

## ***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***

Ray Schwartz (tapsch@nyc.rr.com)

### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

## **February 2010**

**FEBRUARY MEETING: Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

### **FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS**

**VETERANS SPEAK OUT ON WAR AND PEACE—**  
Michael Gold, Former Director, CUNY Office of  
Veterans Affairs, Vietnam Era veteran, and Michael  
Kim, Readjustment Counseling Therapist, Brooklyn  
Veterans Outreach Center, Iraq War veteran

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**PLACE:** American Youth Hostels  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street

**ROOM:** Chapel

### **AGENDA**

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Elections to TPID Board – ballot  
box opens at 8:30 PM
4. VETERANS SPEAK OUT ON WAR  
AND PEACE
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2010**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, March 10, 2010**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, March 24, 2010**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, April 14, 2010**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Last month's meeting saw yet another record turnout for a terrific panel presentation on the dangers of drilling for natural gas in New York State. A special thanks to our thoughtful, knowledgeable and forceful speakers on hydraulic fracturing—BP Scott Stringer, who gave rousing opening remarks, and a our panel of experts: Deborah Goldberg, Managing Attorney, Earthjustice's Northeast Regional Office; Joseph Levine, Chair, NYH2O; and Roy Lackner, Upstate Activist.

We are also grateful to the TPID committee members who organized the evening (Merle McElDowney, Tim Walsh, Yvonne Vulliemoz, Cynthia Doty and Steve Max) and to the membership for passing the resolution to ban hydraulic fracturing throughout the State. Be sure to visit [threeparksdems.org](http://threeparksdems.org) for the web page on natural gas drilling and be on the lookout for upcoming tabling and other activities. To date, the Club's members, friends and neighbors have already mailed hundreds of letters to the Governor on this critical issue.

This month's meeting features another topic of vital importance to all of us: "Veterans Speak Out on War and Peace." Once again, we are lucky to welcome speakers who can offer real insight into the horrors of war and prospects for peace: Michael Gold, Former Director, CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs, and Michael Kim, Readjustment Counseling Therapist, Brooklyn Veterans Outreach Center. Mr. Gold served during the Vietnam era; Mr. Kim served in the Army in the current Iraq War and in the Marines in the 1980s.

If you are up to date on meeting attendance, please be sure to pay your dues at the upcoming meeting in order to be able to vote for the TPID Board of Directors. Please see the list of eligible voters and other relevant information elsewhere in this issue.

## Health Care: What Went Wrong?

By Steve Max

Obviously, no one thing brought the popularity of the health care effort to the point where, in a January 22<sup>nd</sup> poll, only 39% said Congress should continue to work on the issue. There is, however, one aspect of the problem that has received little

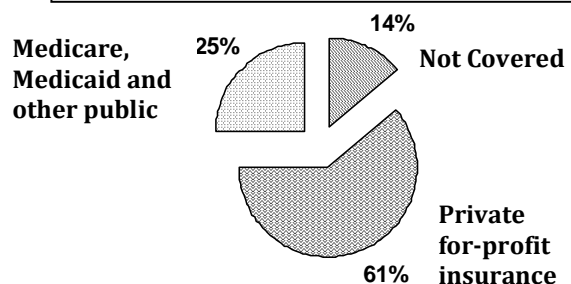
comment. When it came down to the wire, the plan was basically a program to benefit low wage working people, and those are rarely popular in the US.

The White House, Congress and the great majority of policy organizations backing the legislation, started out by conceding the core argument of the insurance industry and the right wing. They agreed that private for-profit health insurance is better than public not-for-profit insurance. Yes, they included a public option in the bill that was otherwise based on private insurance, but the Department of Health and Human Services estimated that, with its higher cost, only 9% of the population would choose the public option.

Because the proposal was based on getting people into private profit-making insurance plans, it had to violate one of the key principles for the success of any social legislation. The plan was not universal. It would have been far too expensive to make it so. Programs such as Social Security and Medicare are popular because they are universal and benefit everyone. Programs such as farm subsidies, Medicaid and welfare are less popular with the middle class. Sad to say, they get still less popular as the population served becomes poorer.

The legislation in both houses barred anyone who already had insurance from participating in the insurance exchanges that were to be created, as well as in the public option. Basically, the plan, with its subsidies, would have benefited mainly the 14% of the population that has no insurance, (with a small additional number of special exceptions). At the same time, whether through premiums, taxes or cuts in Medicare, the entire population would have paid for it. This has never been a formula for political success. The program, unfortunately, was resting on top of one of the major fault lines in our society.

