

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

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

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

### ***President***

Theresa Canter, Interim

### ***Editor***

Ray Schwartz (tappsch@nyc.rr.com)

### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

## **February 13, 2008**

**FEATURED** Katrina vanden Heuvel

**SPEAKER:** Editor and Publisher of *The Nation*

***“Are the Primaries for the Voters or the Media?”***

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**PLACE:** American Youth Hostel (HI-NY)  
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. Katrina vanden Heuvel  
Editor & Publisher of *The Nation*
4. Club Officers and Board Election
5. State Committee Reports
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wed., Feb. 13, 2008 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Meeting,**  
PLACE: HINY, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wed., Feb. 27, 2008 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting**  
Place: HINY, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Sat., March 8, 2008**  
**NY County Democrats Annual Dinner Dance**  
Place: Grand Hyatt Hotel

**Wed., March 12, 2008 8PM**  
**Three Parks Meeting**  
Place: HINY. 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wed., March. 26, 2008 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting**  
Place: HINY, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Sun., May 4, 2008, Three Parks Fundraiser**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Theresa Canter

What a terrific turnout we had for the January meeting! **Wayne Barrett**, the investigative reporter and senior editor for *The Village Voice*, was our keynote speaker and he gave an informative and lively presentation on the Democratic Primaries, the grand illusion of Giuliani, and every other political topic he was questioned on! We thank him for his generosity, humor and willingness to respond to so many questions.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, and we will continue our focus on the presidential primaries and we are pleased to have **Katrina vanden Heuvel**, the editor and publisher of *The Nation*, as our special guest speaker. She is a frequent commentator on American and international politics on MSNBC, CNN and PBS. Her articles have appeared in The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and The Boston Globe. Katrina will analyze the primaries and what we may well expect in the coming months, including her perspective on the role of the media. There will also be a Q & A with the audience. Put it on your calendar now, and don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors! In fact, send a link to our website, [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org), which will provide information on our meeting and other club activities.

Three Parks will also be having its annual membership meeting at the February meeting. All officers and members of the Board of Directors for 2008 will be elected. In order to vote you must be a member in good standing (see the eligible voter list and the bios elsewhere in the newsletter). New members are eligible thirty days after application and the payment of dues. All members must be current with their dues and have attended at least one club meeting within the previous six months. So, if you haven't paid your Three Parks dues for 2008, now is the time to do it! We have a lot on the agenda for our February meeting; we will start promptly at 8:00 PM, so please come on time!

By the time you read this column, the New York Presidential primary will be over. I certainly hope you exercised your civic and political duty by voting. As you know, Three Parks did not make an endorsement, as there was substantial support for several candidates. Regardless of whoever wins the Club will support the nominee of the Democratic convention in August. Let's work together and fight the good fight until we recapture the White House! My duties as the interim president are over now and I

look forward to continuing to make a contribution, by offering my support to the new President of Three Parks!

## GETTING REAL ON ENERGY

By Steve Strauss

Con Edison's recent Environmental Disclosure Label distributed in customer bills provides a serious reality check for those Club members working so hard to close the Indian Point nuclear plant. NYC's primary electrical energy supplier meets 35% of our electrical needs from nuclear power. Given the very tight balance between electrical generating capacity and demand in NYC, it is not likely at all that we could just turn off Indian Point.

While there are very few people who are greater energy conservationists than me, it's not realistic to expect New Yorkers to reduce their energy conservation in any amount approaching the levels necessary to eliminate existing nuclear power plants as an energy source. One need only walk down Broadway in the summer and notice how many stores leave their doors open and their air conditioners running to realize that society just doesn't get it yet. How many compact fluorescent light bulbs are in your home, in your building's lobby or at work?

My nuclear policy is simple. No new nukes unless we can figure out how to safely store the radioactive waste. Until we have thousands of windmills along our coasts, hydro power turbines on every existing dam and tidal turbines in the sea we will be forced to keep the nukes we have running safely.

## UPDATE ON INDIAN POINT: CALL TO ACTION

By Daniele Gerard

Things are moving right along on Indian Point, the nuclear power plant in Westchester County, 20 miles from the Upper West Side. Entergy, the plant's owner/operator, submitted its relicensing application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on April 30, 2007. (The plant's current licenses expire in 2013 and 2015.) Entergy has mounted a well-funded media campaign to bolster its application. But for the first time in U.S. nuclear power plant history, a state is opposing the relicensing of a nuclear power plant. Represented by Attorney General Cuomo with additional support from Governor Spitzer's office, New York is intervening in the relicensing proceedings.

