



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

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

Website: ThreeParksDems.org ♦ Email: ThreeParksDems@aol.com

### ***President***

Daniele Gerard

### ***Editor***

Lauren Williams  
(laurenwilliams1@cs.com)

### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

# **APRIL 14, 2010**

FEATURED TOPIC &  
SPEAKERS:

FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AND STATE SENATE

DATE: Wednesday, APRIL 14, 2010

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: American Youth Hostels  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

### **AGENDA**

**7:45 PM Sign-in**

**8 PM Call to Order**

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL and STATE  
SENATE
3. Election of judicial delegates
4. New Business
5. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2010**

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Thursday, April 29, 2010**

**NY County Spring Gala, 6:30-8:30 PM**

W Hotel, 541 Lexington Ave.

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010**

**Three Parks 35th Anniversary Benefit**

Place: Meridiana Restaurant, B'way at 105/106<sup>th</sup> Sts.

**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**

**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, May 26, 2010**

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 7 PM**

**Three Parks Club Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

The Three Parks March meeting featured several speakers on a variety of topics. Many thanks to Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause/New York, for her talk on campaign finance reform. We were also grateful to have had remarks, information, and goody bags from hard-working Census staff members. Finally, thanks to all the candidates and surrogates who addressed the membership: Ed Sullivan for Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, Jonathan Tasini, Vince Morgan, and campaign staff from Senator Gillibrand's office who brought literature with them.

As we go to print, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has not yet formally announced that he will run for Governor. In anticipation of such an announcement, Three Parks has arranged forums for candidates who will run for the local and statewide offices that will open up as a result. Stay tuned for upcoming alerts for the April and May Three Parks meetings.

At our April meeting, we will also vote for delegates to the September 2010 judicial convention. Nominees' bios follow my article.

By now, you should have received your invitation to the Three Parks 35th Anniversary Benefit on Sunday, May 2, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Meridiana Restaurant. In honor of this milestone occasion, we are offering a special member rate of \$35. We will also publish a journal commemorating the club's three and a half decades of activism in the community and beyond. RSVP before April 16 so we know we can count on seeing you on May 2!

## Nominees for Judicial Delegate

The nominees for Judicial Delegate are:

**Theresa Canter** is a long-time member of Three Parks and is currently serving as 2nd Vice President. It has been a privilege to serve the club in the past as President, Treasurer, and Judicial Delegate. Having a keen interest in our Judiciary and a commitment to choosing judges with the necessary experience, temperament and integrity, I would be honored to again represent the Club as a Judicial Delegate.

**Jock Davenport** has been a neighborhood resident since 1986 and active in many activities since then, including his block association, the "drugstore" wars, and pushing Columbia University to include a supermarket at 103rd St. He has been active in Three Parks since 1996 and has been a Board member for ten years.

**Alan Flacks** is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is committed to the merit screening process, which he helped to establish. A long-time Club member, a Democratic County Committee member, Alan has also served as the Club's Corresponding Secretary and Membership Secretary. Community and civic activities include his block association, 24th Precinct Community Council, public member of Community Planning Board's Transportation Committee, Mid-Manhattan NAACP, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Community Advisory Board.

**Ernestine Gallagher**, a long-time member of Three Parks and member of the Board, has worked on many campaigns over the years and in organizing the annual holiday party every year. She is also active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

**Elizabeth Kellner** is currently a Board member, has been a member of Three Parks for 30+ years, 2008 Storefront regular and among the original 1984 Storefront team. She is a Columbia Law and School of Public Health graduate. She practiced law for 20 years as civil litigator at large NYC firm and insurance industry corporation. She is a 20-year board member of a community health care agency. Her primary areas of interest are health care reform, public schools and affordable housing.

**Merle McEldowney** spent 26 years in Family Court for the Department of Probation writing or supervising the writing of pre-sentence investigations for the court. She also spent several years representing the Department in Family Court cases and negotiating cases prior to court hearings. The last five years, she served as Chief Probation Officer of Brooklyn Family Court. Merle's unique experience will provide understanding of court process to the job of Judicial Delegate.

**Corine Pettey** is a former District Leader, Riverside Democrats, District 3 Elementary School Principal (24 years), long-time member of

Three Parks, and current member of the Three Parks Board. She served as Judicial Delegate and Alternate previously. In 1970, I advocated, along with other West Side democratic District Leaders, that we delegate the selection of candidates for the Judiciary to independent, non-partisan panels, which we established, that were comprised of respected and knowledgeable community leaders (lawyers and non-lawyers). The unanimous choice of the panel to serve as Civil Court Judge was the highly qualified Fritz W. Alexander. Fritz later served as a Justice in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the First Department. In 1985, Fritz became the first Afro-American named to a full term on the New York Court of Appeals, which is the State's highest Tribunal. I still believe that our Judiciary must be of the highest quality and free of political influence and that judgeships not be used as political rewards.