Health Insurance in the USA, 2008  
Percentage of Population



### The Uninsured by Race and Income

White	42%
African American	16%
Latino	35%
Other	6%
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Family income under \$20,000	33%
Family income \$20,000 to \$40,000	30%

## Hydraulic Gas Drilling – A Risk to New York State’s Water Supply

By Merle McEldowney

A new method of drilling for natural gas is about to be used in New York State. Hydraulic fracturing, or “hydrofracking,” uses millions of gallons of water that becomes contaminated such that leaks can cause damage to the water supply. Its use in other states has led to contaminated wells, excessive air pollution, and exploded homes. Damage to the New York City watershed would cause the need for a filtration plant that would cost several billion dollars. Three Parks and other environmental groups recognize that any risk to New York City’s water poses a risk to the entire State.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued an 800-page draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (“dGEIS”) with a comment period of only thirty days. The paper left out many of the dangers of fracking. It made no realistic provisions for the disposal of contaminated water and omitted the potential for accidents. Environmental groups, New York City’s Department of Environmental Protection, and Borough President Stringer’s office are demanding that the dGEIS be withdrawn and a new study issued that accurately reflects the dangers of hydraulic fracturing.

At the Three Parks January meeting, the membership approved a resolution calling for a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing. The Club is to protect our air and water; we will continue to have weekend tables on Broadway, weather permitting. We have already sent 250 letters to Governor Paterson.

A January 25 “lobby day” in Albany brought several hundred people to visit legislators, including LI Democrat Steve Englebright and upstate Republican Senator George Maziarz. Englebright, trained as a geologist, clearly understood the dangers of fracking and agreed there is no safe way to filter the millions of gallons of water that will be produced. Assembly Member Englebright reminded us that we should treat this as an election year issue. He said that resolutions from groups were really valuable and that activists should announce they will oppose candidates who favor hydraulic fracturing.

Senator Maziarz, the new chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, represents a district near Lake Erie where toxic dumping is a serious problem. He has no opinion on this issue as of yet. Upstaters will continue to lobby him to support a ban on gas drilling.

For more information on hydraulic fracturing, go to [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) where you will also find sample letters to be sent to elected officials.

## Candidates for the Three Parks Board of Directors

**Nominated by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the Club’s Constitution:**

Theresa Canter – Second Vice-President.  
Jock Davenport.  
Ellen Flax – Treasurer  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Daniele Gerard – President  
Louisa Gilbert  
Elizabeth Kellner  
Erl Kimmich  
Marie Lunn  
Bruce Markens – Recording Secretary  
Mary Ann Marks  
Lynn Max – Membership Director  
Merle McEldowney  
Dorothy Mehler  
Corine Pettey  
Milivoy Samurovich  
Ray Schwartz  
Deborah Thomas  
Ken Tulloch  
Tim Walsh  
Lauren Williams – Corresponding Secretary  
Judy Wood – First Vice-President

*Serving as a member of the Three Parks Board of Directors is an honor and a privilege. It is both a reward for and a commitment to hard work on behalf of the Club and the membership "to support the Democratic Party in Part A of the 69th Assembly District . . . ; to build enrollment in the Democratic Party; to support Democratic candidates who demonstrate ability, integrity and progressive convictions; and to maintain and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood, city, state, and country." TPID Constitution, Art. II: Purpose*

## Board Nominees Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

**Theresa Canter – Second Vice-President.** Having been privileged to serve the past two years as Second Vice-President, and previously as First VP, President, and Treasurer, Theresa would be honored to continue to serve the membership in her current position and provide support to the Club leadership.

**Jock Davenport.** Neighborhood resident since 1986 and active in many areas since then: my block association, the "drugstore" wars, pushing Columbia University to include a supermarket at 103<sup>rd</sup> St and active in Three Parks since 1996. I have been a Board member for ten years.

**Ellen Flax – Treasurer** is a consultant to foundations and non-profits, and serves as the rabbi of several local elder-care facilities. She was active in the storefront during the 2008 and 2004 elections and would be delighted to serve another term as Treasurer.

**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 is also active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

**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 North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services. A Three Parks member since 2004, Indian Point critic and two-time storefront veteran, she would be honored to serve a third term as President.

**Louisa Gilbert** -- I have been a neighborhood resident since 1981 and a member of Three Parks for the last six years. I was a volunteer at the storefront office for the 2004 & 2008 campaigns and have also helped with petitioning. Since 1999, I have served as the Co-Director of Social Intervention Group at Columbia University, which is a research center focusing on developing and advancing evidence-base programs that address HIV, substance abuse and domestic violence. I am very interested in working with the club

to advocate for universal health care and affordable housing.