**RADIOACTIVE WASTE:** Approximately 1500 tons of high-level radioactive waste are currently stored

onsite at Indian Point in densely packed pools. Since at least 2005, two of the spent fuel pools have been leaking this waste into the Hudson River and groundwater. Should the plant receive a twenty-year license extension, an additional 1000 tons would be generated and remain on site at Indian Point indefinitely, because there is currently no approved national storage repository. The plan for a permanent storage site to open in 2017 at Nevada's Yucca Mountain has met with delays and legal challenges. Many experts believe that political, social and environmental obstacles will prevent the site from ever opening. For example, in a recent debate, all three Democratic Presidential candidates stated their opposition to opening Yucca Mountain.

**MINING URANIUM:** Although nuclear reactors do not emit carbon dioxide like other types of power plants, most of the energy necessary for building and operating nuclear power plants—mining, refining and enriching uranium fuel, conditioning radioactive waste for storage, and safely transporting and sequestering the radioactive waste—comes from fossil fuel-burning plants that do produce carbon dioxide. Moreover, uranium mining techniques are similar to those used for coal mining. They rip open mountains and leave behind scarred and polluted landscapes. They also contaminate land and water with hazardous radioactive uranium refuse. Finally, most uranium reserves in the United States are located on Native American lands where uranium mining has caused environmental and public health problems for decades.

The bottom line is that Indian Point's nuclear power is neither clean nor green; the process used to create fuel from uranium for its reactors is energy-intensive and produces greenhouse gases. There is no viable long-term solution for storing radioactive waste. It would be far wiser for New York State to invest in truly clean and green energy production such as wind, solar, and biofuels, while offering incentives to encourage consumer conservation and reduce our contributions to global warming.

**Please sign and send the enclosed letters to Senator Clinton and Governor Spitzer.**

## **AN (ECONOMICALLY) STIMULATING CONVERSATION**

By Steve Max

By this time Congress may have decided on the economic stimulus package. Of course we want to see tax rebates go to working and low income peo-

ple as a simple matter of justice and because that is who we are, but the truth is that wherever the money goes, the benefit to the economy will be more psychological than anything else. Not that faith isn't the keystone in an economy based on speculation and debt. If everyone really put their full and unreserved faith in the stock, real estate and futures markets, the markets would indeed go up.

To see why increasing consumer retail spending no longer has the impact on the economy that it once did, just review your purchases over the last ten or fifteen years. Give yourself a point for everything you bought that was made in the USA. OK, take half a point for items assembled here from foreign parts; we don't want everyone to get a zero on this. Yes, tax cuts will push up retail sales and that is important, but the big winners will be the top exporters to the USA: China, Canada, Mexico and Japan.

The sad thing is that the Democrats invented economic stimulation and really do know how to do it right. In the 1930's when conditions were far worse (25% unemployment) President Roosevelt put in place the beginnings of welfare and unemployment compensation programs, but he believed that rather than the government pumping out money and hoping that it would eventually lead to jobs, the money should be spent hiring people directly.

Roosevelt's Public Works Administration built the port in Brownsville, Texas, the Grand Coulee Dam and the Chicago sewer system. Over its nine years, the Civilian Conservation Corps employed 2.5 million young men who planted trees and improved the national parks. The Civil Works Administration was disbanded after a year when it seemed the depression was ending, but in that short time it had employed 4 million workers. It built 40,000 schools and paved 250,000 miles of road among many other things. In its seven years of existence the Works Progress Administration (WPA) gave jobs to 3.5 million workers. It built 2,500 hospitals, 5,900 schools, 1,000 airports (including LaGuardia) and 13,000 playgrounds and much more in addition to giving work to thousands of writers and artists.

The impact of this job creation was larger than it would be now because the population then was less than half of today's. Nonetheless, this stimulation, important as it was to the people who got the jobs, was insufficient to end the Great Depression. Only the greatest employment project of all time, World War II, was able to accomplish that task. This is not a vote for World War III, but a reminder that the pattern of major boom and bust in the business cycle goes back more than two centuries and an un-

planned economy can't be cured with a quick infusion of cash. The reasons why are another story.

When we consider the likely result of the proposed plus or minus \$145 billion stimulus package, we should compare it to the cost of Roosevelt's WPA program which was \$149 billion in today's dollars, and remember that WPA was only one piece of the much larger New Deal stimulus effort. The situation today is, of course, not as bad as in the thirties. Only 7 million people are officially classified as unemployed today, compared to twice that number during the Depression. Still, the amounts under discussion seem inadequate especially considering how much of it will quickly leave the country.

Condolences are extended to Three Parks member Rosetta Williams on the death of her son, Fred Nathaniel Williams, Jr.

Condolences are extended to Three Parks member Gail Leinwall on the death of her father.

## THE LOPEZ TORRES CASE

By Alan Flacks

After four years of litigation, Margarita Lopez Torres's lawsuit to do away with New York State's current method of political parties selecting State trial judges through nominating conventions ended unsuccessfully on 16th January, 2008, with the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal, which essentially leaves the judicial nominating convention system in place.

For more than eighty years, New York State Supreme Court Justices (New York's trial court judges) have been nominated in judicial conventions. Local party bosses control the process while rank-and-file voters are excluded from choosing their party's nominee. The Brennan Center challenged the system in *Lopez Torres v. New York State Board of Elections*. In January 2006, U.S. District Court Judge John Gleeson found the system unconstitutional, and in August, 2006, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit unanimously affirmed Judge Gleeson's ruling.

Under the current New York State Constitution, political parties select their nominees for State Supreme Court justices (for the November General election) in a delegate convention. Lopez Torres (and the other plaintiffs) argued that this convention violated the First Amendment rights of candidates and voters because they had no say in choosing the actual candidates because the party bosses effectively determined the nominees.

There is nothing unconstitutional about the process, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for the unanimous court: "A political party has a First Amendment right . . . to choose [its] candidate-selection process . . ." And, "[w]hile a State may determine [the process] is not desirable and replace it, it is not unconstitutional."

Justice Stevens's concurrence says in one paragraph what it took Scalia many pages to say, and in much more quotable language! ". . . I think it appropriate to emphasize the distinction between constitutionality and wise policy. Our holding . . . should not be misread as an endorsement of the [N.Y. State judicial electoral system] or . . . with the glaring deficiencies in that system. . . I recall Thurgood Marshall remarking on numerous occasions: 'The Constitution does not prohibit legislatures from enacting stupid laws.'"

This case was a "hot potato" and too political. The reversal was not unexpected as it was not an issue that the Federal courts should get involved with. And as I predicted, the Supreme Court wanted "to atone" for *Bush vs. Gore*, and/or limit the scope of *Bush vs. Gore* as Lloyd McAulay felt.

Surrogate Judge Margarita Lopez Torres, the lead plaintiff in the case, said: "As the concurrences by Justices Stevens and Kennedy make clear, the Supreme Court's decision should not, by any means, be read as endorsing New York's flawed system."

## Nominated Club Officers and Board of Directors

**Daniele Gerard – President** is a lifelong New Yorker. She worked on the staff of NYC Council President Carol Bellamy, attended Columbia Law School and practiced at Cravath and NC Prisoner Legal Services. A member of Three Parks since 2004, she would be honored to serve as President.

**Judy Wood – First Vice-President** I have been an active member of Three Parks for many years and former District Leader of the Club. I edited the Club newsletter for three years which was very exciting. Now I am looking forward to the 2008 presidential campaign which we hope will give us a chance to turn things around.

**Theresa Canter – Second Vice-President** Having been privileged to serve the past year as First Vice-President, and the previous three years as President, following five years as Treasurer; I would be honored to continue to serve the membership as Second Vice-President and provide support to the Club leadership in this all important presidential election year!

**Ellen Flax – Treasurer** is a consultant to a family foundation, and serves as the rabbi of several local elder-care facilities. She was active in the storefront during the 2004 election and would be delighted to serve a sixth term on the Board, and her third term as Treasurer.

**Ray Schwartz – Corresponding Secretary** I have been a member of the Club for more than 15 years and served as membership sec'y and VP. The need for a progressive and loud voice is vital to all of us and Three Parks gives us the opportunity to make our voices heard.

**Lynn Max – Membership Sec'y** Co-Manager of Three Parks/Bdway Dems 2004 Campaign Storefront. Co-Chair of Three Parks Social Security Campaign and Three Parks 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign. Member of Rezoning Steering Committee. Looking forward to working for more Democratic Victories in 2008!!

**Lauren Williams – Recording Sec'y** In 2007 served on Board and membership committee, coordinated the Holiday Party, tabled and petitioned for rezoning, Iraq War and voter registration. Worked at the 2004 Campaign Storefront, on Cynthia Doty's 2005 campaign and on the Harrison and Hall campaigns for Congress.

**Jock Davenport** In my adult life I have taught history at the College of Staten Island, and have been active in grass-roots politics. My political philosophy is best summed up in my old mentor William Sloane Coffin's dictum: Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

**Dan (pr: D-ah-n) Berger** was born in Israel and has been living on the Upper West Side since 1999. He works for Congressman Charles Rangel as Special Assistant -- a position that includes serving as his UWS liaison. Dan runs an up to date political blog at danjberger.com.

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

**Arlene Geiger** is an Economist teaching at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and has been a political activist in the neighborhood since 1970 on issues ranging from anti-war to rent regulation. She has hosted house parties for DFA, Dean, Kerry, MoveOn and Edwards and has been active in petitioning, registering voters, phoning and door to door canvassing in Pennsylvania and Westchester in the 2004 & 2006 elections. She welcomes the opportunity to continue serving our Club and community.

**David Kogelman** is an arbitrator and general practice attorney. He has been active in petitioning, registering voters, and in 2004 volunteering at our storefront and organizing our Pennsylvania bus trips. He welcomes the opportunity to continue serving our Club and community.

**Marie Lunn** has served on the board for 3 year and has been a Three Parks member for 7 years. She has worked on several campaigns, helped with petitioning

and served as a poll worker. She is also a member of the NY County Committee.

**Mary Ann Marks.** I am a proud mother and grandmother, and I work in the healthcare field, assisting the elderly. In the past, I worked as a teacher's assistant for the Board of Education. I volunteered at the Three Parks storefront in 2004, worked on Cynthia Doty's City Council race, helped with the recent re-zoning campaign, and have been an active Board member for the past two years.

**Patrick O'Shaughnessey** Patrick is a software engineer. Along with Dan Berger, he organized a van trip to Ohio to campaign for Kerry, and has been involved in various other tabling and campaigning activities with the Club.

**Corine Pettet** Former District Leader, Riverside Dems. Elementary School Principal for 24 years. I oppose the Bush policies of reversing the gains we have made in voting rights, women's rights and civil liberties. I oppose his budget policy of tax cuts for the rich and lack of a comprehensive health care policy.

**Milivoy Samurovich** Founding member of Three Parks, served for five years a District Leader. Also, served on CB 7, co-chaired the Urban Renewal sub-committee, on the committee that opposed the Westway Highway. Served on CB 1, chair of Battery Park Committee during planning phase. Led Tenants Committee of my apartment building and organized rent strikes, and served on Co-op Negotiating Committee.

**Deborah Thomas** has been a lifelong Democrat and an Upper Westsider for over 20 years. She is an opera singer and currently works as a teaching artist in the New York Public Schools, where she teaches Opera Appreciation and acts as Arts Provider for a program called "ESL Through The Arts." In this program, for which she co-authored the curriculum, she assists English Language Learners in writing and performing musical plays to improve their English language skills. Besides politics, some of her other interests include animals, history, languages and travel.

**Ken Tulloch.** Educated at Allegheny College and Drew Seminary, served as UM clergy from 1968-2004, retired to NYC in 2004, married with 2 daughters, worked in Kerry storefront, leafleted and tabled on TPID issues, petitioned on Indian Point and for candidates, worked for Stender campaign in NJ, served on Democratic County Committee (2005), recruited 50 people for CB7 meetings on zoning change action, served 2years on TPID Board, teach ESL classes, Chair of NYC CROP Hunger Walk.

**Yvonne Vulliemoz** born and educated in Switzerland, worked as a biologist at Columbia University. Now she volunteers at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a non-for-profit environmental organization. She worked at the Three Parks storefront during the 2004 Presidential campaign and has been participating in the activities of the Club ever since.

## Eligible Voters for February 2008 Meeting\*

This list reflects dues paid for 2008 as of Jan. 30 2008, plus attendance at one meeting in the previous six months in accordance with the Club Constitution.

### Dues Paid for '08

Altman,	Jennifer
Baldwin	Susan J.
Baldwin	William
Bardin	Robert
Benmosche	Shoshannah
Berlin	Bobby
Botfeld	Bob
Canter	Theresa
Davenport	John
Doty	Cynthia
Egmont	Kathy
Flacks	Alan
Flax	Ellen
Forel	Elizabeth
Frick	Dayle
Geiger	Arlene
Gerard	Daniele
Ginsberg	Robert*
Gomez	Pilar
Green	Joan
Huey	Jacqueline
Hurley	Arlene Patete
Kardeman	Rita
Kirkland	Galen
Kogelman	David
Lanier	Madi
Laufer	Kenneth
Lee	Barbara
Levy	Estelle
Lunn	Marie
Marks	Mary Ann
Martin	Kathleen
Max	Stephen
Max	Danny
Max	Connie
Max	Lynn Bender
McEldowney	Merle
McGuinness	George
Meyers	Gail
Miller	Batya
Morgan	Charles R.
Morgan	Brenda
Ostrofsky	Diane
Owens	Iretta
Petty	Corine
Prochazka	Lisa Anne
Puccetti-Hepner	Florence
Reisner	Carol
Roesch	Marjorie
Samurovich	Liz
Scalise	Carl Joseph
Schwartz	Ray
Smith	Gladys

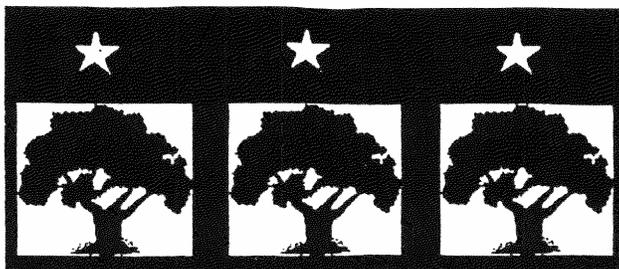
Stearns	Michael
Stearns	Roschel Holland
Swanson	Gloria
Tapper	Donna
Thomas	Deborah
Trokel	Yara
Tulloch	Ken
Vargas	Ruben
Voorhis	George
Vulliemoz	Yvonne
Weiss	Eileen*
Williams	Lauren A.
Wood	Judy
Woods	Dan
Young	Caryl

### Dues Outstanding for '08

Adler	Cyrus
Andrew	Seth
Andrew	Stephanie
Andrew	Ralph
Avila	Anna
Beason	Catherine
Becker	Thomas
Berger	Dan
Bondell	Joan
Bryan	Nicholas
Carhart	Jacqueline
Colgan	Alex J.
Cutney	Barbara
Dannett	Wendy
De Seta	M.
Draynel	Renna
Fenno	Christine
Fifer	Gerry Ann
Foreman	Eva
Gallagher	Ernestine
Geissman	Mary J.
Golub	Robert
Harvilchuck	Janet
Healy	Robert J.
Hirsch	Larry*
Kaplan	David C.
Kellner	Douglas
Kellner	Elizabeth Krob
Koenig	Jerry
Lavin	Marguerite
Lazarus	David
Leuze	Robert
Levinson	Joan
Mark Viverito	Melissa
Medwedew	Alex

Meister	Minda
Montes	Virya
Newell	John
Ogden	Joan
O'Shaughnessey	Patrick
Phillips	Geraldine
Podrasky	Rose
Reilly	William
Reilly	Patricia
Rubin	Jonathan
Samurovich	Milivoy
Samurovich	Christine
Sarver	Eugene
Scher	Nina
Scher	Ernest
Schreiber	Doris
Segal	Judy
Seidner	Cathy
Shirazi	Ahmad
Shirazi	Ann
Shrier	Irene
Simpson	James
Speiser	Mildred
Spiro	Anna Lee
Starkey	Elizabeth
Starkey	Dick
Sternoff	David
Strauss	Steve
Taylor	Clara
Tegnazian	Stephanie
Tepper	Ruth
Thomas	Lynn
Thompson	Jane
Tucker	Paulette
Tucker	Susan
Walker	David
Weiman	David
Wellman	Jeri
Williams	Rosetta
Zeche	Gloria
Zelin	Madeleine
Zucker	Tamar
Zucker	Marlene
Zucker-Brull	Ariel

**\*If a member of Three Parks is a voting member of another club then they are not eligible to vote at Three Parks.**



**THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS**

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

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. # \_\_\_\_\_

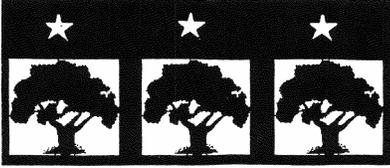
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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"**



*Three Parks Independent Democrats*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
New York, NY 10025

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008**

**Katrina vanden Heuvel: *Are the Primaries for the  
Voters or the Media?***