



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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<i>President</i>	<i>Editors</i>	<i>District Leaders</i>	<i>State Committee</i>
Lauren Williams	Lorraine Zamora <a href="mailto:lzamora245@gmail.com">lzamora245@gmail.com</a> Jock Davenport Richard E. Luna	Bob Botfeld Cynthia Doty	Lynn Thomas Daniel Marks Cohen

## CLUB MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

<b>Topic:</b>	<i>Watchdog for New York's Sanctuary City</i>
<b>Speaker:</b>	Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate for the City of New York
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, February 8, 2017
<b>Time:</b>	8:00 pm
<b>Place:</b>	The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street
<b>Room:</b>	Ballroom

### AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign-in  
8:00 pm Call to Order  
Introduction of Candidates for Board of Directors\*  
District Leader Reports  
Community Action Update  
Speaker: Hon. Letitia James,  
Public Advocate for the City of New York  
Adjourn

**\*Ballot Box for Election of Board  
will be open from 8:15–9:15 pm**

### CALENDAR

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Hold the Date: Sunday, April 30, 2017**  
Three Parks Annual Benefit  
Time and Location to be confirmed

## **President's Report**

By Lauren Williams

What a difference a month makes! At our club meeting in January, we knew big changes were ahead as President Obama prepared for “the peaceful transition of power” and then President-Elect Trump continued his tweeting and boastful pronouncements. Even before the inauguration, we'd begun to push back and organize against Trump's agenda. We're being challenged beyond what any of us could have anticipated—on every issue and value we hold dear: the environment (including global warming and energy), health care, freedom of speech and religion, voting rights, immigration, women's rights, LGBTQ, social services like housing and family programs, gun laws, and education. Adding to these assaults are Trump's cabinet nominees, likely Supreme Court nominees, and his pronouncements on trade, international affairs, torture, and the military, as well as his unending rants about the election results and crowd counts for the inauguration and Women's March.

Many of us have already participated in multiple marches and rallies and repeatedly contacted our elected leaders to “Stand firm and just vote NO.” Three Parks has organized contingents to participate in these activities and spread the word on actions we can take, individually and collectively. We'll continue to speak out and organize and hope you'll be with us for what may well be a very bumpy road. We'll continue to send blasts and post information on our web site at [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org) so you, too, can take action.

On January 11, we again welcomed NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer to our meeting. His presentation was packed with facts about the City's demographics, small businesses, the workforce, and overall economy. Stringer stated that Trump's announced plans could result in as much as a \$7 billion loss to the City. Among the most significant cuts would be ones impacting human services to our children, those in Section 8 housing, and the homeless. He talked about the critical need for the City and NY State to strategize and work together against Trump's agenda. Also, Stringer announced that his office would soon release an economic forecast for the city and encouraged us to contact the Office of the NYC Comptroller directly, visit [www.comptroller.nyc.gov](http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov) or follow the office on Twitter for updates and other information about initiatives and events.

At our meeting on February 8, we will hold the election for the Club's 2017 Board of Directors. Brief candidate biographies and eligible voter lists appear following the District Leader's report. Our speaker will be New York City Public Advocate Letitia James, who will talk about her office's role as the public's watchdog.

My service as TPID President and Board member ends with this meeting, so I take this opportunity to thank our Board and Club members, community residents and organizations, our 2016 Campaign Center volunteers, and elected officials and staff for their support of and interest in Three Parks as well as their friendship and help to me. I extend well wishes to the new Board and look forward to working with all of you as we RESIST Trump and plan for 2020!

## **District Leader's Report**

By Bob Botfeld

There is no doubt that our democracy is in trouble. The depth of understanding of that danger was demonstrated in the huge protest marches on January 21 in New York and Washington D.C., including most of the Three Parks' club members, and the millions of protesters in hundreds of cities around the world.

For the next two years, we democrats have lost control of every lever of power over the federal government. Furthermore, Trump has increased his attacks on the remaining pillar of our democracy, the fourth estate, the free press.

We all agree about what we need to do: defeat the Republicans in local, state, and federal elections, and why we need to do it. The question that remains is “how”—the strategy and the tactics.

The “how” is important because in 2016, Clinton vastly outspent Trump yet we lost. Part of the “how” is field organization. During and after the 2016 campaign, I heard from veteran, experienced volunteer campaigners who had worked for months in two swing states, Ohio and North Carolina. They described a total lack of field organization in North Carolina. In Ohio, during the final week of the campaign, Clinton get-out-the-vote canvassers were using voter lists that included many self-identified Trump supporters.

One of the organizations that is key to determining strategy and tactics is the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The DNC is influential in assisting state Democratic organizations and supporting field organizers around the country, and the DNC chair becomes a leading spokesperson for the Democratic Party and the media face of the party.

During the last few weeks I attended several meetings where the leading candidates for the DNC chairperson, Keith Ellison, congressman from Minnesota, and Thomas Perez, Obama's Secretary of Labor, campaigned for support from the DNC committee members. Both candidates pledged to adopt Howard Dean's 50-state strategy as opposed to targeting the swing states. Ellison spoke urgently of organizing twelve months a year in both

election and non-elections years. My impression was that Ellison was the more effective grassroots organizer while Perez had more experience running and energizing large organizations.

Although we don't have a vote in this race, it was instructive and heartening to hear and see the determination, the openness to questioning past practices, the effort to think hard about how to engage those who did not vote, and the passion in process for finding a solution for the elections in 2018 and 2020. To form your own opinion, you can find one of the forums on the selection for the next DNC chair at <https://www.democrats.org/page/dnc-future-forum-livestream>.

## **Biographies of 2017 Board of Directors**

**Merle McEldowney, President**—first came to Three Parks during the 2006 John Hall Campaign. Since then, Merle has worked in three Campaign Centers, including 2016 in which she coordinated the efforts to aid the campaign of Zephyr Teachout. She has spent the last few years working to stop hydraulic fracturing, objecting to the TPP, and protecting the social safety net: Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. Merle believes that grass roots efforts—sending letters, making phone calls, and creating whatever legal mischief we can—will help hold our elected officials to the fire to keep New York, and the USA, a place in which we all are proud to live.

**Daniele Gerard, 1st Vice President**—is a lifelong New Yorker on the Upper West Side since 1996. Currently a staff attorney at Children's Rights, Daniele has worked on the staff of NYC Council President Carol Bellamy, attended Columbia Law School, and practiced at Cravath Swain and North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services. A member of Three Parks since 2004, she's been a five-term president, a three-time Campaign Center veteran, and a critic of fracking/Indian Point and the "grand bargain." She is honored to continue to serve as Three Parks' First Vice President.

**Lynn Max, 2nd Vice President**—co-managed the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Presidential Campaign Centers and is an active leader in the 2016 Campaign Center. Last year she was co-coordinator of the Bernie Sanders Campaign in the 10th Congressional District. She has served on the steering committee for Three Parks' successful rezoning campaign and has been an involved member of Three Parks' Issues Committees including healthcare, social security and anti-fracking. Her commitment to Three Parks has also included being Membership Director from 2007-2012, co-chair of the 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign, and a leader in all the club's campaigns for progressive candidates. "We will work together to defeat the Trump Agenda and to take back Congress in 2018."

**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 eldercare facilities. She was an active participant in Three Parks' 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 presidential Campaign Centers and is delighted to continue to serve as Treasurer.

**Theresa Canter, Membership Secretary**—having previously served as President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, Tess would be honored to continue to serve Three Parks as Member Secretary. She once again looks forward to utilizing her experience with campaign finance and fund-raising administration. As always, she will continue to work to make Three Parks a more visible presence in New York City politics and to strengthen its progressive agenda.

**Jock Davenport, Recording Secretary**—The other day, as I was walking my dog along Riverside Drive, I saw an old Piper Cub chugging up the Hudson River pulling a sign which read: *We Outnumber Him. Resist!* As a Board member of TPID, I've been consistently resisting the barbarians at our gates for many, many years. Trump is the worst of them all, by far, a modern Atilla the Hun. America's constitutional government is now imperiled, and I pledge to work the harder on the Board to preserve, protect and defend it.

**Lorraine Zamora, Corresponding Secretary**—upon retiring from her career as a professional fund raiser, Lorraine joined Three Parks as a volunteer for the 2012 Obama campaign, became a board member in 2013, and in 2016 became a co-manager of the storefront for the Clinton/Kaine Campaign. As Corresponding Secretary, she publishes the club's monthly newsletter with the help of board member Jock Davenport and her husband, Richard Luna. Lorraine is a coordinator of Three Parks' Holiday Party and annual fundraising benefit and is dedicated to helping elect Democratic candidates in the next and future elections.

**Corinne Constantine**—has lived on the Upper West Side since 1976, witnessing the renewal of the neighborhood after the 1976 blackout. Corinne is retired but her past work experience included professional administrative positions at all the major institutions of higher education in NYC. Currently, she is on the board of her co-op building. She was very involved in the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center as captain of the bus trips to PA and was thrilled to be asked to be a board member. Her focus will be on the mid-term elections and returning Congress "back to the Dems."

**Wendy Dannett**—is a long-time progressive and has been a member of Three Parks since 2000. She's been on the TPID board for five years and feels that board membership provides an opportunity for her to be actively involved with campaigns and elections, as well as allow her to have input on issues

such as fracking, social security, Indian Point and TPP. Wendy is proud of Three Parks' efforts on behalf of public education, housing and the local community. She is a prolific contributor to the TPID monthly newsletter and spent many hours volunteering at the 2016 Campaign Center.

**Marie Lunn**—has been active in TPID for over ten years and been on the board for seven years. She has worked on several campaigns, participated in tabling and petitioning, and was a key volunteer at the 2012 and 2016 Campaign Centers.

**Mary Ann Marks**—has been a resident of the Upper West Side for 36 years. She has been a Three Parks member for 13 years and a board member for 12 years. She always is happy to volunteer her time and has been an active participant at Three Parks' 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Campaign Centers. In addition, Mary Ann has worked on campaigns for rezoning, health care, anti-fracking and closing Indian Point, Cynthia Doty's campaign for City Council and the Hillary Clinton for President campaign. On an ongoing basis, Mary Ann coordinates the mailings of the club's monthly newsletters.

**Steve Max**—co-managed the 2008 and 2012 Obama Campaign Centers and was instrumental in leading the 2016 Clinton Campaign Center. Steve co-chaired the club's committees on Social Security, Healthcare, Anti-Fracking and Close Indian Point, and worked on the campaigns to reauthorize the rent regulation laws and pass neighborhood rezoning. He currently is Three Parks webmaster, club parliamentarian, and a County Committee member. Steve is employed by The Midwest Academy, a training school for progressive issue organizers, and is a vice chair of the Democratic Socialists of America. A Bernie Sanders Democrat, Steve was a 10th CD coordinator for the Sanders campaign.

**Abigail McGloster**—has lived on the Upper West Side for over 15 years and has been very active in the community. It has been her pleasure to serve on the Three Parks board for the past two years and to be a club member for over seven years. Abigail is proud to have been an Executive Board member and Captain of her building at Douglas Houses. She also has been involved in the process of Participatory Budgeting and has a special interest in improving the neighborhood and quality of life for all its residents.

**Lois Safian**—has lived on the Upper West Side for the past 40 years. She retired a few years ago from her profession as a producer of corporate meetings. In that capacity, she managed budgets, writers, creative teams, video production and on-site staging teams while interacting with high-level corporate executives. Lois became a volunteer with Three Parks at the 2012 Obama/Biden Campaign Center and returned in 2016 to become integral to the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center. She always enjoys working and laughing with others.

**Milivoy Samurovich**—is a founding member of Three Parks Independent Democrats. He was a District Leader for five years, served on CB 7, CB1, and on the committee to oppose Westway Highway, and co-chaired the Urban Renewal Subcommittee. Milivoy chaired the Battery Park Committee during its planning phase, led the Tenants Committee of his apartment building and served on its Co-op Negotiating Committee. He has been a supportive volunteer for Three Parks' 2012 and 2016 Campaign Centers.

**Nathan Schumer**—has a PhD in History from Columbia University. He is currently a fellow at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses in ancient Jewish history. He has worked in the climate activism world with 350NYC since 2012, and led a campaign to convince state and city officials to divest pension funds from fossil fuel companies. His involvement with TPID began during the 2016 election, and he is looking forward to being even more involved with the club. Nathan is an aspiring urban keeper of bees and chickens, and currently resides in the neighborhood with his wife Hilary and daughter Sophia.

**Irene Shrier**—has been a West Sider since the late 1960s. Irene is a retired NYC high school math teacher who also taught GED in an alternative high school program for women living in shelters. Irene has been a member of Three Parks since 2004 and was active in the club's storefront campaigns of John Kerry, Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton, and is a member of the Democratic County Committee. Following the 2016 election, Irene believes we need to stay strong and remain actively engaged in local politics in the upcoming years.

**Cecilia Villabona**—lives on the Upper West Side and recently retired from teaching after 25 years of service. Her teaching years were spent teaching math in middle and high school classrooms and being an assistant principal in NYC. She now spends her time as a volunteer at the New York Botanical Garden and enjoys many of the attractions that life has to offer: yoga, traveling, and learning new things. Cecilia was an active phone bank trainer in Three Parks' Campaign Center last fall.

**Chuck Wall**—recently retired after a long career as an editor and publisher of test-preparation guides and study aids for Simon & Schuster, McGraw-Hill, Harcourt Brace and other major publishing houses. Chuck holds degrees in modern European history from Columbia and the University of Paris. He been president of the co-op board of his West Side building for over 25 years, and has supported and participated in progressive causes from the Vietnam era to the present, including the Three Parks Campaign Center last fall and the Women's March in NYC on January 21, and now looks forward to assuming a more activist role.

### TPID Members Eligible to Vote Feb. 8, 2017

William Baldwin  
Emily Baldwin  
Susan J. Baldwin  
Margaret Beels  
Bob Botfeld  
Hilary Rachel Brown  
Marla Bruncker  
Theresa Canter  
Daniel Marks Cohen  
Corinne Constantine  
John Davenport  
Irene Dess  
Wendy Diller  
Robert Donohue  
Cynthia Doty  
Alan Flacks  
Ellen Flax  
Mary J. Geissman  
Daniele Gerard  
Pilar Gomez  
Jacob Gross  
Dorothy Grossman  
Jessica Haberstock  
Prince Haigood  
Elaine Hazzard  
Michael Hilkin  
Judy Hummel  
Emma Jenkins  
Russell Jenkins  
Elizabeth Krob Kellner  
Erlend Kimmich  
Marnie Leonarda  
Marie Lunn  
Betsy Malcolm  
Mary Ann Marks  
Stephen Max  
Lynn Bender Max  
Merle McEldowney  
Abigail McGloster  
Minda Meister  
Derrick Mullins  
Forrest C. Murphy  
David Ochoa  
Chris Peralta  
Annie Petrus  
Geraldine Phillips  
Lois Safian  
Katherine Samuels  
Nathan Still Schumer  
Allan Spitz  
Roschel Holland Stearns  
Michael Stearns  
Deborah Thomas  
Barbara Trelstad

Ken Tulloch  
Ruben Vargas  
Christine Verzar  
George Voorhis  
Charles Wall  
Jonathan Weil  
Edith Weil  
Lauren A. Williams  
Judy Wood  
Lorraine Zamora

### Members Eligible to Vote if Paid for Feb. 8, 2017

Cyrus Adler  
Robert Bardin  
Patricia Barrera  
Samuel Bartos  
Shoshannah Benmosche  
Vincent Brancato  
David Camacho  
Mimi Daitz  
Wendy Dannett  
Maxine DeSeta  
Susan Dess  
Samantha Evans  
Gerry Ann Fifer  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Arlene Geiger  
Robert Ginsberg  
Barbara Goldwyn  
Timothy Greene  
Adam Haridopolos  
Janet Harvilchuck  
Jacqueline Huey  
Audrey Isaacs  
David C. Kaplan  
Norman Lafond  
Kenneth Laufer  
David Lazarus  
Gail Leinwall  
Robert Leuze  
Anna Lewis  
Bruce Markens  
Alex Medwedew  
Brenda Morgan  
John Newell  
Joan Ogden  
Mary Pasley  
Hank Perlin  
Alfred Placeres  
Carmen Quinones  
Miriam Rabban  
Carol Reisner  
Rama Rodvien

Bruce Rosen  
Patricia Rowe  
Milivoy Samurovich  
Carl Joseph Scalise  
Doris Schreiber  
Christopher P. Scott  
Fredrick Sherman  
Ahmad Shirazi  
Irene Shrier

Mildred Speiser  
Anna Lee Spiro  
Stephanie Tegnazian  
Lynn Thomas  
Jane Thompson  
Susan Tucker  
Arlene Tyrkko  
Gloria Zeche  
Tamar Zucker

### ***Please note:***

*In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2017 and attended at least one meeting in the last six months. Members who were paid for 2016 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2017 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.*

### **What Went Wrong with the Democratic Party**

By Wendy Dannett

Democrats thought the election of 2016 was in the bag. But they lost. They have blamed Citizens United, Vladimir Putin, and James Comey. But Thomas Frank, in his book “Listen Liberal,” presents a compelling critique of the “party of the people” that focuses on the Democrats going from a party of the working class to a party of the professional. Because the result of the 2016 president election—the Trump victory—has been so disastrous, I believe a self-analysis by the Democrats is especially necessary.

Frank’s book is an argument for the fact that the anger propelling Donald Trump’s campaign to victory is the product of short-sighted policy decisions made by Democrats. The one-time party of the working class has been co-opted by a hyper-educated elite, not interested in the working class. He believes Liberalism has changed. Professionals tend to be liberal on issues other than the workplace, and that they are contemptuous of the working class and organized labor. They say they are the party of

the people. But Frank feels that is not so. “This is a class party. It is not working people...It’s the professional class... people with advanced degrees.”

He cites Bill Clinton’s policies. With NAFTA, for example, he chose the interests of the professionals over the working class. Working people said they were going to be ruined. The professionals thought the trade agreement was great; the working people turned out to be right. Frank believes every policy decision Clinton made was like this. He cracked down on many minority groups with his crime bill of 1994 but, at the same time, he deregulated Wall Street: doing away with Glass–Steagall, deregulating telecoms, cutting capital gains taxes.

Frank sees inequality as having gotten worse under Barack Obama. The gains of recovery from the 2008 depression have gone to the top 10 per cent of income earners. The guys in the Justice Department couldn’t figure out how to prosecute a Wall Street executives. Guys at the Treasury Department bailed out the banks that caused the 2008 crash, instead of holding them responsible.

With Clinton implementing policies that hurt the working class (NAFTA, economic policies at home) and Obama not prosecuting the banks, not getting better health care, and supporting the TPP, the white working class has become furious. Their needs for economic equality were addressed by Bernie Sanders, but not by Hillary Clinton, who didn’t even campaign in Michigan and Wisconsin. Donald Trump went to those states, spoke to the financial problems of white workers there—and won.

## **2017 Dues and Attendance Reminder**

**New members must have completed and submitted a membership form, paid dues, and attended one meeting prior to an election vote.**

**Continuing members must be current with their dues and have attended two club meetings in the six months prior to an election vote.**

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

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

## **The Magnificent Women’s March**

By Steve Max

The January 21 Women’s March in New York, gridlocked as it was by its own success, was the most inspiring event that even those of us with long memories can recall. Particularly encouraging were the large numbers of people from our own neighborhood who we know had never participated in anything like this before.

The March was a great kickoff for Three Parks’ participation in its campaign to stop the Trump Agenda and take back Congress. Coming on the heels of our community forum in December, where many people volunteered for activities from letter writing to petitioning, the Women’s March brought over two hundred members and friends to the Club’s gathering point at the Broadway/96 St. subway stop. There, we were addressed by Congressman Jerry Nadler and Council Member Helen Rosenthal, both of whom called for ongoing and unceasing activity against Trump and the Republicans.

Three Parks will soon be organizing phone banks to voters in red districts to urge them to contact their own members of Congress regarding the Affordable Care Act, Social Security, Medicare and other issues. Meanwhile, we continue our weekly tabling and petition drives telling Senators Schumer and Gillibrand that we will stand with them if they stand up to Trump.

Sign up for these and other activities at our web site Action Page at [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org). Photos of our group at the March are also on the web.

***Editorial Note:** It took a whole lot of people to organize the club’s participation in the Women’s March: sending e-blasts, making signs, providing directions, galvanizing the troops, acting as marshals, and leading the way from 96 Street and Broadway to the U.N. and up Fifth Avenue. Kudos to Lynn Max, Steve Max and Merle McEldowney for their leadership, and thanks to the other board members, club members and friends who helped make the Women’s March such a stupendous success, especially Bruce Markens, Dan Cohen, Joan Conlon, Corinne Constantine, Jock Davenport, Daniele Girard, Lois Safian, Irene Shrier, Chuck Wall and Lorraine Zamora.*



Congressman Jerry Nadler addresses TPID members and friends who gathered at the 96 St. subway station before leaving for the Women's March.

## 2017 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here \_\_\_\_\_ if you prefer to receive the newsletter **solely** by email.

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Please make out all checks to **Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2017.**

*Mail to:* Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station, P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025 Attn: Treasurer

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

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**  
***Watchdog for New York's Sanctuary City***  
**Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate for the City of New York**  
**Election of 2017 TPID Board of Directors**