typically attracts more than 20 volunteers who make more than 450 calls on average.

Now, too, Miriam Rabban is coordinating phone calls to help re-elect Rep. Antonio Delgado (19th District), and Irene Shrier is in charge of getting volunteers to text for Rep. Max Rose (Staten Island.) More detailed information on all these initiatives can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Three Parks Board members also helped give out absentee ballot applications to residents of the Red Oak

apartments on West 106th Street. We provided voting information and assisted seniors and non-English speakers with completing the forms.

As we all know, the Upper West Side is largely a Democratic stronghold, so it is humbling (to say the least) to hear the occasional Trump supporter pass by and disparage Biden, to hear others say that they won't vote because they don't like either candidate, and to hear yet others exclaim that they're not voting because their vote won't count anyway. In most such cases, our voice of reason and persuasion unfortunately falls on deaf ears.

But mostly, our conversations are productive, meaningful, and encouraging. Many Upper West Siders are unsure and anxious about how and where they can vote, and they look to Three Parks for answers and assurances. The trust they place in us is most gratifying. Many people tell us, "We're so glad to get this voting information. We weren't getting it from any other group!" That's the beauty of Three Parks. We're out there doing it.

Stay well, Stay safe. And stay with Three Parks! We need you to help Biden/Harris win the presidential election in November.