

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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District Leaders

Bob Boffeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

APRIL MEETING APRIL 9, 2014

FEATURED TOPIC: The 2014-2015 NYS Budget - What Just Happened in Albany?

SPEAKERS: Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell
State Senator Adriano Espaillat
State Senator Bill Perkins

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

AGENDA

8:00 pm Announcements and Updates

8:30 pm Topic and Speakers

The 2014-2015 New York State Budget –
What Just Happened in Albany?

Invited Speakers – Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell
State Senator Adriano Espaillat, State Senator Bill Perkins

Candidates for New York County Civil Court

Lou Nock
Richard Tsai
J. Machel Sweeting
Arlene Bluth.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

TPID Board Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Board Room

Sunday, May 4, 2014

TPID Fundraiser - 1-4 pm Órale Mexican Kitchen

Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 8, 2014, 6:30 pm

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON JHL AT 97TH STREET
Public comment on Draft Environmental Impact
Statement for proposed JHL building
PS 163 at 97th Street

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

TPID Board Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Board Room

Friday, May 30, 2014

Last Day Register to Vote for Congressional Primary

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Congressional Primary Day

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Elizabeth Kellner

We go to press the weekend before the deadline for the State budget which seems to be mostly bad news, and leading up to which, there has been no shortage of political drama. But first, thank you to our March guest speakers on criminal justice -- Richard Aborn of the Citizens Crime Commission and Stephanie Gendell of the Citizens' Committee for Children. They covered a lot of territory from "raise the age" and "close to home" initiatives in juvenile justice reform to an unprecedented focus on prevention, prison reform and gun control. If you would like to join the mailing lists for either organizations, you can receive regular updates. The Citizens' Committee for Children in particular is very advocacy oriented with a full agenda of priorities to improve the lives of NYC's children and an impressive and wide ranging store of data on their website -- www.cccnewyork.org. Aborn's group can be found at www.nycrimecommission.org.

Before "going local", there are two national "health" developments worth mentioning, both of which are near and dear to many TPID members. First, the NRA has mounted an aggressive campaign to defeat Obama's nominee for Surgeon General solely because this eminently qualified physician believes gun violence is a public health problem. Second, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the private chain store Hobby Lobby's constitutional "religious freedom" challenge to the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act. In the wake of

Citizens Union, which held corporations have First Amendment political speech rights, it is quite possible we will be told, they also can have religious beliefs deserving of constitutional protection.

Moving on to NYC, and despite the media's misplaced preoccupation with some slip in De Blasio's poll numbers, in less than 90 days in office, the new administration has accomplished quite a lot -- a roster of great appointments, including most recently a criminal justice team, Parks Commissioner, Sandy relief coordinator, and members of the Rent Guidelines Board. We have also seen an expansion of paid sick leave, and tough bargaining with developers to create more affordable housing at the Domino Sugar and Hudson Yards site. Funding for universal pre-K seems likely, despite the Governor's compulsion to challenge and undercut the Mayor at almost every turn. However, De Blasio's backpedalling on charters has been disappointing.

The subject of charters is a good segue to the State budget where the charter school movement's private millions have proved successful in getting the Governor, Senate Republicans and so-called Independent Democratic Caucus (most recently joined by Queens State Senator "shame on you" Tony Avella) to provide for unprecedented statutory and financial protections for charters. This same group of legislators defeated NY's Dream Act, and seems poised to destroy any possibility of meaningful and comprehensive campaign finance reform this legislative session. It does look like there will be some property tax relief for owners and even renters -- always a sure

bet in an election year. And it's also a pretty sure bet we will have no decision on fracking before November. On that cheery note, I'll leave you to ponder Gov. Christie's fate, a welcome distraction from all that is amiss in New York

DISTRICT LEADERS REPORT

by Bob Botfeld

UPDATES ON THREE PARKS' NEIGHBORHOOD

Luxury housing infill at NYCHA

Last November, five Manhattan tenant rights groups and resident associations filed a lawsuit to compel New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to stop soliciting bids for luxury housing infill on NYCHA public housing grounds. On behalf of NYCHA residents attorneys from the Urban Justice Center and the New York Environmental and Justice Project (NYELP) filed this legal action on the basis that the proposal process was illegal because it lacked prior environmental review. The good news is that two weeks ago, thanks to the change in city administration and confidence in the De Blasio administration's stated opposition to the proposed Bloomberg luxury housing infill, the tenant groups were able to withdraw their lawsuit.

On another NYCHA related issue, De Blasio administration's demonstrated a more supportive and fair policy toward public housing. The city announced that NYCHA housing developments will no longer have to pay for their own police protection – almost \$52,000,000 annually. Under Giuliani's and Bloomberg's administrations, public housing tenants paid a "double taxation" since all other city residents simply receive police protection paid from

regular tax revenues. The \$52,000,000 will now be used for needed maintenance .

West End Avenue Historic District Extension II 90th – 109th Street

Who will be the new commissioner for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission?

Since 2011, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) has refused to schedule hearings on the landmark designation for the proposed West End Avenue Historic District Extension II. The proposed landmarking will protect over 338 historic buildings located in the corridor from Broadway to Riverside Drive between 90th and 109th Streets. Ever since an initial presentation was made by supporters for Extension II in October 2011, the proposed landmarking has languished in the LPC. The LPC has ignored repeated requests from the West End Ave Preservation Society, Landmark West, and the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7 to schedule the required hearings.

At this writing, a new commissioner for the LPC has not been identified. I am optimistic that De Blasio will appoint someone who will demonstrate the sensitivity to neighborhood interests that Bloomberg often lacked and move the landmarking forward

If you would like to help, contact the West End Preservation Society at info@westendpreservation.org , Landmark West (212-496-8110) at landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org, _____ or attend the monthly Preservation Committee meeting of Community Board 7. The Preservation Committee meets at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of every month

at the Community Board offices located at 250 West 87th Street.

For more information about the proposed landmark district see the map at http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/RSDWEAIL_PPT.pdf.

106th Street Rezoning

Last month, the rezoning of Jewish Home Lifecare (JHL) block on 106th street and Amsterdam Avenue passed the next step in the city's Uniform Land Use and Review Procedure (ULURP) -- approval by Community Board 7. Under ULURP, the rezoning now awaits approval by the following: Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer, New York City Planning Commission, and then a New York City Council vote. The rezoning limits the heights of the buildings on the block to about fourteen floors on 106th street and brownstone height on 105th street.

INDIAN POINT UPDATE

by Daniele Gerard

Two hurdles stand between New York and the closure of Indian Point. With any luck, we will clear them both and be rid of this radioactive waste producing behemoth on the Hudson.

Located 35 miles north of Times Square in Westchester, the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant has two reactors that have been chugging along for the last 40 years—their intended life span. They are currently up for license renewal. But 20 million people live within 50 miles of the plant and there is no viable evacuation plan for even a small percentage of us. For that reason

alone, IP would never have been built here today—so why grandfather it in for an additional 20 years? There are also 1500 tons of radioactive waste stored onsite with nowhere else to go.

Moreover, the vast majority of the 2000 megawatts of energy IP produces each year are not used in New York City and Westchester, but are sold outside New York State. Con Edison only contracts for approximately 550 MW, and the New York Power Authority terminated its contract altogether. We bear the risk while others get the power. And with another 1000 MW soon to arrive from hydropower in Canada and additional sources, we don't need IP at all to meet our electricity needs. Finally, IP sucks and flushes 2.5 billion gallons of water each day from the Hudson River, returning the water used to cool the reactors warmer into the Hudson, killing one billion aquatic organisms each year. In the meantime, radioactive isotopes leak into the river every day.

Three Parks has been calling on three NYS Governors, two U.S. Presidents, and three U.S. Senators to close IP since 2007; we may be approaching our goal. The state denied a water permit to Entergy, the plant's owner, in April 2010, because the plant does not comply with New York's water quality standards. Entergy is still in the appeals process before the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. For IP to be relicensed, Entergy also has to obtain a coastal consistency certification from the NYS Department of State. This does not appear to be progressing well for the company, as they have to certify that IP has

nothing more than a “small impact” on New York’s coastal waterways. This seems implausible.

Stay tuned for more details as these two proceedings progress. In the meantime, please call Governor Cuomo at 518-474-8390 and urge him to close Indian Point or write to him at NYS State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224. You can also contact the Governor online at

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

THE GREAT SAUNTER OF 2014

SATURDAY MAY 3

**A 26 MILE WALK AROUND
THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN**

**for more information
contact**

**CY ADLER
adlercy@gmail.com**

TPID JUDICIAL DELEGATES 2014

Congratulations to all. New York County's Nominating Convention will be in September as always. It is worth noting we had better turnout for this vote than we did for our Congressional endorsements. Once again it seems there are quite a few members who turn out to vote for only one person. We want to extend to them a special invitation to broaden their participation in TPID's activities, including attending meetings, helping with issue advocacy and our electoral campaigns. Here are the results:

Delegates

Alan Flacks 57

Theresa Canter 38

Merle McEldowney 37

Corine Pettey 37

Alternates

Bruce Markens 30

Sam Bartos 23

Audrey Isaacs 21

Stephanie Tegnazian 20

David Kogelman 19

EXPLOSION IN EAST HARLEM KILLS 8, LEAVES MANY HOMELESS

East Harlem Building Collapse Relief Effort

We all remember this recent tragedy in our neighborhood. Many of us have been touched by this tragedy and want to do something.

If you want to help, Judy Wood will be collecting checks at the April meeting, use go to the website given below or mail directly to:

**Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City,
253 Broadway, 8th Floor, NY, NY 10007**

Please make check payable to: Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

Or click on the following website:

<https://www.nyc.gov/html/fund/html/donate/donate.shtml>

JHL at 97th STREET PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed building by the Jewish Home Life Care on 97th Street.

Wednesday May 7 &
Thursday May 8
Time: 6:30-9:30 PM
PS 163 at 163 W.9th Street

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

39TH ANNUAL BENEFIT

Honoring

New York City Public Advocate

Letitia James

&

**Bloomington
Aging in Place**

**Sunday
May 4, 2014
1pm-4 pm**

Órale Mexican Kitchen

**768 Amsterdam Avenue
(between 97th and 98thst)**



Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025, tel: 212-539-7602

Please pay your 2014 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

2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) _____

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

Low Income (\$15) _____

Low Income Family (\$20) _____

Sponsor (\$50) _____ Patron (\$100) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Email _____

☐ Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter **solely** by email.

****Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal – cash and money orders are far more difficult to process. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please make out all checks to “Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2014”****

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New York, N.Y. 10025

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Invited Speakers

Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell

State Senator Adriano Espaillat

State Senator Bill Perkins