

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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February 12, 2014

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: Speaker: Jaron Benjamin of Met Council on Preserving and Creating Affordable Housing
Club Elections

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

TIME: 8:00 PM

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

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

AGENDA

7:45 PM Sign-in & Pick Up Ballots

8 PM Call to Order & Introduction of TPID Officer and Board Candidates

8:20 Club Member Statements in Support of Congressional Candidates or No Endorsement

8:45 Ballot Box Opens for Club and Congressional Voting

8:45 Speaker - Jaron Benjamin of Met Council on Preserving and Creating Affordable Housing

9:30 Ballot Box Closes Followed by Second Ballot, if Necessary

Adjourn

CALENDAR

Wednesday February 12, 2014
Membership Meeting, 8pm
Youth Hostel Ballroom
891 Amsterdam Ave @ 103rd St.

March 4 - April 10: Petitioning for Federal Primary Election June 24

March 12: Membership Meeting, Youth Hostel, 8pm

March 26: Board Meeting, Youth Hostel, 8pm

April 9: Membership Meeting, Youth Hostel, 8pm

April 23: Board Meeting, Youth Hostel, 8pm

May 14: Membership Meeting

May 27: Last Day to Register to Vote in June 24 Federal Primary

President's Column

By Elizabeth Kellner

If January's meeting was any indication of what kind of year we can expect, then it will be very busy, varied and interesting. The meeting opened with the happy announcement that Melissa Mark Viverito had been elected Speaker of the City Council that very day. The report of the Nominating Committee for club Officer and Board positions was presented. There were no nominations from the floor. Candidates' bios appear in this newsletter, and they will be introduced at the February meeting.

Next we had a brief presentation by several activists (Vincent Cao, Jei Fong and Miriam Rabban) working with Justice Will be Served and Sweatshop Free New York. Their priority issues are passing legislation to expand workers' options for collecting damages from employers found to have violated wage and hour and other labor laws, seeking a compromise on the electric bike ban which is threatening to the economic viability and welfare of restaurant delivery employees, raising the minimum wage and expanding paid sick leave.

Kristina Andreotta of Citizen Action, who had come straight from Albany where she attended Cuomo's State of the State address, spoke about the Fair Elections New York campaign to reform our campaign finance laws. Her litany of indictments, convictions, Moreland Commission findings, failed prior efforts and shocking detail about just how much hard and soft money floods into Albany was a call to action in the legislative session now underway.

Adam Weissman of Trade Justice New York reported on the many dangers to the environment, worker protections and intellectual property presented by the pending Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement. Adam also discussed efforts to block "Fast Track" approval of the treaty, which would leave Congress and hence the people of the United States with virtually no opportunity to review, comment or amend objectionable provisions. The January club newsletter and the resolution passed by the club on this issue provide more information.

Our final January agenda item was a forum for the Congressional candidates in the 10th and 13th Districts who are expected to seek the Democratic Party nomination in the June 24 Primary. New boundaries for TPID's portion of the 69th Assembly District were redrawn after the 2012 election with the result that the club has gained and lost some territory in these two districts. TPID now represents many more ED's (and voters) in incumbent Jerry Nadler's new 10th District, and many fewer ED's (and voters) in incumbent Charlie Rangel's new 13th District. Neither Nadler nor Rangel could attend in person as Congress had just gone back in session after the long holiday recess. Both sent representatives -- Rob Gottheim from Nadler's staff and Bob

Liff who is working on Rangel's campaign. State Senator Adriano Espaillat and newcomer to politics Rev. Michael Walrond attended in person. TPID's January meeting was the very first forum where all three candidates in the 13th appeared. As of this writing, Nadler does not have a challenger. Petitioning starts March 4 and ends mid-April, so there is still time for others to enter both races. The club will hold an endorsement vote in both races at the February meeting.

District Leader's Report

By Bob Botfeld

UPDATE ON JHL AND REZONING OF 106TH STREET

After six years of on and off discussion and negotiation significant progress was finally made to repair the hole in the Upper Westside Rezoning plan passed in 2007. On January 15, the Land Use committee of Community Board 7 (CB7) unanimously passed a resolution in support (again) of contextual rezoning of the block on which the Jewish Home Lifecare (JHL) is located.

This action follows years of prodding by members of CB7 and others to get the contractual owner of the Jewish Home Lifecare (JHL) property on 106th street to support and pay for the rezoning of the block to comply with the original 2007 rezoning supported and endorsed by CB7 and Three Parks Independent Democrats. The CB7 Land Use Committee vote is the first step in the New York City ULURP process (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) required to pass a rezoning bill. In the next few months this resolution will need to be approved by the full CB7 Board, the Manhattan Borough President, the City Planning Commission, and by the New York City Council.

The Upper Westside Rezoning 2007 restricted the building heights on most of the blocks in the area bounded by 97th to 110th streets and Central Park West to Riverside Drive including the JHL block between 105th and 106th streets and Columbus and Amsterdam avenues. Unfortunately, during the final stages of the 2007 ULURP land use rezoning process an exemption was made for JHL in order to allow them to build a larger health care facility on the 106th street site with no height limits. But now this most recent proposed zoning and resolution passed on January 15 again restricts the building heights; 120 feet for building facing 106th street and 70 feet for buildings facing 105th street.

Judge from Three Parks Community Takes Office

On January 16, former TPID member Anil Singh was sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court in New York County, having received the Democratic nomination at the party's Judicial Convention last September and been elected in

November. Anil is the husband of outgoing TPID Board member Louisa Gilbert and a long time resident of our neighborhood. The ceremony was very personal with just a few heartfelt speakers who knew Anil very well, over decades in some cases. All commented upon his intellect, wisdom, patience and empathy. Anil is the first Justice of the Supreme Court in New York State of South Asian descent, and he movingly recalled the inspiration of his immigrant father and uncle. The MC for the event, fellow South Asian District Leader Jennifer Rajkumar, both entertained and informed by providing historical and cultural context on the significance of the day. Everyone enjoyed a true Indian feast at the conclusion of the ceremony. Congratulations Justice Singh - you deserve great things, and we expect great things!

Juvenile Justice

By Merle McEldowney

In Cuomo's State of the Union speech he mentioned that he would like to raise the age that children are treated as adults in the criminal justice system. He spoke eloquently of how it was wrong to be trying 16 and 17 year olds as adults and sending them to the adult criminal justice system. There is something he did not mention. In New York state many children 14 and 15 years old are tried in criminal courts. They are given adult sentences, many of them long. They will stay in juvenile facilities until they are 16 and then transferred to the adult system.

Here is the story: In March of 1978 Willie Bosket, a fifteen year old with a previous juvenile court history, murdered two people on the subway. Under the laws at the time the maximum sentence was five years.

The newspapers and the public were outraged. Governor Hugh Carey called an extra emergency session of the state legislature. The crime package was quickly passed that allowed 14 and 15 year olds to be tried in adult courts and given long sentences. This crime package was passed immediately, with little debate. Given the situation in our state legislature it is interesting that in the 70's the state could pass anything quickly.

As a result of that law more than 600 children ages 13 to 15 have been prosecuted in adult criminal courts seriously diminishing their life prospects before they've even entered high school. New York State needs to move into the 21st century and treat all children in ways that will help their future, not make them into committed criminals.

**NOMINATIONS FOR JUDICIAL
DELEGATES WILL BE TAKEN AT OUR
NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12TH**

Club Elections -- Board Nominees' Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Theresa Canter – Second Vice-President. Having been privileged to serve the past five years as Second Vice-President, and previously as First Vice-President, President, and Treasurer, She would be honored to continue to serve the membership in her current position and provide support to the Club leadership. And, as always, she will continue to work to make Three Parks a more visible presence in New York City county politics.

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 fracking, Indian Point, and social security, as well as elections. She has been on the Board for 3 years, and feels it provides her an 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 US 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 living on the UWS since 1996. 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 again as First Vice President.

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.

Erl Kimmich would be honored to serve on the Board. He has a record of doing "footwork"—posting, 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.

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 – Served five years on the Board, including one year as recording secretary. In 2013, he actively worked on Tish James' campaign for Public Advocate. In 2012, he 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. In addition, he has served as both a delegate and alternate judicial delegate over the past three years.

Mary Ann Marks has been a Board member for the past seven 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 – Co-managed the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Presidential Campaign Centers. She served on the Steering Committee for our successful rezoning campaign and has been an active member of Three Parks' Issues Committees, including Health Care, Social Security and Anti-Fracking. Membership Director from 2007-2012. Co-chair of the 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign, active in all our campaigns for progressive candidates, including those for the 2013 City

Elections. Looking forward to working on the campaigns for reauthorization of rent stabilization and for home rule for New York City and to ending tax abatements for millionaires' apartments.

Steve Max – Co-Manager 2008 and 2012 Obama Campaign Centers. Co-Chaired Social Security Committee, Healthcare (Single Payer) Committee, Anti-Fracking Committee and Close Indian Point Committee. Managed club data base - eight years. Worked on rezoning campaigns and for club endorsed candidates. Current WebMaster. Club Parliamentarian. County Committee member. Employment: (forty years) The Midwest Academy, a training school for progressive issue organizers. Vice-Chair, Democratic Socialists of America. In 2014 I will help to coordinate Club's participation in the campaigns for reauthorization of rent stabilization, which expires in June of 2015, and for home rule for New York City.

Merle McEldowney – Originally from Los Angeles, California, I fell in love with the Upper West Side and moved here in 2005 after living in Brooklyn for 26 years. I have been a board member of Three Parks Independent Dems since 2009 where I have found the ideal place to be involved in electoral politics as well as issues like fracking that will destroy our beautiful state; the efforts of our government to cut Social Security, Medicaid and Food Stamps; and the efforts of the 1% to pass trade agreements that will make profits more important than our environment, our health, and everyone's right to a living wage.

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 – former Riverside Democrats District Leader, 24 years as CD3 elementary school principal, 25 year member of TPID and Manhattan Valley resident. Corine's economic issue priorities are job creation, affordable housing, extension of unemployment benefits and food stamps. She is opposed to fracking, and supports campaign finance reform, including a federal constitutional amendment and legislation to prevent further erosion of voting rights by state governments, especially in southern states in the wake of conservative Supreme Court rulings which disproportionately affect the poor, working poor and persons of color.

Milivoy 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.

Gerald Schultz – Worked for the Board of Election during elections. Helped close polling site in recent elections. Long term member of the County Committee, have done petitioning for 20 years, and a neighborhood resident for over 60 year. Designed the first Three Parks Website (1995) and did layout design for the Newsletter. Locally Educated, P.S. 163 (97th ST), P.S. 118 Joan of Arc (93th ST), Louis D. Brandeis, High School (84th ST), and Fordham University B.A. Communications (Bronx, NY). I presently have a television show “In Harlem” which has aired for over 14 years on MNN and I am called the mayor of 101st street because I speak to, and know everyone. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

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 membership director, 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.

Judy Wood – Club member from the early days, and have served in many capacities to the best of my abilities. This includes newsletter editor, first VP, Board member, petitioner, storefront staffer, etc. Very strong advocate for Democratic candidates and campaigns, and really glad to see our new NYC administration taking office. GO DEMS!

Lorraine Zamora, born and bred in Queens, has lived on the Upper West Side most of her adult life. With a BA in English and Communications from Hunter College, she began her professional life by teaching English at Hunter High School and then went on to develop a career in fundraising. She's headed development efforts at The Calhoun School,

Fordham University, and Lincoln Center, Inc. In 1992, she became VP of Resource Development of The American Foundation for the Blind from which she retired two years ago.

Club Elections -- Eligible Voters List

Voting for club elections and endorsements will take place at the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2014. The ballot box will open at 8:45 pm and close at 9:30 pm.

Eligible Voters List for February 12, 2014

William	Baldwin
Emily	Baldwin
Susan J.	Baldwin
Samuel	Bartos
Bob	Botfeld
Vincent	Brancato
Betty Jean	Dixon
Ellen	Flax
Mary J.	Geissman
Daniele	Gerard
Louisa	Gilbert
Pilar	Gomez
Timothy	Greene
Robert	Gumbs
Marnie	Hall
Jacqueline	Huey
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Erlend	Kimmich
Thomas	Lopez-Pierre
Marie	Lunn
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Stephen	Max
Lynn Bender	Max
Gail	Meyers
Rabban	Miriam
Brenda	Morgan
Joan	Ogden
Josh	Pepper
Corine	Petty
Milivoy	Samurovich
Gerald	Schultz
Ray	Schwartz
Carol	Sharpe
Debbie	Spitz

Allan	Spitz
Ken	Tulloch
Lauren A.	Williams
Judy	Wood
Lorraine	Zamora

Voters Eligible if Paid

Susan	Andrews
Mollie	Bailey
Robert	Bardin
Margret	Beels
Shoshannah	Benmosche
Marla	Brunker
David	Camacho
Theresa	Canter
Daniel Marks	Cohen
Margaret	Collins
Mimi	Daitz
Wendy	Dannett
John	Davenport
Maxine	DeSeta
Wendy	Diller
Cynthia	Doty
Renna	Draynel
Ellen	Flax
Ernestine	Gallagher
Robert	Ginsberg
Thomas	Goggin
Janet	Harvilchuck
Shashi	Janardhan
Emma	Jenkins
David C.	Kaplan
David	Kogelman
Kenneth	Laufer
David	Lazarus
Barbara	Lee
Gail	Leinwall
Betsy	Malcolm
Abigail	McGloster
Alex	Medwedew
Arlene	Mehlman
Minda	Meister
Gail	Meyers
Christopher	Mooney
Martin	Morand
Forrest C.	Murphy

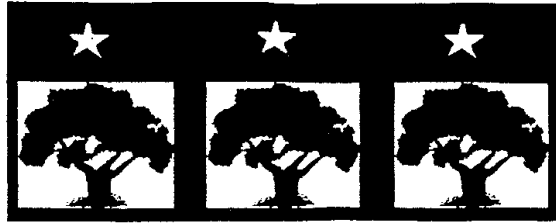
John	Newell
Jared	Odesky
Hank	Perlin
Wilhelmina	Perry
Annie	Petrus
Geraldine	Phillips
Alfred	Placeres
Nicole	Polier
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner
Carol	Reisner
Rama	Rodvien
Katherine	Samuels
Carl Joseph	Scalise
Doris	Schreiber
Christopher P.	Scott
Irene	Shrier
Mildred	Speiser
Clara	Taylor
Lynn	Thomas
Deborah	Thomas
Jane	Thompson
Franz	Vila
George	Voorhis
Yvonne	Vulliemoz
Gloria	Zeche

In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2014 and have attended at least one meeting in the last six months. Members who were paid for 2013 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2014 dues. New memberships become effective thirty days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the thirty day period and within the six months prior to the election. Memberships that have lapsed due to nonpayment of annual dues are considered new.

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

Condolences

Sincerest sympathies to former Three Parks member Steve Strauss on the loss of his mother. We send him our sympathy on this sad occasion



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Please pay your 2014 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting
or by mailing it with your check to:

***Three Parks Independent Democrats
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025
Attn: Treasurer***

2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member_____

Renewal_____

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) _____
Family -- two adults in the same household (\$40) _____
Low Income (\$15) _____
Low Income Family (\$20) _____
Sponsor (\$50)_____ Patron (\$100) _____

Name_____ Date_____

Address_____ Apt. #_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone (H)_____ (W)_____

Email_____

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter 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 2014****

Three Parks Independent Democrats
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 12th 2014

**CLUB ELECTIONS
&
PRESERVING AND CREATING AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**