

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

Lauren Williams

Editors

Lorraine Zamora
lzamora245@gmail.com
Jock Davenport
Richard E. Luna

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

CLUB MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 2016

- TOPIC:** Introduction of Candidates for Three Parks Independent Democrats Board of Directors;
Candidates for House of Representatives (or their representatives), 13th Cong. District:
- SPEAKERS:** Suzan Johnson Cook, Adriano Espaillet, Mike Gallagher, Guillermo Linares, Bill Perkins,
Adam Clayton Powell IV, Clyde Williams and Keith Wright.
- DATE:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016
- TIME:** 8:00 PM
- PLACE:** The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 St.
- ROOM:** Ballroom

AGENDA

7:45 PM Sign-in
8:00 PM Call to Order
Introduction of Candidates for Board of Directors
District Leader Reports
Speakers:
Candidates for House of Representatives or Their
Representatives (13th Congressional District)
Adjourn

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Membership meeting,
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Board Meeting,
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

Membership Meetings:
March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8

Board Meetings:
February 24, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 22

President's Report

By Lauren Williams

Our January meeting was one full of information and updates as we welcomed Congressman Jerald Nadler (10th Congressional District), Commissioner Julie Menin from the City's Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Community Development Officer Ahmed Tigani with the office of the Manhattan Borough President, and Land Use Committee Member Sheldon J. Fine from Community Board 7. District Leaders Cynthia Doty and Bob Botfeld also reported on petitioning activities, upcoming election dates, and information for those interested in being poll workers. The nominating committee slate for the 2016 Board of Directors also was presented. No additional nominations were made. The election of the TPID Board of Directors will occur at the February 10 club meeting. We also recognized retiring Board member Ernestine Gallagher for her years of leadership and many contributions to the Club.

Congressman Nadler is seeking re-election and, at the present time, has no announced opposition for the Democratic Primary. He reported on recent congressional activity that included reauthorization of health benefits for 9/11 Responders, passage of a \$20 billion transportation bill which features funding for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, and successful legislation to protect pregnant workers. He also commented on same-sex marriage becoming law (he was a lead sponsor), his "yes" vote for the Iran deal, and "no" vote on TPP.

Commissioner Menin noted that the City's DCA is the country's largest with a staff of 450. DCA operates 30 empowerment centers, licenses nearly 80,000 businesses, enforces labor laws, and regulates consumer products. The office also investigates issues such as scams affecting consumers, overcharging by grocery stores, predatory lenders among auto dealers, paid sick leave infractions, and questionable bank charges. Other DCA roles include assisting and informing consumers, offering free financial counseling, and enforcing business laws, often in cooperation with other City agencies. DCA is available by calling 311, or going online at nyc.gov/consumers, or on its social media sites.

Our closing presenters, Ahmed Tigani and Sheldon Fine, provided a status report on the Mayor's rezoning plan. Tigani commented on the responsibilities of the Manhattan Borough President's (MBP) office and its mandated role in the city's land-use process. He referenced work by the MPB planning staff and their collaborative efforts with the City's Community Boards to develop recommendations for the use and development of land. He said the Borough

President serves as a bridge between Community Boards and City Planning – between community concerns and the administration. Fine commented on Community Board 7's (CB7) review of the proposed plan and its possible impacts on the community including schools, transportation, sanitation and safety, small mom and pop businesses, affordable housing, and architectural and historical diversity. They encouraged us to follow the plan's ongoing development on the CB7 at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb7/html/home/home.shtml>.

At our February meeting, we will hear from candidates (or their representatives) for the 13th Congressional District. The candidates are Suzan Johnson Cook, Adriano Espallat, Mike Gallagher, Guillermo Linares, Bill Perkins, Adam Clayton Powell IV, Clyde Williams, and Keith Wright. We also will hold the election for the Club's 2016 Board of Directors. Please join Three Parks or renew your membership so you qualify to vote in the upcoming months. You will find our membership form online at www.threeparksdems.org or on page 7 of this newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

The Board and members of Three Parks Independent Democrats wish to express their deep condolences to Douglas and Elizabeth Kellner (former Board President) on the recent passing of Doug's mother, Rosemae.

Club Election—Board Nominees Biographies

Lauren Williams, President—is being nominated for a second term. She has served on the TPID Board in various capacities including membership director, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and member at large. She has edited the newsletter, has coordinated the Club's holiday parties, volunteered at the storefronts during the 2004, 2008, and 2012 campaigns, helped to register voters, and tabled and petitioned for Club issues.

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. She's a Three Parks member since 2004; a five-term president; a fracking/Indian Point/and "grand bargain" critic; and a three-time storefront veteran. She would be honored to serve again as First Vice President.

Lynn Bender Max, Second Vice President—co-managed the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Presidential Campaign Centers. She served on the Steering Committee for TPID's successful rezoning campaign and has been an active member of Three Parks' Issues Committees, including health care, social security and anti-fracking. She was Membership Director from 2007-2012, co-chair of the 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign, and active in all our Club campaigns

for progressive candidates. She looks forward to working on the reauthorization of rent stabilization and for home rule for NYC, and to ending tax abatements for millionaires' apartments.

Theresa Canter, Membership Secretary—Having been privileged to serve the past seven years as Second Vice-President, and previously as First Vice-President, President, and Treasurer, she would be honored to continue to serve the membership utilizing her experience with campaign and fundraising databases as Membership Secretary. As always, she will continue to work to make Three Parks a more visible presence in New York City county politics and to work for the election of our Democratic candidates in this very important election year.

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.

Lorraine Zamora, Corresponding Secretary upon retiring from her career as a professional fundraiser, Lorraine joined TPID as a volunteer for the 2012 Obama campaign and became a board member in 2013. She enjoys helping to close polling sites, posting notices of club meetings along Broadway, and distributing notices of polling sites prior to Election Day. She is most dedicated to helping TPID reelect Democratic candidates in this election year and to producing the Club's monthly newsletter with her husband, Richard Luna.

Jock Davenport, Recording Secretary—has been a neighborhood resident since 1986 and active in many areas, including his block association, the "drugstore" wars, and pushing Columbia University to include a supermarket at 103rd Street. He has been active in Three Parks since 1996, has been a Board member for 13 years, and looks forward to continuing to co-edit the Club's monthly newsletter.

Wendy Dannett—is a long-time progressive and has been a member of Three Parks since 2000. She's been on the board for four years and feels that board membership provides an opportunity for her involvement with campaigns and elections, and her input on issues such as tracking, Indian Point, social security and TPP. She is proud of the Club's efforts on behalf of public education, housing, and local community issues.

Ernestine Gallagher—is a longtime member of Three Parks and member of the Board. Ernestine has worked on many campaigns over the years and has organized the TPID annual holiday party every year. She also is active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

Elizabeth Krob Kellner—is a 35 year member of TPID, has been a Board member since 2009, and served as Board President in 2013 and 2014. She has also served as a Judicial Delegate and County Committee member; is a 36 year resident of Manhattan Valley; has worked on several political campaigns; been active on public education, zoning, and redistricting issues; and is a retired attorney. 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.

Erl Kimmich, Membership Secretary -- With the computer skills and attention to detail needed for the job, Erl (an energy efficiency consultant and former construction contractor) is well qualified for this position. He joined TPID during the 2008 Obama storefront campaign and has served on the Board for several years as one of our "audio engineers." He enjoys tabling on the issues, petitioning, and street campaigns, and promises to work to keep our meetings informative, thought provoking and inspiring-of-action. With 2015 a "quiet" election year, he looks forward to focusing on issues and mobilizing neighbors and members to action.

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

Betsy Malcolm—an attorney by training, Betsy has been active in local politics since moving to the UWS. Her prior work in support of marriage equality keeps her attention focused on Albany and the state legislature. Her special interests include promoting campaign finance and ethics reform, and support for GENDA's efforts to guarantee equal rights for the transgender community. Betsy worked on both Obama campaigns and plans to be active in achieving a Democratic majority in the State Senate in 2016.

Bruce Markens—has served seven years on the Board, including one year as recording secretary. In 2013, he was active in Tish James' campaign for Public Advocate. In 2012, he was involved in organizing phone banks 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 efforts to privatize public education. He's been involved in Three Parks tabling and protest activities on such issues as fracking, protecting Social Security, and closing down Indian Point. Also, he has served as both a delegate and alternate judicial delegate.

Mary Ann Marks—has been a club member for 12 years and a board member of the Three Parks for 11 years. She actively volunteered at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 storefronts, and helped with campaigns for re-zoning, healthcare, gas drilling, and to close Indian Point, as well as many other club initiatives. She has been a resident of the Upper West Side for 35 years.

Steve Max—co-managed 2008 and 2012 Obama Campaign Centers, and co-chaired the Club's Social Security Committee, Healthcare (Single Payer) Committee, Anti-Fracking Committee and Close Indian Point Committee. He managed the Club's data base for eight years, and has worked on rezoning campaigns and for Club endorsed candidates. Current webmaster. Club Parliamentarian. County Committee member. Employment: The Midwest Academy, a training school for progressive issue organizers. Vice-Chair, Democratic Socialists of America. Steve looks forward to helping coordinate the Club's participation for the reauthorization of rent stabilization which

expires in June 2015, and for home rule for New York City.

Merle McEldowney—originally from Los Angeles, she fell in love with the Upper West Side and moved here in 2005 after living in Brooklyn for 26 years. She’s been a board member of Three Parks since 2009 which she has found to be the ideal place to be involved in electoral politics as well as issues like fracking; 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.

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—has worked for the Board of Elections and helped TPID close polling sites in recent elections. A long term member of the County Committee, he’s done petitioning for 20 years. He designed the first Three Parks Website (1995) and is the layout designer for the Club’s monthly newsletter. Locally educated at P.S. 163, P.S. 118 Joan of Arc, Louis D. Brandeis High School, and Fordham University (Bronx, NY), Gerald presently has a television show, “In Harlem,” which has aired for over 14 years on MNN. Gerald is called the “Mayor of 101st Street” because he knows and speaks to everyone.

Judy Wood – has been a Club member “from the early days” and has served in many capacities to the best of her abilities, including board member, newsletter editor, first Vice President, petitioner, and storefront staffer. Judy is proud to be a very strong advocate for Democratic candidates and campaigns.

Black History Month

Black History Month begins next week, and the Schomburg Center in Harlem has scheduled numerous activities to commemorate the month. Among them is a showing of African-American photography taken from the Kamoinge archives (February 9) and an appearance by music producer LA Reid (February 23). Visit www.schomburgcenter.org for more information.

Three Parks Voters List for February 10, 2016

Cyrus Adler	Betsy Malcolm
Bob Botfeld	Bruce Markens
Jacqueline Bukowski	Mary Ann Marks
Daniel Marks Cohen	Lynn Bender Max
Irene Dess	Stephen Max
Cynthia Doty	Abigail McGloster
Alan Flacks	Joan Ogden
Ellen Flax	Liz Samurovich
Mary J. Geissman	Anna Lee Spiro
Daniele Gerard	Allan Spitz
Robert Ginsberg	Michael Stearns
Marnie Hall	Stephanie Tegnazian
Jacqueline Huey	Deborah Thomas
Sharick Irizarry	Lauren A. Williams
Elizabeth Krob Kellner	M. Katherin Williston
Erlend Kimmich	Judy Wood
Kenneth Laufer	Tamar Zucker
Marie Lunn	Ariel Zucker-Brull

Voters Eligible if Paid for February 10, 2016

Susan Andrews	Norman Lafond
Robert Bardin	Robert Leuze
Patricia Barrera	Alex Medwedew
Samuel Bartos	Minda Meister
Shoshannah Benmosche	Derrick Mullins
Marla Bruncker	Hank Perlin
David Camacho	Geraldine Phillips
Theresa Canter	Nicole Polier
Mimi Daitz	Miriam Rabban
Wendy Dannett	Carol Reisner
John Davenport	Rama Rodvien
Betty Jean Dixon	Katherine Samuels
Samantha Evans	Gerald Schultz
Gerry Ann Fifer	Christopher P. Scott
Ernestine Gallagher	Jacob Sher
Timothy Greene	Ahmad Shirazi
Adam Haridopolos	Ann Shirazi
Janet Harvilchuck	Irene Shrier
Robert Ir	Mildred Speiser
Audrey Isaacs	Jane Thompson
Emma Jenkins	Ken Tulloch
Russell Jenkins	Lorraine Zamora
Suzan Johnson-Cook	Gloria Zeche
David C. Kaplan	

Please note: In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2016 and attended at least one meeting in the last six months. Members who were paid for 2015 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2016 dues. New memberships become effective 30 days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the 30 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.

The Bottled Water Epidemic

By Erl Kimmich

First of all, thanks to David Camacho for his tireless efforts to help cure people of the bottled water epidemic. He really got me thinking and I had to do some research. The contribution to the waste stream that bottled water represents, the cost: hundreds and even thousands time more than the same quantity of tap water, and the air pollution caused in the manufacture of the plastic bottles should give people plenty to think on. The clincher is that the FDA which is responsible for testing and standards of bottled water does not require the same kind of rigorous testing that the EPA requires of tap water. In New York City, we have about 1,000 testing locations where samples are taken for approximately 200,000 tests of our water. All this is good news.

However, there might be lead in our drinking water because some of us live in buildings where the piping is old and the lead solder that was used can now be leaching into our drinking water as it is pumped through the building piping to our sink faucets. You can do a very easy and inexpensive lead test to check to see if your water is contaminated. The lead test kit is available in your hardware store or online. If lead is detected in your water, it is advised to let the water run for 30 seconds to flush out the line of the water that was absorbing the lead.

Many New Yorkers, preferring to err on the side of caution, opt out for one of the many filtering options that are available at the hardware store or online. As older buildings replace old lines, the problem is being solved.

We New Yorkers know the subway is expensive enough to burn a hole in our pockets. Paying for bottled water won't put that fire out or improve my health. Thank heavens for our tap water! Not to mention that we have so much of it, we use it to hose down the sidewalks!

If you want to check out a cool map of where our tap water comes from and more please see the links below:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/wsstate14.pdf>

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/drinking_water/index.shtml

<http://www.moneycrashers.com/bottled-water-vs-tap-water-facts/>

Flint, MI: Racism & Austerity Gone Awry

By Wendy Dannett

Flint, Michigan is the city which has lately been in the news due to the serious pollution of residents' drinking water. In 2014, a money manager was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to oversee the city's finances. The manager, Dan Wyant, recommended the city's water source be switched from Lake Huron to the Flint River to save money. Unlike Lake Huron, the Flint River is highly polluted, mostly with industrial waste. In addition, Mr. Wyant did not want to spend money on corrosion-control chemicals, (costing only \$100 per day) which would have prevented lead from leaching into the water from old pipes, connections and fixtures. The result was that the residents of Flint were poisoned with high levels of lead, causing brain damage and other toxins causing vision and memory problems, skin lesions and hair loss.

How could this travesty have occurred? At first, the Michigan administration denied any knowledge there was a problem, including Governor Snyder and Mr. Wyant. But at the same time they were dismissing residents' complaints about the ill tasting and looking water, the government was sending water coolers with purified water to government offices. Memos regarding this have only recently been divulged. Since most of the people living in Flint are African American and poor (56 percent), it is difficult not to see this as racism and class issues.

Governor Snyder apologized to the city of Flint on December 29 for the crisis and accepted the resignation of Dan Wyant. However, the Detroit Free Press reported that records obtained by the Michigan ACLU showed that elevated lead levels in Flint's drinking water "would have spurred action much sooner if the results of city testing... in June 2015 had not been revised by the DEQ to wrongly indicate the water was safe to drink." (The report about installing water coolers with purified water only came out at the end of January 2016.)

Is Mr. Snyder's apology enough? Many think not, including Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders. Sanders thinks Governor Snyder should be fired; Michael Moore thinks the people of Michigan should revolt. Governor Snyder has finally declared a state of emergency and is trying to deflect more blame. But as chief executive in Michigan, with an aggressive agenda of cost cutting and austerity,

responsibility lies with him.

I find this situation a horrific and inexcusable tragedy. Matters have been made worse by the recent revelations of unspeakably filthy conditions in Detroit's public schools, which are being overseen by the same Dan Wyant.

Poll Workers Wanted

Poll workers are needed for the April 19 and June 28 primaries. Please sign up online at electiondayworker.com, or contact District Leader Cynthia Doty at c1ldoty@aol.com

Powerball, Indian Point and Angel Wings

By Cy A. Adler

While waiting for the M-96 bus, I noticed an ad for "Powerball." I went into the grocery store and bought a ticket for \$2. When the woman in back of me asked for a ticket, the store keeper said: "All sold out. No more." I turned to her and said, "I'll sell you half of my ticket for a dollar; I don't need a billion dollars—five hundred million is enough for me." She hesitated and then said: "Here's my card. I live two blocks from here. Just give me your name and email and when I win, I'll contact you." She handed me a dollar.

Alas, we did not win the big prize. The odds against us winning were only 292,000,000 to one. Playing Powerball caused me to wonder about the odds at Indian Point and its nuclear power plant which has been generating electricity for over 30 years. Indian Point is 30 miles north of where I live. It could blow up and kill me. What are the odds of that happening? What is the risk of my dying from a nuclear accident? I would prefer getting my electricity from windmills.

Recently riding to Port Ivory on the Richmond Terrace bus, I spotted a big, motionless windmill on the other side of the Kill Van Kull in Bayonne. Three beautiful but motionless vanes. This is the first wind turbine I have seen in the NY-NJ area. I googled it. Yes, it is there in Bayonne, but the generator doesn't work. It was made in Italy. Gangs of lawyers are poring over who should pay for the \$300,000+ repair job.

I would like to see the Indian Point electric generator complex replaced by windmills powered by a steady wind supplied by angels flapping their wings. I wonder how the probability of that happening compares with the chance of winning the Powerball lottery.

Important Dates

2016 Political Calendar

April 19 Democratic and Republican Presidential Primaries

June 28 Congressional Primary

Sept. 13 State Primary

Nov. 8 General Presidential Election

2016 Three Parks Meeting Dates for Speeches and Endorsement Voting

Feb. 10 Candidates for Congress, 13th CD; Election of TPID Board of Directors

March 9 Candidates for State Offices (Assembly and Senate); State Committee and Judicial Delegate; Endorsement voting for Candidates for Congress

April 13 Candidates for State Office

May 11 Candidates for Judge; Endorsement Voting for State Offices; State Committee and Judicial Delegate

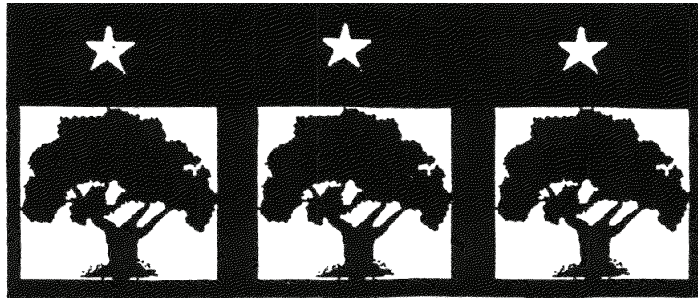
2016 DUES AND ATTENDANCE REMINDER

New members must have completed membership application, paid dues, and attended one meeting prior to endorsement vote.

Continuing members must have dues current and attended two club meetings in the six months prior to endorsement vote.

Those living in the 69th AD, an adjacent AD, or employed or doing business in the 69th AD, are eligible for membership.

Voting eligibility requirements are the same for club elections, political and party official endorsement votes.



Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025, tel: 212-539-7602

Please pay your 2016 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

2016 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 solely by email.

Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal—cash and money orders are far more difficult to process.
Please make out all checks to “Three Parks Independent Democrats—Dues 2016”

Thank you for your cooperation!

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

**Forum with Candidates for the 13th Congressional District U.S.
House of Representatives**

Speakers: Introduction of Candidates for Three Parks Independent Democrats Board of Directors

Candidates for House of Representatives and their representatives (13th Congressional District)