**Elizabeth Kellner.** Member Three Parks 30+ years, 2008 Storefront regular and among the original 1984 Storefront team. Columbia Law and School of Public Health grad. Practiced law for 20 years as civil litigator at large NYC firm and insurance industry corporation. 20-year board member of community health care agency. Primary areas of interest are health care reform, public schools and affordable housing.

**Erl Kimmich** Back in NYC after a long sojourn in Arizona where he knocked doors for Raul Grijalva's campaign, he is glad to contribute effort, and devote time to the issues we face.

**Marie Lunn** has served on the board for 4 years and has been a Three Parks member for 8 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.

**Bruce Markens – Recording Secretary** is a retired teacher and union activist. Worked at 2008 storefront for the Obama campaign. Also involved in John Hall campaign in 2006, Norman Siegel's campaign for Public Advocate in 2005. An active member of DFNyc and strong supporter of a single payer health care system.

**Mary Ann Marks.** I am a proud mother and grandmother, and work in the health care field assisting the elderly. I have worked as a teacher's assistant for the Board of Education. I volunteered at the 2008 storefront, worked on Cynthia Doty's City Council race, helped with the re-zoning campaign, and have been an active Board member for four years.

**Lynn Max – Membership Director.** Co-Manager of the Obama/Biden 2008 Campaign Storefront. Steering Committee Member for our successful rezoning campaign. Co-Chair of Three Parks Social Security Campaign and Three Parks 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign (John Hall). Co-Manager of the Kerry/Edwards Campaign Storefront in 2004. Member of Health Care Committee and Gas Drilling Committee. Looking forward to working together for more important victories in 2010.

**Merle McEldowney.** Originally from Los Angeles, California, I fell in love with the Upper West Side and moved here 6 years ago after living in Brooklyn for 26 years. I have found a home at Three Parks. Active in DFNyc, I have belonged to Three Parks for three years. I think it is the perfect club to continue the grass roots work I became involved with at the 2008 Storefront during the Obama Campaign.

**Dorothy Mehler** got involved with TPID during the Obama campaign doing phonebanking and tabling at

the storefront. Since then she has worked as a poll worker, helped with petitioning and campaigning for local candidates, and served in various capacities on health care reform initiatives. As a retired teacher and UFT Chapter Leader she is particularly concerned about educational issues and support for teachers. She looks forward to joining the Board in the spring.

**Corine Pettey.** Former District Leader, Riverside Democrats and District 3 Elementary School Principal 24 years. Opposed to gas companies drilling for gas in our watershed, insist that Government create more jobs by helping to establish more "green" companies and public work to improve our infrastructure. Its jobs, jobs, jobs. Mobilize and help the president and Congress to establish provisions that will nullify the recent disastrous Supreme Court decision that allows corporations to use their limitless monies to elect public officials. Oppose Columbia Univ. use of eminent domain in the West Harlem area.

**Milivoy Samurovich.** Founding member of Three Parks, served for five years as 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.

**Ray Schwartz.** I have been a member of the Club for more than 15 years and served as Membership Sec'y, Corresponding 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.

**Deborah Thomas** has been a lifelong Democrat and an Upper West Sider for over 20 years. She is an opera singer and currently works as a teaching artist in the New York City Public Schools, where she has she co-authored curriculum. With TPID, she has been active in tabling, petitioning, phone banking, anti-war marches and the 2008 Storefront. She is also a member of the NY County Committee. Besides politics, 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, 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 3 years on TPID Board, teach ESL classes, Chair of NYC CROP Hunger Walk.

**Lauren Williams – Corresponding Secretary** has

served on Board as Recording Sec'y and membership committee, coordinated the Holiday Party, volunteered during 2004 and 2008 campaigns, tabled and petitioned for rezoning Indian Point, Iraq War and voter registration. Worked on Cynthia Doty's 2005 campaign, and on the Harrison and Hall campaigns for Congress.

**Tim Walsh.** Since 2004, Tim has participated actively in club activities regarding social security, gas drilling and other issues. In 2008, he traveled with Club members to Penn. several times, and was a bus captain in the trip to Ohio for Obama. He is preparing the upcoming panel presentation on veterans' issues.

**Judy Wood – First Vice-President.** Judy has been an active member of Three Parks for many years and former District Leader of the Club. She edited the Club newsletter for three years, which was very exciting. She supervised phone banks at the Obama storefront and traveled to PA with Three Parks members. She has also worked on numerous political campaigns and done tabling on issues.

### Help Us Meet Our Expenses

Just a reminder to renew your 2010 membership. As you pay, please help us meet our expenses by paying the full membership price if you can afford to do so. Your dues help pay for the newsletter, the Holiday Party, the picnic, the rental of our beautiful meeting space and, of course, our important political activities. Thank you!

### Census Count More Important Than Ever to New York

By Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

#### Census Day is April 1<sup>st</sup>!

In a typical year, \$335 billion in Federal dollars for the top ten Federal programs are Federal assistance to localities -- and last year, under the "stimulus," over \$478 billion, or 84% of Federal aid, was sent out.

Census data is just so important -- **it's how federal aid is targeted for highways and transit, education, health care, and housing.**

If you ignore the census form, it will have an effect on your neighborhood and all of New York for the next ten years. So if you multiply the typical \$335 billion by ten, and well over three trillion dollars will be allocated in the next decade using population reports from this year's census!

10 QUESTIONS IN 10 MINUTES

## Eligible Voters for February 2010 Meeting\*

This list reflects dues paid for 2010 as of Jan. 30, 2009, plus attendance at one meeting in the previous six months in accordance with the Club Constitution.

### Eligible to Vote

Susan Bernofsky  
Cynthia Doty  
Alan Flacks  
Ellen Flax  
Daniele Gerard  
Louisa Gilbert  
Simon Ginsberg  
Robert Ginsberg  
Pilar Gomez  
Laura Sally Jacobs  
Michael Katz  
Elizabeth Krob Kellner  
Marguerite Lavin  
Marie Lunn  
Mary Ann Marks  
Stephen Max  
Lynn Bender Max  
Merle McEldowney  
George McGuinness  
John Newell  
Corine Pettey  
Allison Pinsley  
Lisa Anne Prochazka  
K. Samuels  
Milivoy Samurovich  
Ray Schwartz  
Anna Lee Spiro  
Roschel Holland Stearns  
Michael Stearns  
Gloria Swanson  
Clara Taylor  
Stephanie Tegnazian  
Deborah Thomas  
Cathy Unsino  
Tim Walsh  
Tamar Zucker  
Ariel Zucker-Brull  
Marlene Zucker

### Eligible Voters if Dues are Paid by Feb. 10, 2010

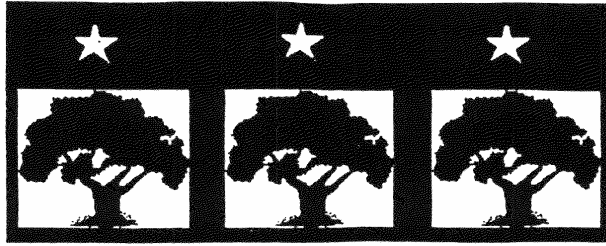
Cyrus Adler  
Susan Andrews  
Robert Bardin  
Margret Beels  
Shoshannah Benmosche

### Eligible Voters if Dues are Paid by Feb. 10, 2010

Bobby Berlin  
Joan Bondell  
Bob Botfeld  
Marla Brunker  
Nicholas Bryan  
David Camacho  
Anthony Cannataro  
Theresa Canter  
Jacqueline Carhart  
Elinor Cohen  
Luanne Corea  
Andrea Craig  
Wendy Dannett  
John Davenport  
Ramona De La Paz  
Lucille Donovan  
Jill Freeman  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Arlene Geiger  
Mary J. Geissman  
Joseph Gianono  
Thomas Goggin  
Bonnie Gould  
Janet Harvilchuck  
Larry Hirsch  
David C. Kaplan  
Helen Karlan  
Erland Kimmich  
Jerry Koenig  
Iris J. Korman  
Kenneth Laufer  
David Lazarus  
Barbara Lee  
Gail Leinwall  
Joan Levinson  
Betsy Malcolm  
Bruce Markens  
Alex Medwedew  
Dorothy Mehler  
Minda Meister  
Gail Meyers  
Barbara Milton  
Christopher Mooney  
Martin Morand  
Brenda Morgan

Joan Ogden  
Iretta Owens  
Joshua Pepper  
Hank Perlin  
Annie Petrus  
Geraldine Phillips  
Rose Podrasky  
Florence Puccetti-Hepner  
Anne Raphael  
William Reilly  
Carol Reisner  
Mary Rocco  
Jonathan Rubin  
Eugene Sarver  
Carl Joseph Scalise  
Nina Scher  
Rosalind Schmall  
Doris Schreiber  
Judy Segal  
Barry N. Sher  
Irene Shrier  
Vicki Slate  
Judith Solomon  
Mildred Speiser  
Lynn Thomas  
Jane Thompson  
Ken Tulloch  
Ernest Unsino  
George Voorhis  
Yvonne Vulliemoz  
Mike Watson  
Jeri Wellman  
Rosetta Williams  
Gloria Zeche

**\*If a member of Three Parks  
is a voting member of  
another club then s/he is 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 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"**

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

## **NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010  
VETERANS SPEAK OUT ON WAR AND PEACE**

*Deadline for the next newsletter is Feb. 24, 2010*