

## ***THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS***

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, NY 10025 ♦ (212) 866-6378

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***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

# **APRIL 9, 2008**

**FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS:** Albany Update & Endorsement Presentations by  
State Senator Eric Schneiderman,  
State Senator Bill Perkins and  
Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 9, 2008

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**PLACE:** American Youth Hostel  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

**ROOM:** Chapel

### **AGENDA**

**7:45 PM Sign-in**  
**8 PM Call to Order**

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Albany Update & Endorsement Presentations
4. State Committee Candidates
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wed., April 23, 2008, 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St

**Sun., May 4, 2008, 3-6 PM**  
**Three Parks Fundraiser**  
Place: Meridiana, B'way & 105/6 Sts.

**Wed., May 14, 2008, 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Endorsement Meeting**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St

**Wed., May 28, 2008, 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St

**Wed., June 11, 2008, 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Meeting**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Three Parks members were treated to a lively and comprehensive debate about congestion pricing at the March 12th meeting. All the speakers did a terrific job; we were fortunate to have such a distinguished panel! Our thanks go out to the speakers in favor—Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito and Wiley Norvell, Communications Director of Transportation Alternatives—and against—Assembly Member Richard Brodsky and Council Member David Weprin.

We heard a brief report on the situation in Albany from Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell. Two candidates for State Committee, Bob Ginsberg (the incumbent) and Larry Hirsch also spoke. Matt Bitz of Council Member Inez Dickens's office gave us a quick overview on zoning and the American Institute of Architects' proposal. Many thanks to them and to the membership for a great turnout!

The Club's April 9th meeting will feature an update on Albany from our State representatives, Senators Eric Schneiderman and Bill Perkins and Assembly Member O'Donnell, as well as prepare the Club to make endorsements in upcoming local elections. We look forward to hearing about the new administration, budget negotiations and prospects for other legislation. Senator Schneiderman has represented the 31st Senate District since 1998, Senator Perkins the 30th SD since 2006 and Assemblymember O'Donnell the 69th AD since 2002. Our State Committee Member Lynn Thomas will also speak.

**A flyer is included in the newsletter, so please spread the word by posting it in your building.** As always, you must be a member in good standing, and current in your dues, to vote in our endorsements. If you haven't paid your 2008 Three Parks dues, there's no time like the present!

**SAVE THE DATE for the Three Parks**

**Benefit—Sunday, May 4th** at Meridiana Restaurant, when we will honor Council Members Inez Dickens and Melissa Mark-Viverito and the service workers' campaign Justice Will Be Served. Invitations will be mailed in early April, so keep an eye on your mailboxes and let us know you'll be joining us. Proceeds will fund the Club's storefront in the fall; with skyrocketing rents, we need your support more than ever!

Remember to check the Three Parks website **[www.ThreeParksDems.org](http://www.ThreeParksDems.org)** frequently for updates on Club activities and for tabling opportunities, especially as the weather gets warmer.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and the entire membership, I'd like to send our best wishes to Governor David Paterson, who has shown strong leadership under difficult circumstances.

## Go Green East Harlem Cookbook Hits the Shelves

By Scott M. Stringer

In January my *Go Green East Harlem Cookbook* was published, a multicultural feast for the eyes, as well as the palette. With recipes contributed by East Harlem's greatest restaurateurs and community residents, and gorgeous photographs by a group of International Center of Photography grads, the book beautifully portrays the community that inspired it.

The bilingual cookbook features healthy recipes for appetizers, soups, salads, entrees and – yes – desserts. It is the latest of my "Go Green East Harlem" initiatives, which to date include, thanks to Mayor Bloomberg, a new \$3.5 million state of the art asthma center that will open this spring, the planting of hundreds of street trees, a new farmers' market on 106<sup>th</sup> Street, and a "green building" conference for developers, planners and community advocates held in October.

The excitement and ownership that residents feel about the cookbook comes from the sense

that we truly can improve our lives through the choices we make – from what we put in our bodies to how we advocate for crucial changes like better air quality. Just as the cookbook reflects the community, Go Green East Harlem is led by a steering committee of neighborhood residents, civic, environmental and business leaders, public health advocates and elected officials.

Steering Committee member Dr. Adam Aponte, whose advice on weight loss is featured in the cookbook, has pointed out that some parts of East Harlem have more fast food restaurants than supermarkets or produce stands. As a result, at North General Hospital doctors have begun seeing seven year olds who are developing diabetes. That is a fully preventable tragedy, one that this cookbook directly takes aim at.

Scott M. Stringer is the Manhattan Borough President.

### **Brewer and Advocates Bring Housing Help to the Upper West Side**

A monthly housing clinic will offer free legal advice on mortgages, rent regulation, landlord disputes and other housing issues.

**WHO:** Council Member Gale Brewer, Urban Justice Center, West Side SRO Law Project

**WHAT:** Free 2008 Monthly Housing Clinics

**WHEN:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month, 6-8 PM; Sign Up starts at 6 PM

**WHERE:** Goddard Riverside Community Ctr. 647 Columbus Ave. (91<sup>st</sup> & 92<sup>nd</sup> St)

**CONTACT:** Shulamit Warren, 212-788-6975

#### **Next Newsletter Deadline**

Submissions for the May Newsletter are due April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## **Judicial Up-Date**

By Alan Flacks

This year, there are judicial vacancies in the Manhattan Civil, Surrogate, and Supreme courts. There is a local downtown Civil Court seat on the lower west side. There is one (of the two) Manhattan Surrogate Court judges to be filled. And now there are five vacancies on the 1<sup>st</sup> District (N.Y. County) State Supreme Court bench.

An additional vacancy just occurred when Supreme Court Justice James Yates announced his resignation (effective April 28<sup>th</sup>) to become counsel to Gov. David Paterson. Earlier this year, Appellate Division Justice Stephen Crane resigned. This now provides the new Governor the opportunity to appoint two interim judges. Additionally, there is one “open” seat (created by Justice Louis York reaching the mandatory retirement age), and Justices Martin Schoenfeld and Marcy Kahn are both seeking re-election.

The County’s judiciary committee is in the process of forming a screening panel of people designated by heads of various civic and bar associations and law schools to interview applicants for the Surrogate and Supreme Court vacancies. Vilia Hayes, a lawyer with the firm of Hughes, Hubbard, & Reed, has been chosen to be the screening panel administrator.

### **Upcoming Democratic Presidential Primary Schedule**

April 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Pennsylvania
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Guam
May 6 <sup>th</sup> :	Indiana and North Carolina
May 13 <sup>th</sup> :	Nebraska and West Virginia
May 20 <sup>th</sup> :	Kentucky and Oregon
June 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	Montana and South Dakota
June 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Puerto Rico

## **Testimony to City Council on Congestion Pricing, March 24th, 2008**

By Cynthia Doty

My name is Cynthia Doty and I am the community organizer for The Morningside Heights / West Harlem Sanitation Coalition, an environmental education organization and member of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance and COMMUTE.

The Sanitation Coalition supports the initiatives of PlaNYC and the city's efforts to improve the environment and the sustainability of our city. We believe it is absolutely necessary to reduce all vehicular traffic in this city and vastly improve our public transportation system. Our health depends on it. Our economy and worker productivity depend on it. Our very quality of life depends on it. We must switch our travel patterns away from polluting vehicles and into more environmentally friendly forms of transport. This means increasing public transportation, increasing protected bike traffic, increasing pedestrian travel, and developing non-polluting freight transport.

We support the spirit of the Mayor's plan because it will provide funds to improve our public transportation from increased subway cars and buses to Bus Rapid Transit and Express buses, to improved subway and rail stations, to expanded ferry service. If done correctly, all New Yorkers will benefit from these improvements and everyone, rich and poor, will be able to move around this city with ease, comfort and safety. For us, reducing traffic in Midtown is not as important as improving access to public transit. If the only way we can fund this system is through congestion pricing, then we should do so. But the goal must be to improve transportation for all New Yorkers not just to allow those driving in midtown to move faster. This pricing plan has to be a revenue generator for programs that will really benefit all NYC, especially our underserved areas. We must ensure that all money raised goes for NYC transportation improvements only.

The Sanitation Coalition has a few other concerns. First we must ensure that the rim neighborhoods are not polluted in exchange for reducing the pollution midtown. This happens all too often especially in the environmental justice neighborhoods. Our area is already overburdened with polluting bus depots, a sewage treatment plant, major truck travel as well as highway exits and endless traffic jams. We must not become the place for the extra bus depots or the parking spot for buses before the new depots are built or a parking lot for commuters trying to avoid the congestion zone. The asthma rates are already too high. We can't absorb any more pollutants.

The Council should require all the new buses, including private buses, to be environmentally clean and penalties should be imposed on any that do not comply.

We also urge the Council to address our growing freight traffic by setting requirements for trucks entering the city to be environmentally clean and steering them to certain times of the day or night, with more areas declared truck free zones. Finally, we support the speedy building of Congressman Nadler's Cross Harbor Rail Freight Tunnel.

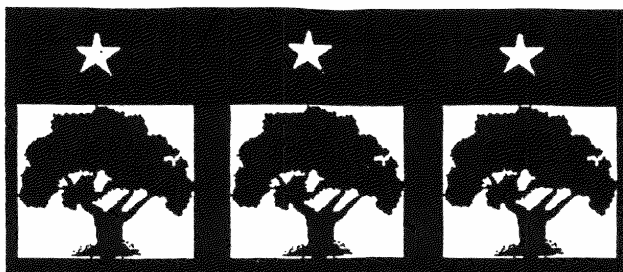
We urge the Council to seize this opportunity and seriously undertake this challenge. Our city must make changes to the way we move around, not simply because congestion is inconvenient, but because our very health and sustainability depend on it.

### **OLD COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RECYCLING**

**MAY 17 - 19**

Upper West Side Groups are sponsoring a 3-day event to collect electronic equipment for proper disposal.

Read the May Newsletter for the details.



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Please pay your 2008 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting  
or by mailing it with your check to:

*Three Parks Independent Democrats  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
New York, N.Y. 10025  
Attn: Treasurer*

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## 2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

*New Member* \_\_\_\_\_

*Renewal* \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$8) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

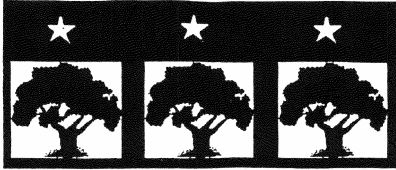
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter via email.

Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2008"



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**NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2008**

**Albany Update & Endorsement Presentations by  
Senator Eric Schneiderman  
Senator Bill Perkins  
Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell**