

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

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
Daniel Marks Cohen

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: WHAT'S AHEAD FOR NEW YORK POLITICS IN 2013?
Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President and candidate for City Comptroller; Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senate Democratic Leader; Inez Dickens, City Council Member

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel
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. Candidates for TPID Board of Directors; ballot box open from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
3. New York Politics in 2013
4. District Leaders' Reports
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 27, 2013
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, March 27, 2013
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Many thanks to our January speakers for their detailed roundup of the destruction and pitifully slow recovery from Hurricane Sandy: Eddie Bautista and Juan Camilo from the New York City-Environmental Justice Alliance, Rebecca Wartell from Occupy Sandy, and Rosemary McGinn from Breezy Point.

The Three Parks February meeting will feature Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, candidate for City Comptroller, who will discuss his work as BP and his upcoming campaign. He is the first of many candidates Three Parks members will hear from over the next several months as hopefuls for many offices, including Mayor, Public Advocate, City Council, and more seek the club's endorsement and assistance.

Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senate Democratic Conference Leader, who represents Dobbs Ferry, Tarrytown, Yonkers, and other Westchester communities, will update us on the current political situation in Albany. Council Member Inez Dickens will describe her work in the Council representing part of the Three Parks area and the upcoming battle for Speaker. At the time of this writing, it is unclear if we will remain in Inez's district when final council lines are determined.

The club will hold elections for the 2013 Three Parks Board of Directors; eligibility requirements and a list of eligible voters appear elsewhere in the newsletter. The ballot box will open at 8:30 p.m. and close at 9:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now for the Three Parks Annual Benefit to be held at Café Frida on Sunday, April 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come one, come all!

Finally, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Three Parks membership as president for the past five years. I look forward to handing the reins to Elizabeth Kellner for month-to-month operations and to continue working as First Vice President on behalf of the club's campaigns to ban fracking, close Indian Point, preserve and strengthen Social Security, and more.

Labor and Climate Change

By Daniele Gerard and Merle McEldowney

In yet another example of the left and labor's pulling together over a critical issue, Cornell University and CUNY's Murphy Center hosted a forum on Thursday morning, January 17, entitled "Confronting the Climate Crisis: Can Labor Help Shape an Effective Strategy?" More than 150 people attended.

Sean Sweeney, Director of the Cornell Global Labor Institute, kicked off the panel by stating, "Real life and real politics must incorporate real science to develop an aggressive mitigation strategy to reduce carbon emissions." The trade unions' vision of climate protection and labor protection, *i.e.*, talking about green jobs alone, will not result in a climate change strategy. Sweeney specifically said that labor cannot continue to collaborate with the fossil fuel industry for a relatively few short term jobs on projects like the Keystone XL Pipeline "while the planet burns."

The first panelist was Dr. James Hansen, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. He emphasized that we must leave fossil fuels in the ground to stabilize the climate. "We need to suck the carbon out of the atmosphere, not burn more." His detailed power point graphs demonstrated the "hard science" that we are reaching tipping points towards irrevocable global warming, *e.g.*, melting of the ice sheet in Greenland, the extermination of species, and measurements of increasing heat in the ocean.

Hansen repeatedly called for industry to be held responsible for the costs of global warming and of disasters like Hurricane Sandy in the form of a carbon tax. He also urged the end of subsidies to the oil and gas industry and the institution of further regulations to enable alternative energies to compete effectively.

Bhairavi Desai, Executive Director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, underscored that the environment is an economic issue for working people and the poor all over the world because multinationals are "contributing to the demise of the planet." She focused on the initial dispute regarding hybrid taxis as a wasted opportunity for her members to work with the Mayor from the outset—it costs much less for a driver to rent a hybrid taxi than a standard one.

Hector Figueroa, President of Local 32BJ, SEIU, called for political organization to streamline mitigation, adaptation, and transition to clean energy. He emphasized the economic and social cost of relying on fossil fuels and described his union's push for buildings to lead the way. Their group, "1000 Green Supers," has trained 3,000 superintendents whose work has already saved 5 to 20 percent of energy costs for their buildings; and they will shortly be expanding to commercial buildings. Figueroa said that making buildings more energy efficient could save owners \$20 to \$30 million per year; he added that labor, communities, and science working together could aggressively pursue a green agenda that is "responsible to the planet and fair to working people."

David Coles, President of the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada, explained that his union supports the Kyoto climate change treaty and is vehemently opposed to the export of tar (bitumen) sands via the Keystone XL Pipeline. He said pipelines are (1) job killers,

(2) bad for the economy, and (3) are largely built through the territories of First Nations (Native North Americans). His union of 110,000 members strongly supports the transition from a carbon-based economy to a green economy.

Several of the panelists and questioners from the audience raised the issue that capitalism has failed the vast majority of people and cannot simply be tinkered with. Mr. Coles said, "Capitalism is not broken—it works as intended, as a way to make ever greater profits for the rich. The lives of workers or the sustainability of the environment is not a concern." The panelists recommended that every step of the way, we say "no" to the Keystone XL Pipeline and speak out against carbon and for a just, renewable, green economy.

A rally against the pipeline is planned for Sunday, February 17 in Washington, D.C.; a bus will be leaving from St. John the Divine, so look for upcoming emails with all the details and a flier at the February 13 Three Parks meeting.

Condolences

The club was saddened to hear of the passing of Engle Conroy last month. We express our condolences to Minda Meister.

Three Parks extends condolences to past Club president Josh Pepper on the death of his father.

THREE PARKS MEETING

FEBRUARY 13

PLEASE NOTE: 8 p.m. start time

**Featured Speakers: Scott Stringer,
Manhattan Borough President and
candidate for City Comptroller;
Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State
Senate Democratic Leader;
Inez Dickens, City Council Member**

NYS State Committeeman Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

Due to some shenanigans in Brooklyn that would have given accused sexual harasser Assemblyman Vito Lopez a clear shot at a council seat, the redistricting lines were rejected by the city council and new hearings were called. While I am dubious that our lines will be revised to be more logical and

compact, I testified before the City Redistricting Commission on January 7 at Hunter College, and a copy of my comments is below:

"My name is Daniel Marks Cohen, and I am the New York State Democratic Committeeman representing the 69th Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side in the New York State Democratic Committee. The part of the Upper West Side I live in – between 96th Street and 125th Street – is according to the latest Census the poorest portion of the 69th Assembly District, it is the least served in terms of services and transportation in a survey conducted by the Straphangers Campaign, and NYPD data indicate that it has more crime than the rest of the district.

I believe at least one reason for its consistent and uneven status is that fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces. There are now three councilmembers – the 6th, 7th, and 9th – who have different pieces of this neighborhood. This is not to the benefit of anyone, and it hurts Manhattan Valley residents by dividing the community into pieces preventing them from having a unified voice, and an impact, in any one council district.

This is my fourth time testifying about redistricting, the third before this panel, and I am disappointed to be here again – stating once more my dissatisfaction with the Commission's results. My colleagues in the 69th AD and several legislators have testified that the Upper West Side, and in particular, the northern part of the district known as Manhattan Valley and Morningside Heights, would be best served if kept unified into one district and not sliced up in to multiple pieces.

Even the representative with the majority of the Manhattan Valley neighborhood, Councilmember Inez Dickens, has testified before this body that she would like the 9th to end at 110th Street, and not sneak down to 100th Street, a long politically meaningless finger that splits my neighborhood in two. There is still time to rectify this situation, and I plead with the panel to see the wisdom of keeping a community together rather than tearing it apart.

The easiest solution is to move the border so that everything west of Central Park and Morningside Park is in the 7th. If this causes the 7th to exceed its capacity, move the line of the 6th district north to pick up some additional voters. I propose that the Commission redraw the lines more naturally, to keep Manhattan Valley's representation on the West Side where it belongs, rather than as an appendage to another district for incumbency or demographic reasons.

I implore you to reconsider your lines, while there is still time to make changes, and not leave our community stuck with an intractable situation for the next decade."

Changing subjects, by now I am sure you have heard that after a short battle with cancer my father died at the beginning of December. I am grateful for the many calls, emails, and cards I received. The death of my father is heartbreaking, but having my West Side family support me has made the loss a little easier to accept.

Board Nominees' Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

*The 2013 Membership Form is included on page 7. If you haven't already, renew your membership now to be able to vote at the **February 13 Annual General Meeting.***

Theresa Canter – Second Vice President has been privileged to serve the past four years as second vice president, and previously as first vice president, president, and treasurer. Theresa would be honored to continue to serve the membership in her current position and provide support to the Club leadership.

Wendy Dannett is a long-time progressive (since the 60's) and has been a member of Three Parks since the 2000 presidential election. She has been working on issues such as hydrofracking, closing down Indian Point, and social security, as well as elections. She has been on the Board for 2 years, and feel it provides her an added opportunity for involvement and a chance for input on the issues and campaigns. She is proud of the Club's efforts to work on public education, housing, and local community issues such as preventing more large stores in our area and fighting high rise buildings.

Jock Davenport – Recording Secretary has been a neighborhood resident since 1986 and has been active in many areas since: 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. He has been a Board member for 13 years.

Ellen Flax – Treasurer is the director of a foundation that supports causes that benefit women in the U.S. and Israel and serves as the rabbi of several local elder-care facilities. She was active in the storefront during the 2012, 2008 and 2004 elections and would be delighted to serve another term as treasurer.

Ernestine Gallagher is 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 also is active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

Daniele Gerard – First Vice 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; five-term president; fracking, Indian Point, and "grand bargain" critic; and three-time storefront veteran, she would be honored to serve as First Vice President.

Louisa Gilbert has been a neighborhood resident since 1981 and a member of Three Parks for the last eight years. She was a volunteer at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 storefronts and also helped

with petitioning. Since 1999, she has 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. She is very interested in working with the Club to advocate for universal health care and affordable housing.

Elizabeth Krob Kellner – President is a 35 year member of Club and has been a Board member since 2009. She has served as a Judicial Delegate and County Committee member for several years; is a 36 year resident of Manhattan Valley; worked on several political campaigns; been active on public education, zoning, and redistricting issues; and is a retired attorney. Her other volunteer work includes being a Board member of Community Healthcare Network which runs eleven clinics in low income NYC neighborhoods; Advisory Council of Citizens' Committee for Children, a non-partisan issues advocacy organization; and the Public Interest Law Foundation at Columbia which awards small grants to public interest law providers. She is married to Doug Kellner, has two grown children—one a NYC public school teacher and the other traveling in South America teaching English as a second language.

Erl Kimmich would be honored to serve on the Board. He has a record of doing "footwork"—postering, stuffing envelopes, and helping set up sound equipment for Club meetings. He is committed to help enroll new members and to encourage members to get more involved in club activities at all levels. As a Board member he is eager to hear from the membership on what they want us to achieve as a club in the months to come. As there are many local elections coming up this year and the races are underway, he plans to be involved in working to support progressive candidates endorsed by our club.

Barbara Lee had fun volunteering for her third presidential election with Three Parks at the storefront and, like all of us, was thrilled that our hard work paid off! Her favorite storefront activities were registering voters, tabling, helping run a phone bank once a week for Elizabeth Warren with Bruce Markens, and being a poll watcher on Election Day. She is very involved in Participatory Budgeting for New York City in City Council District 8 as a district committee member and as the facilitator for the Public Health and Environment committee. As a Board member, she will continue to fight for Social Security, ban hydrofracking in NY, and would like to take action on gun control. She has served on the Board for three years and would be honored to serve again.

Marie Lunn has been active in Three Parks for 10 years, and a Board member for 6 years. She has worked on several campaigns, participated in tabling and petitioning, and worked at the 2012 Obama/Biden Campaign Center.

Bruce Markens has served three years on the Board, including one year as recording secretary. He worked at the 2012 storefront at various tasks and was particularly involved in organizing phonebanking for Elizabeth Warren's campaign. He has served as co-chair of the Club's education committee and is very concerned about combating charter schools and other attempts at privatizing public education. He also has been involved in Three Parks' tabling and protest activities on such issues as fracking, protecting Social

Security and closing down Indian Point as well as serving as an alternate judicial delegate the last two years.

Mary Ann Marks has been a Board member for the past seven 10 years and a member of the Three Parks for 11 years. She actively volunteered at the 2008 and 2012 storefronts. She helped with the re-zoning, healthcare, and gas drilling campaigns and helped on other campaigns. She is looking forward to doing much more.

Lynn Max served as co-manager of the 2012 Obama/Biden campaign center. She was co-manager of the 2008 Obama/Biden campaign storefront and the Kerry/Edwards Campaign storefront in 2004. She served on the steering committee for our successful rezoning campaign and was co-chair of Three Parks' 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign (John Hall). She is an active member of Three Parks' Issue Committees, including the Health Care Committee and Gas Drilling Committee. She was active in Three Parks' 2010 campaign for Eric Schneiderman for Attorney General and for other statewide candidates. She served as membership director from 2007 through 2012. She is looking forward to more important victories in 2013 and to our defeating Voter Suppression.

Merle McEldowney found Three Parks during the 2006 John Hall Campaign. This will be her fourth year as a board member. She loves Three Parks because, in addition to the important work that a political club does in the neighborhood, there are people in the club who are passionate about preserving Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; getting a reasonable energy policy that closes Indian point, prevents fracking in New York State, and moves our country to renewable fuels. She also is interested in being a part of the process that promotes extraordinary people to our Supreme Court. After spending her career in New York City courts, she considers it a privilege to have input into the selection of judges.

Abigail McGloster is an active member of Three Parks and enjoys working with the club in many different capacities, such as hosting committee events and gathering signatures for candidates. She has been a resident of the neighborhood for 14 years. She is an Executive Board member of Douglas Houses and captain of her building. Also, she participated from beginning to end in the 2011 Participatory Budgeting process with Melissa Mark-Viverito. Her special interest is in improving the neighborhood and the quality of life for its residents.

Corine Pettey is a former District Leader, Riverside Democrats member, and served as a District 3 Elementary School Principal for 24 years. She is opposed to gas companies drilling for gas in our watershed, insists that Government create more jobs by helping to establish more "green" companies and public work projects to improve our infrastructure. She opposes Columbia University's use of eminent domain in the West Harlem area. She volunteered regularly at the 2012 Obama/Biden storefront.

Milvoy Samurovich is a founding member of Three Parks and served for 5 years as District Leader. He also served on CB 7, co-chaired the Urban Renewal sub-committee, and served on the committee that opposed the Westway Highway. He served on CB 1, chaired the Battery Park Committee during planning phase, led the Tenants Committee of his apartment building, organized rent strikes, and served on the Co-op Negotiating Committee. He has

volunteered at the Club's storefronts, including the 2012 Obama/Biden storefront.

Ray Schwartz has been a member of Three Parks for more than 15 years and has been on the Board for more than 10 years. He has served as the newsletter editor, membership secretary, and as a member at large. He works in the public mental health care field and on Three Parks' efforts to maintain critical public benefits, such as social security, Medicare and Medicaid that serve the interests of all of us. He would appreciate the opportunity to continue to be part of the Board and work to pursue a progressive person-centered agenda.

Lauren Williams – Membership Director has served on the Board as corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and member at large. She has coordinated the Club's holiday parties, volunteered at the storefronts during the 2004, 2008, and 2012 campaigns as well as registered voters and tabled and petitioned for Club issues.

Jane Wisdom is running for this position because she knows how to get along with everyone as President of Douglass Houses for 3 terms. She can be of assistance to all. She will represent the Board with pride and help better our community to be the best.

Judy Wood – Corresponding Secretary has been an active member of Three Parks for many years and is a former District Leader of the Club. She edited the Club newsletter for three years, which was very exciting. She supervised phone banks at the 2012 Obama/Biden Campaign Center and traveled to Pennsylvania with Three Parks members. She has also worked on numerous political campaigns and done tabling on issues.

Eligible Voters List for February 13, 2013

Bob	Botfeld
Theresa	Canter
Bette	Cohen
Daniel Marks	Cohen
Betty Jean	Dixon
Ellen	Flax
Daniele	Gerard
Louisa	Gilbert
Robert	Ginsberg
Jannie	Green
Joan	Green
Jacqueline	Huey
Marsha	Jacobson
Ulla	Jorgensen
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Erlend	Kimmich
Barbara	Lee
Estelle	Levy
Marie	Lunn
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Stephen	Max
Lynn Bender	Max
Abigail	McGloster
George	McGuinness
Jonathan	Miller
Wilhelmina	Perry

Annie	Petrus
Corine	Petty
Suzanne	Samelson
Doris	Schreiber
Ray	Schwartz
Irene	Shrier
Rachael	Smit
Michael	Stearns
Roschel Holland	Stearns
Clara	Taylor
Lynn	Thomas
Albertha	Toppins
Jonathan	Weil
Edith	Weil
Lauren A.	Williams
Judy	Wood
Gloria	Zeche
Ariel	Zucker-Brull

Antonine	Momplaisir
Martin	Morand
Brenda	Morgan
Derrick	Mullins
John	Newell
Joan	Ogden
Josh	Pepper
Hank	Perlin
Geraldine	Phillips
Rose	Podrasky
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner
Carol	Reisner
Nathan	Riley
Katherine	Samuels
Milivoy	Samurovich
Ahmad	Shirazi
Ann	Shirazi
Judith	Solomon
Mildred	Speiser
Stephanie	Tegnazian
Deborah	Thomas
Jane	Thompson
Ken	Tulloch
Ruben	Vargas
George	Voorhis
Natalie	Weinstein
Vernita	Worrell

Voters Eligible if Paid

Cyrus	Adler
Susan	Andrews
Mollie	Bailey
Robert	Bardin
Samuel	Bartos
Bobbie	Beck
Margret	Beels
Marcia	Benowitz
Vincent	Brancato
Marla	Brunker
David	Camacho
Margaret	Collins
Wendy	Dannett
John	Davenport
Wendy	Diller
Cynthia	Doty
Alan	Flacks
Jill	Freeman
Ernestine	Gallagher
Mary J.	Geissman
Thomas	Goggin
Pilar	Gomez
Robert	Gumbs
Marnie	Hall
Janet	Harvilchuck
Isa	Irvin
David C.	Kaplan
David	Kogelman
Kenneth	Laufer
Marguerite	Lavin
David	Lazarus
Gail	Leinwall
Joan	Levinson
Thomas	Lopez-Pierre
Merle	McEldowney
Judith	Medina
Alex	Medwedew
Dorothy	Mehler
Minda	Meister
Gail	Meyers

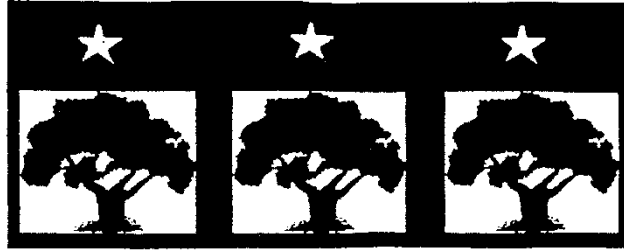
To be eligible to vote in the Club election, a member must have attended at least one meeting in the previous six months and have paid 2013 dues. New memberships do not become effective for thirty days, after which a new member must attend at least one meeting to be eligible to vote.

Reminder: Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.

THREE PARKS MEETING **FEBRUARY 13**

PLEASE NOTE: 8 p.m. start time

Featured Speakers: Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President and candidate for City Comptroller; Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senate Democratic Leader; Inez Dickens, City Council Member



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Please pay your 2013 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*

2013 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 via 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 2013****

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Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

PLEASE NOTE: 8 p.m. start time

New York Politics in 2013