**Milivoy Samurovich** is a founding member of Three Parks and served for five years as District Leader. He also served on CB 7 as co-chair of the Urban Renewal committee and on the committee that opposed Westway. On CB 1, he served as chair of the Battery Park Committee during the planning phase. He led the Tenants Committee of his building, organized rent strikes, and served on the Co-op Negotiating Committee.

## Central Park – Cash Cow?

By Merle McEldowney

In Friday's NY *Times* there is a wonderful article about the new and beautiful Brooklyn Bridge Park. At the end of the article, Nicolai Ouroussoff laments the allotment of park space for a high-end development: "The encroachment of private development on what should be public space is another matter. The Mayor's office argues that it is simply a question of fiscal responsibility – there would be no way to pay for the park's maintenance.

Currently there is a proposal by the Department of Parks and Recreation to build 4 large bubbles over the 26 Central Park tennis courts at 97<sup>th</sup> Street to allow the courts to be used for winter tennis. The vinyl bubbles would be 35 feet tall. To provide the necessary electricity, there would be four diesel generators that would run 24/7 and require 4 diesel fuel tanks, each with a volume of 2,300 gallons (total of 9,200 gallons of diesel

fuel).

The idea of this kind of enclosed tennis court is totally in opposition to the vision of the architects. Its 843 acres was designed for what Olmsted called "democratic recreation." The proposed tennis courts would cost \$100.00 per hour to use – hardly accessible to all New Yorkers! The courts would be privately operated and the money would go into the city's general fund.

How many other concessions could be established in the 843 acres to help close the city's budget deficits? Although the current proposal is for use only between November and March, the tennis courts could be just an air conditioning unit away from year-round use.

All New Yorkers who use the park for leisure and sport are indebted to the Central Park Conservancy for the work they have done to preserve this urban jewel for all of us. We would hope they would join us in opposition to this proposal, before more private concessions are contracted to make Central Park pay for its own maintenance.

## The Great Saunter

Shorewalkers, Inc. is sponsoring its 32-mile walking circuit of Manhattan Island on Saturday, May 1. The walk will start at 7:30 AM at the corner of Fulton and South Streets near the South Street Seaport.

For more information, go to [www.shorewalkers.org](http://www.shorewalkers.org) or call 212-330-7686.

## Census Reminder

from Governor Paterson

Census forms have arrived at your address. I am writing to remind you to take 10 minutes to fill out the 10 questions for each person living in your home, and mail it back today.

**The Census is safe and confidential.** By law, no one other than the Census Bureau staff has been allowed to see your questionnaire for 72 years – not even the President. As you know, the census is a count of every person, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, living in the United States and its territories. It is required by the United States Constitution and is the

foundation of our representative democracy.

**The Census is important.** Census data will be used to determine everything from how many representatives you get in our political system to how much money our State will receive from the federal government for essential services like education, affordable housing, and health care.

**The Census is easy.** I am asking all New Yorkers to fill out the census form for each person living in your home and mail it back today. If the Census Bureau does not receive your form, the Census Bureau workers will complete the count by knocking on the doors of households that did not return a census form.

If you need help completing your questionnaire, Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QACs) have been set up at community organizations and businesses throughout the state to make sure you have the necessary resources to complete your census form, including a staff person to answer census-related questions, language assistance, and Be Counted forms if you have misplaced or lost the original questionnaire. For information in **English** call 1-866-872-6868 or for help in the following languages call: **Spanish: 1-866-928-2010; Chinese: 1-866-935-2010; Korean: 1-866-955-2010; Russian: 1-866-965-2010; Vietnamese: 1-866-945-2010.** The TDD telephone number is 1-866-783-2010.

Please visit [www.census2010.ny.gov](http://www.census2010.ny.gov) to get up-to-date information on Census 2010 in New York State. **You are New York, Make Yourself Count! Mail back your form TODAY!**

### **Annual POETRY in the PARK**

under the auspices of Riverside Park

Sunday, April 25th at 1:30 PM  
Riverside Drive 103rd St.  
at Franklin's Bench on the island

***Come - Read - Listen – Enjoy***

In case of rain, go to Master Apts.  
310 Riverside Dr. (corner 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

### **Best Wishes...**

Best Wishes for a speedy recovery from their recent surgeries go out to Club members Ernestine Gallagher, Merle McEldowney, and

Judy Wood.

### **Correction from March Newsletter**

One of the participants in the veterans' panel, Mike Kim, called with a correction to Tim Walsh's article in the March newsletter. Mike was in fact successful in his attempts to help a little girl get medical treatment outside Iraq.

### **May Day March/Rally for Immigrant and Labor Rights**

By Martin Morand

“MayDay, MayDay, MayDay” is the international emergency distress signal. For those (like me) who have been too long distressed about the state of our nation, who see our political/economic situation as requiring emergency aid, there is some good news, some Hope for Change.

This May Day, Saturday, May 1, in NYC, the progressive, labor, immigrant, and minority communities will, for the first time in too long, demonstrate some grit and unity. We will hold a “March and Rally to call for Labor and Immigrant Rights.” At 11 a.m., we will march from Foley Square (bypassing Wall Street) to Battery Park where there will be a Rally and Festival with live entertainment.

The “WE” who are orchestrating this fight back include New York City’s major unions: AFSCME, SEIU, Teamsters, Laborers, Workers United, Taxi Workers Alliance, Teachers, Domestic Workers United, Communications Workers, Mason Tenders, RWDSU/UFCW, Transport Workers, and more. Immigrant and community groups such as Greater NY Labor and Religion Coalition, NY Immigration Coalition, NYC Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Left Labor Project, and Rekindling Reform will also participate.

May Day is too often thought of as a “foreign” holiday. Indeed, it is celebrated all over the world as a call for workers’ rights. But it really is our day. May Day was born in the USA on October 7, 1884, when the AFL Convention resolved that, “eight hours shall constitute a legal day’s labor from May First, 1886, and we recommend labor laws to conform to this resolution.

This May Day’s March and Rally should also be

Our Day. The principles and goals of Three Parks Independent Democrats are exemplified by May Day, its history, its international sense of solidarity, and its potential. Please join us and celebrate; write to [jason@theadvancegroup.com](mailto:jason@theadvancegroup.com) or call 212-239-7323 for more information and details.

## Condolences

Condolences to the family of Charlotte Levine, a tireless volunteer at our campaign storefront and a true advocate for social justice. She lived a long and remarkable life and will be missed by so many.

### **HEALTH CARE:**

#### **It Ain't Over Till It's Over**

Steve Max, Chair, Health Care Committee

Three Parks can certainly be proud of our role in working to strengthen and pass the health care bill. Our victory lies in establishing in law that all Americans have a right to receive health care and that it is the responsibility of government to ensure that we get it. The Director of USAction, one of the major national organizations in this campaign, put it succinctly, "This is a small step for today and a giant step for tomorrow." The private for-profit insurance industry, having gotten everything it wanted and more, must now prove that it can deliver universally affordable coverage with all the necessary benefits, and do it without discrimination and fraudulently denying claims. Private for-profit insurance, having become America's national plan, must now show that it can deliver health care as effectively as the public plans in other countries. Our elected representatives, especially those who recently insisted that there can be no alternative to private for-profit insurance, will have to hold the industry to the claims they have made for it. Otherwise, both the industry and its backers will have to go.

#### **It ain't over on the Right**

With the ink barely dry on the legislation, it is already clear that the matter is far from settled. Republicans are pledging to repeal the bill when returned to power. Red state legislatures are moving to nullify it within their boundaries. (Apparently, they are unaware of the 1833 act of Congress authorizing the President to use military force against states that refuse to comply with federal law.) Legal challenges to the bill are

already being discussed, particularly to overturn the provision requiring everyone to buy insurance or be fined. Probably, this really is unconstitutional. Many of us who supported the plan saw this part as a gift to the insurance industry and wished it had not been included.

Meanwhile, the Tea Bag is positioning itself as the defender of Medicare by demanding that nearly a half trillion dollars in cuts to that program be rescinded. While it is indeed strange to simultaneously defend Medicare and attack government, these cuts certainly should be rescinded with the exception of those that reduce subsidies to the privatized Medicare Advantage plans. Three Parks spoke against Medicare cuts from the outset. Unfortunately, most progressive organizations were so distracted by the illusory public option that even down to the final weeks they failed to work for improvements to other parts of the bill. The Right is now hypocritically filling the vacuum.

#### **It ain't over on the Left**

Taking advantage of a provision in the bill that promotes state innovation, committees are forming across the country to work for state Single Payer legislation. On the federal level, Rep. Grayson of Florida has introduced a bill, HR 4789, to allow everyone to buy into Medicare at cost. Essentially a way to revive the public option, the real value of this plan will depend on what individuals actually have to pay for Medicare coverage. A better approach is lowering the Medicare eligibility age while preserving its character as a universal tax based system. The Single Payer forces remain mobilized behind a universal Medicare for All system. They will have another opportunity if the new plan fails to result in universal coverage while containing costs. The Mitt Romney program in Massachusetts, on which the Obama plan is modeled, has not accomplished either.

No doubt we progressives will be called upon to defend the health care plan from Republican dismemberment. A strong offense is the best defense. Republicans demanding repeal should be forced to do so in the face of an ongoing legislative campaign to strengthen the plan and speed up implementation.

## Three Parks Independent Democrats

### Eligible Voters April 14, 2010

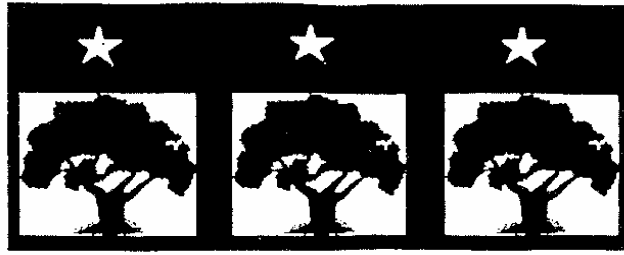
Ralph	Andrew
Mollie	Bailey
Emily	Baldwin
Susan J.	Baldwin
William	Baldwin
Shoshannah	Benmosche
Susan	Bernofsky
Joan	Bondell
Bob	Botfeld
Marla	Brunker
David	Camacho
Theresa	Canter
Jacqueline	Carhart
Daniel	Clark
Dan	Cohen
Alex J.	Colgan
Margaret	Collins
Lucille	Donovan
Lucille M.	Donte
Cynthia	Doty
Renna	Draynel
Gerry Ann	Fifer
Alan	Flacks
Ellen	Flax
Jill	Freeman
Ernestine	Gallagher
Mary J.	Geissman
Daniele	Gerard
Louisa	Gilbert
Robert	Ginsberg
Elizabeth	Ginsberg
Simon	Ginsberg
Pilar	Gomez
Bonnie	Gould
Janet	Harvilchuck
Jacqueline	Huey
Laura Sally	Jacobs
Ulla	Jorgensen
David C.	Kaplan
Rita	Kardeman
Michael	Katz
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Douglas	Kellner
Erland	Kimmich
Jerry	Koenig
Iris J.	Korman
Kenneth	Laufer
Marguerite	Lavin
David	Lazarus

Marie	Lunn
Betsy	Malcolm
Joel	Mandelbaum
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Lynn Bender	Max
Stephen	Max
Merle	McEldowney
George	McGuinness
Dorothy	Mehler
Ernest	Mehler
Gail	Meyers
Christopher	Mooney
Martin	Morand
Brenda	Morgan
John	Newell
Joan	Ogden
Joshua	Pepper
Annie	Petrus
Corine	Petty
Allison	Pinsley
Lisa Anne	Prochazka
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner
Jonathan	Rubin
K.	Samuels
Christine	Samurovich
Milivoy	Samurovich
Ken	Sandler
Alma	Schieren
Doris	Schreiber
Ray	Schwartz
Judy	Segal
Barry N.	Sher
Jacob	Sher
Ahmad	Shirazi
Irene	Shrier
Anna Lee	Spiro
Alan	Spitz
Michael	Stearns
Roschel Holland	Stearns
Gloria	Swanson
Clara	Taylor
Stephanie	Tegnazian
Ruth	Tepper
Deborah	Thomas
Ken	Tulloch
Cathy	Unsino
George	Voorhis
Yvonne	Vulliemoz
Tim	Walsh
Jonathan	Weil
Lauren A.	Williams
Susan E.	Wilson
Judy	Wood

Dan	Woods
Vernita	Worrell
Gloria	Zeche
Tamar	Zucker
Marlene	Zucker
Ariel	Zucker-Brull

### Eligible Voters if Paid April 14, 2010

Cyrus	Adler
Jennifer	Altman
Susan	Andrews
Robert	Bardin
Margret	Beels
Bobby	Berlin
Nicholas	Bryan
Elinor	Cohen
Luanne	Corea
Wendy	Dannett
John	Davenport
Maxine	De Seta
Arlene	Geiger
Joseph	Gianono
Thomas	Goggin
Helen	Karlan
Gail	Leinwall
Joan	Levinson
Alex	Medwedew
Minda	Meister
Barbara	Milton
Iretta	Owens
Hank	Perlin
Geraldine	Phillips
Rose	Podrasky
William	Reilly
Carol	Reisner
Mary	Rocco
Suzanne	Samelson
Eugene	Sarver
Carl Joseph	Scalise
Rosalind	Schmall
Ann	Shirazi
Vicki	Slate
Judith	Solomon
Mildred	Speiser
Lynn	Thomas
Jane	Thompson
Ruben	Vargas
Mike	Watson
Jeri	Wellman
Rosetta	Williams



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

Please pay your 2010 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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## 2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income Family (18) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 2010"

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**NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14  
FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND STATE SENATE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 2  
TPID 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT**