



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station • P.O. Box 1316 • New York, N.Y. 10025 • (212) 539-7602

Website: [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) • Email: [ThreeParksDems@aol.com](mailto:ThreeParksDems@aol.com)

### *President*

Merle McEldowney

### *Editors*

Lorraine Zamora  
[lzamora245@gmail.com](mailto:lzamora245@gmail.com)  
Jock Davenport  
Richard E. Luna

### *District Leaders*

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### *State Committee*

Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

**Club Meeting, April 11, 2018, 8:00 pm**  
**The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street**

## **Albany Update: Gun Legislation & Budget Deals**

### **Speakers:**

**Richard Aborn, President, Citizens Crime Commission, NYC**  
**Hon. Daniel J. O'Donnell, New York State Assembly Member**

### **Candidates for Elected Office**

### **Presentations by Judicial Delegate Nominees**

## **AGENDA**

7:45 pm Sign-in  
8:00 pm Call to Order  
District Leader Report  
Speakers: Richard Aborn & Daniel O'Donnell  
Candidates for Elected Office  
Presentation of Nominated Judicial Delegates  
Questions & Answers  
Adjourn

## **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, April 25, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
**Sunday, April 29, 1:00-4:00 pm**  
Three Parks Annual Fundraising Benefit  
Mexican Festival Restaurant, 2672 Broadway  
**Wednesday, May 9, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Club Meeting  
**Wednesday, May 23, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
**Wednesday, June 13, 8:00 pm**  
Club Meeting: Annual Petitioning Party  
**Wednesday, June 27, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting

## **President's Report: What's Happening?**

By Merle McElDowney

If you have not done so, please mark your calendars for the Three Parks Annual Fundraising Benefit on Sunday, April 29, from 1:00-4:00 pm. It will be held at the Mexican Festival Restaurant, 2672 Broadway.

We will be honoring Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President, to thank her for all she has done for our neighborhood and the entire borough. We also will be honoring WE ACT for Environmental Justice for helping minorities and low-income communities insure that their air and water are pollutant free.

Our fundraiser is always a good party. Political and judicial candidates always drop by to say hello. Chuck Schumer hopes to attend, as does Jerry Nadler. If we are successful in getting a Democratic Congress, Jerry will become chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Certainly, all of us keep asking ourselves what more we can do. Some of us make calls to Senator Schumer, asking him, for example, to oppose the appointment of John Bolton as National Security Advisor. Others listen to traumatized but powerful teenagers make eloquent speeches calling for a ban on assault weapons, then get up at 4:00 AM to join thousands of marchers in Washington to demand gun control. But none of it will matter if we are not successful in taking back Congress.

There also is the question of what more Three Parks can do to take back Congress. We're making phone calls to upstate New York Republicans in an effort to defeat John Faso. We are working closely with Bob Jackson to defeat the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC). Check our web site regularly to see what we're doing and how you can help.

Our March 14 club meeting was another busy evening. Board member Steve Max showed a series of short videos, one explaining the IDC, and the others providing background on the origin and status of the gun control issue.

Three Parks welcomed Jumaane D. Williams, a member of the City Council in Brooklyn and a candidate for NYS Lieutenant Governor. He spoke eloquently about his pride in being labeled "an activist" and "too much of an agitator." He gave an impassioned plea for gun control, and linked gun violence to communities suffering from disinvestment. Williams called for federal and state government to stop the supply of guns coming into New York neighborhoods, and detailed his progressive legislative record. He promised to be a "people's Lieutenant Governor" if he is elected.

At our upcoming club meeting on April 11, we will

welcome Richard Aborn, from the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City. He was president of Handgun Control, Inc., from 1992 to 1996. In this role, Mr. Aborn was one of the principal strategists behind the passage of the Brady Bill banning assault weapons and large capacity clips. He still is deeply involved in areas of gun control and will be another important voice in our two-part club meeting on the issue of gun violence.

Last, but certainly not least, we will welcome back to Three Parks State Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell to hear what's been happening at the state level.

## **Phone Bank/Postcard Party on April 9**

By Chuck Wall

After racking up hundreds of conversations with voters in nearby "swing" districts, the Three Parks Take Back Congress phone bank team is ready to take it to the next level!

For our next event on Monday, April 9, we are planning to expand our efforts:

We'll continue to focus on the Hudson Valley 19th Congressional District, where Rep. John Faso is considered one of the most vulnerable Republican members of the House. We'll keep calling Republican senior citizens in that district to try to erode their support for Rep. Faso.

We'll also reach out to New York Democrats who own second homes in the district to suggest that they switch their voter registration to their upstate address so they can cast their vote against Rep. John Faso. In this effort, we will be collaborating with SmartVoteNY, (see item at end of this article), which has experience in this area and will provide valuable guidance. We'll call these homeowners directly and also write postcards to them. So if you prefer writing postcards to telephoning, this activity is for you!

Registering to vote at a second home is not only legal, it's easy! Anyone with a second home in New York State can choose to vote at either a primary residence or at the second home. By registering to vote at a second home address in a "swing" district like New York 19, voters from deep blue New York City can have a real voice in local, state, and congressional elections.

In the past year, the Three Parks Take Back Congress team has held eleven phone banks, reaching out to many hundreds of voters with a message that we hope will make a big difference on Election Day. In keeping with the latest news from Washington, we have been alerting senior citizens to the growing and undisguised threats from Republican legislators to the Medicare and Social

Security benefits that they rely on. The goal is to warn those senior voters that they cannot count on Republican legislators in general, and incumbent GOP congressman John Faso in particular, to protect their interests. We have also urged those voters to call Faso's office and ask him to promise in public to oppose any cuts to seniors' benefits.

The April 9 phone bank/postcard party will be followed by more events this spring. We'll be watching closely as the primary season gets underway—in the 19th District and also in other nearby potentially “flippable” districts, such as the New Jersey 11th District, which has suddenly become a possible Democratic pick-up following the abrupt retirement announcement of longtime GOP Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen. Once Democratic candidates emerge in these districts at the primary election on June 26, we expect to work with local progressive groups to support those candidates. We will keep Club members posted as our plans develop.

So join your fellow TPID club members for the April 9 phone bank/postcard party and help take back Congress! Watch for details in your email, or check the TPID website [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org). We invite all interested club members to join us, but remember to respond promptly as space may be limited. No computers are needed, but please bring a cellphone. Scripts and training are provided.

### **SmartVoteNY: Register Where Your Vote Counts the Most!**

If you are a dual resident of NYC and Dutchess, Columbia or Ulster counties, you can choose to re-register at your upstate residence and vote local. Vote where your vote will count the most! Contact [www.SmartVoteNY.com](http://www.SmartVoteNY.com).

By voting upstate, you can help defeat GOP Rep. John Faso. Faso was a key architect behind the passage of Trumpcare in the House. He broke multiple promises to 19th district constituents, including pledging not to defund Planned Parenthood and to protect coverage for pre-existing conditions. Faso has voted to roll back environmental and financial protections, and he sponsors bills to weaken our gun safety regulations.

## **How Children Worldwide Are Exposed to Cigarette Advertising**

By Wendy Dannett

On Friday, March 9, The Guardian published an article stating that, in more than 22 countries, cigarettes are being sold to recruit young people in order to maintain profits. A major investigation found cigarettes on

sale close to school gates, as well as advertising that normalized smoking. “Stalls and shops full of vibrantly colorful branding sell single cigarettes at pocket money prices alongside sweets and candies.” Marlboro cigarettes, Pall Mall, Kent, Dunhill and Lucky Strike were being sold and promoted within 1,000 feet, or closer, to schools (including elementary schools) in nearly all the countries the researchers studied.

In Peru, Guardian correspondents corroborated the above findings, noting single stick cigarettes in corner shops near schools in flavors attractive to children, such as mint, lemon, berry and grape. In Indonesia, ads have appeared above stalls near a primary school; tobacco reps visit the stalls with new ads and free cigarette every three months. In Delhi, India, single cigarettes and chewing tobacco are on sale alongside sweets, opposite school gates. In addition, some of the few rules put in place to protect children had been broken and in Kiev, Ukraine, photos of health warnings were obscured by price stickers.

Big tobacco denies promoting its products to children. Phillip Morris International said it does not market children anywhere in the world. British American Tobacco said it has rules against targeting children. But the U.S. Surgeon General reports there is sufficient evidence to conclude that advertising and promotional activities by the tobacco companies “cause the onset and continuation of smoking among adolescents and young adults.”

There is abundant evidence that children are choosing to smoke. The World Health Organization's global youth tobacco survey estimated that, in 2010, 14.6 percent of children 13-15 reported using tobacco. In 2014, in Indonesia, 36 percent of boys and 4 percent of girls, aged 13-15, used or smoked tobacco. In Bangladesh, in 2015, 9 percent of male youths and 3 percent of females regularly used tobacco.

There is evidence of widespread advertising and promotional activities that could influence children to start smoking. On March 13, The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids began a global campaign to take aim at tobacco giants for advertising to kids near their schools.. The campaign, called “Big Tobacco, Tiny Targets,” evolved from The Guardian article cited above, and takes aim at Phillip Morris International, British American Tobacco, and other tobacco companies where products are routinely promoted and sold to kids around schools, playgrounds, and places frequented by young people. “The targeting of kids near schools leaves no doubt that they're (the tobacco companies) the main source of the problem, not the solution.”

**Judicial Candidates**

Following are the profiles of the six judicial candidates that were nominated at the Three Parks club meeting on March 14. At the April 11 club meeting, the nominees will have the opportunity to speak for two minutes each. Voting for the judicial delegates will take place at the May 9 club meeting from 8:15-9:15 pm.

**Alan Flacks**

Alan is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is conversant with the procedures, and delegates seek his guidance. He is committed to the merit screening panel process, which he helped to establish. After each convention, he writes a report of the proceedings for club members and other interested people. A long-time TPID club member and Democratic County Committee member, Alan has also served as the club’s corresponding secretary and membership secretary. His community and civic activities include his block association, the 24th Pct. Community Council, the NAACP, and the St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital Community Advisory Board.

**Audrey Isaacs**

Audrey has been an active Alternate Judicial Delegate for the past six years. She goes to the courtroom of each judge seeking elevation to Supreme Court Justice, in an effort to see him/her presiding in judicial proceedings. She compares qualifications of candidates for elevation. Between 1975 and 2000, she was an attorney in private practice, specializing in litigation. Audrey was an Administrative Law Judge between 1996 and 2008 and was then promoted to supervise six Administrative Judges.

**Elizabeth Kellner**

Elizabeth, a retired litigation lawyer, has been a resident of Manhattan Valley for 41 years and a Three Parks club member for 40 years. She has served as judicial delegate several times but not recently. Elizabeth is a volunteer for Citizen’s Committee for Children, and board chair of Community Health Network. She pledges to continue the tradition of choosing highly qualified and committed judges.

**Abigail McGloster**

Abigail is a Three Parks board member and is interested in continuing to serve as a judicial delegate. She has worked in the legal field as a paralegal and understands the legal process. In the process of selecting judges, she believes it is important that the candidates have a full grasp of the law, the ability to balance justice, and be respectful to all parties appearing before them.

**Bruce Markens**

Bruce has served eight years on the Three Parks board, including one as recording secretary. He has been elected to serve as judicial delegate or alternate on six different occasions. He is committed to using his independent judgment to nominate judges who are highly qualified and understand the various perspectives of NYC’s diverse community.

**Al Placeres**

Al is a longtime Three Parks club member, a former judicial delegate (1982 and 1983) and alternate (2017). He is a member of the Manhattan Democratic Committee, and former member of Community Board 7. Al also is the former president of the NYS Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (1989-2015, and the host of “La Ley y Usted” Radio WADO (1993-2007).

**2018 Three Parks Board of Directors**

Following is the Three Parks Board elected at the club’s March 14 meeting:

**Officers**

- Merle McEldowney, President
- Daniele Gerard, 1st Vice President
- Lynn Max, 2nd Vice President
- Ellen Flax, Treasurer
- Theresa Canter, Membership Secretary
- Lorraine Zamora, Corresponding Secretary
- Jock Davenport, Recording Secretary

**Members-at-Large**

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Bifani         | Mary Ann Marks     |
| Corinne Constantine | Steve Max          |
| Wendy Dannett       | Abigail McGloster  |
| Pilar Gomez         | Lois Safian        |
| Jessica Habershtock | Milivoy Samurovich |
| Hannah Leider       | Irene Shrier       |
| Marie Lunn          | Charles Wall       |

***In Memoriam***

**Christopher Mooney, former chair of the philosophy department, Nassau Community College, and a valued member of TPID. Since retiring he traveled widely but always made time for Three Parks activities. We send condolences to his family.**

## Three Parks Endorsement Votes

### Congress

*Kristin Gillibrand* 44

No Endorsement 5

No Vote 1

Jerry Nadler 1

*Jerry Nadler* 49

No Endorsement 2

*Adriano Espaillat* 33

No Endorsement 10

James Felton Wright 8

### State Senate

30th District

*Brian Benjamin* 41

No Endorsement 5

No Vote 1

31st District

*Robert Jackson* 41

Marisol Alcantara 3

No Endorsement 2

No Vote 1

## March for Our Lives, Washington, D.C.

By Irene Shrier

I had planned to go to Washington just for a family gathering on Sunday, March 25. But when I heard of the plans being made for the March of Our Lives on Saturday, March 24, I went early and joined the thousands of people who streamed into the Capital that bright and beautiful day.

People—young and old—came from all over. Many of them carried homemade signs and banners, simply saying ENOUGH! or, my favorite, NRA! Never Vote Republican Again!

Standing on Pennsylvania Avenue, the crowds listened as many young people took their turn on the dais to speak their passionate minds. They shared their personal experiences, and called for the end of gun violence and the enactment of stronger gun control laws.

I marched with two women from Gettysburg, PA and a group of high school students from Boston. Toward the end of the day, I walked over to the tidal basin and the various memorials. The words at the FDR Memorial, etched in stone, left the deepest impression.

“I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the American people and I have been given their trust.”

## You're Invited!

### Three Parks 43rd Annual Benefit

**Sunday, April 29, 1:00-4:00 pm**

**Mexican Festival Restaurant**

**2672 Broadway**

**southeast corner of 102 St.**

**Please join us as we honor**

**Gale Brewer**

**Manhattan Borough President**

**with the**

**Ted Weiss Public Service Award**

**and**

**WE ACT**

**For Environmental Justice**

**with the**

**Jesse Crawford**

**Community Service Award**



**Benefactor \$500**

**Patron \$300**

**Sponsor \$175**

**Guest \$150**

**Member \$50**

**To RSVP, click on *Benefit* at**

**ThreeParksDems.org**

**or call Lorraine at 917-348-5136**

## **April Miscellany**

### **Call Your Senator Now:**

Protest the appointments of Gina Haspel to head the CIA (she oversaw torture in Iraq) and of John Bolton to be National Security Advisor (he wants war with Iran and North Korea).

Senator Charles E. Schumer 212-486-4430; 202-224-6542

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 212-688-6262; 202-224-4451

### **Participatory Budgeting Voting Week**

April 7-15

Join your friend and neighbors and vote on how you want to allocate \$1 million toward capital improvements on the Upper West Side. Anyone 14 years or older who lives on the UWS can vote!

Check [www.helenrosenthal.com](http://www.helenrosenthal.com) for details.

### **Family Day with Purgatory Pie Press: Magic Pictures, Magic Books**

Saturday, April 7, 12:30-2:00

American Folk Art Museum, 2 Lincoln Square at 66th and Columbus

Participating families will make drawings and collages that reveal secret hidden pictures through the magic of simple folding. Free with RSVP. 212-595-9533.

### **Bread and Puppet Theater**

Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 pm

The Sanctuary Theater at The Center at West Park, 165 West 86 street

Bread & Puppet returns to West Park with a manifesto on transformation inspired by Albrecht Durer's woodcuts and the daily news. RSVP [centeratwestpark.org](http://centeratwestpark.org).

### **It's My Park Day!**

Saturday, April 14, Riverside Park, 10:00-1:00 pm

Chip in for spring park improvement projects throughout Riverside Park. These projects are great ways to meet other volunteers and do good. Rain or shine. Details: <https://riversideparknyc.org/event/its-my-park-day-spring-2018/>

### **Remember the Titanic & Straus Family**

Commemorate the 105th year since the Titanic sank on April 15, 1912

Saturday, April 14, 12:00-2:30 pm

At Straus Park, 106 Street and Broadway

## **Health Coverage for All New Yorkers is Within Reach!**

**Tuesday, April 10, 7:00-9:00 pm**

Goddard Riverside

593 Columbus Avenue @ 88 Street

The New York Health Act has passed the Assembly and is near a majority in the New York State Senate. Grassroots activism can get through the Senate in 2018 or 2019. The Act will provide single payer health coverage for all residents of New York State. Learn more about this and what you can do to help get health care for all of us.

### **Featured Speakers:**

Richard Gottfried, Lead Sponsor, NY Health Act  
Katie Robbins, Director, Campaign for NY Health  
Dr. Daniel Neghassi, Family Practice Physician  
RSVP: see event page at [bit.ly/NYHealthUWS](http://bit.ly/NYHealthUWS).



**On Saturday, March 24, board and club members met at 96 Street & Broadway on their way to NYC's March for Our Lives**

## 2018 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please pay your dues with a check, money order or via PayPal.

Please make out all checks to **Three Parks Independent Democrats—Dues 2018.**

*Mail to:* Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station, P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025 Attn: Treasurer

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**Albany Update: Gun Legislation & Budget Deals**  
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