

## ***THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS***

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, N.Y. 10025 ♦ (212) 866-6378

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***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

# January 2010

**JANUARY MEETING: Wednesday, January 13, 2010**

**GAS DRILLING IN NEW YORK STATE:**

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer – opening remarks

**FEATURED TOPICS &  
SPEAKERS**

**PANELISTS**

Deborah Goldberg, Managing Attorney,  
Earthjustice Northeast Regional Office

Joseph Levine, Chair, NYH2O

Roy Lackner, Upstate Activist

TIME: 8:00 PM

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

ROOM: Chapel

**AGENDA**

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. GAS DRILLING IN NEW YORK STATE: Polluting Our Water, Costing Us Billions & Supporting Halliburton
4. Board Nominations
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

**CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column By Daniele Gerard

Thanks to all of you for making the Three Parks Holiday Party yet another warm, welcoming and festive event! Hundreds of club members and guests reveled in community spirit, dined on delicious homemade treats, donated generously to local food pantries, and danced the night away. Dozens of electeds and judges dropped in to wish us well. As usual, a splendid time was had by all. Special thanks to Lauren Williams, TPID Board Member and Recording Secretary, and to Lynn Thomas, State Committee Member, for their organization and inspiration!

The Three Parks January meeting features a panel on a critical issue for the New Year—"Gas Drilling in New York State: Polluting Our Water, Costing Us Billions & Supporting Halliburton." We are fortunate to be able to host Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, who will give opening remarks, and a panel of experts: Deborah Goldberg, Managing Attorney, Earthjustice's Northeast Regional Office; Joseph Levine, Chair, NYH2O; and Roy Lackner, Upstate Activist.

Preceding the panel, Three Parks will present a power point explaining what's involved in drilling for natural gas and exactly what's at stake for the New York City watershed and the land and water of our upstate neighbors. The panelists will outline local, state and national issues followed by a question and answer session with the audience. Please be sure to review the Gas Drilling Resolution elsewhere in this newsletter; the membership will vote on whether to adopt it after the panel and Q&A conclude.

We look forward to seeing all of you in a new round of progressive activism in 2010, the 35th Anniversary of Three Parks Independent Democrats. We have twelve races in the coming year: for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Comptroller, Attorney General, State Senate, Assembly, U.S. Senate, Congress and State Committee. If you haven't renewed your membership, be sure to do so soon. Join us and be part of the action!

The submission deadline for the next newsletter is  
January 27, 2009

## District Leader Report: Questions for 2010 By Bob Botfeld

It could be a very interesting 2010 in both state and national politics.

2009 ended very differently than did 2008. In 2008, we hoped that the Democratic sweep in the November general election would enable the Obama administration to provide solutions for the economic, political, and constitutional problems left to us by Bush. As 2009 ends, we have mostly with more questions -- but very interesting ones.

Will the health care bill pass in any useful form? Are we really coming out of the recession or just entering the worst of it as housing prices continue to decline? Is Obama now stuck in the Afghanistan mess that Bush/Rumsfeld left?

In New York State – more questions? Will David Paterson run for Governor? If Paterson runs, is it good for the Democratic candidates in the State Senate races? Are the Democrats likely to lose control of the State Senate due to the recession and the electorate's tendency to blame any incumbent for the current economic woes? Do the Democrats have control of the State Senate even now?

Will Andrew Cuomo run against Paterson? If Cuomo runs, who runs for Attorney General? Our excellent State Senator Eric Schneiderman and Eric Dinallo, formerly head of the state Investor Protection Bureau, have announced that they will run if Cuomo runs for Governor. Do you have to be named Eric to run for Attorney General in 2010?

If Eric Schneiderman runs for Attorney General, who will run for his State Senate seat and who will win? Ah, here it gets interesting for **Three Parks members**. During the last two campaigns for an open State Senate seat in either of the 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate seats, the race changed after the Three Parks endorsement vote. The candidate that lost the Three Parks endorsement dropped out of the race. Our vote is likely to be critical again.

The 2010 endorsement season for our elected officials will be a busy one for Three Parks members. Our club will be asked to endorse candidates in twelve races: The two New York

US Senate seats, the 8<sup>th</sup> US Congressional District, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, 30<sup>th</sup> State Senate, 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate, 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, and male and female State Committee.

It will be a busy year. Before we leave 2009 there is below, in the newsletter, a review of the 2009 Mayoral election in the Three Parks district.

Happy New Year!

## **District Leader's Report** **By Cynthia Doty**

Happy New Year to all! Although 2009 began with the excitement of President Obama's historic inauguration, unfortunately it ended with anxiety over the economy, jobs, security, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and frustration over health care reform. I, along with many of you, am very happy to say goodbye to 2009 and to welcome 2010!

As I look forward, I still remain optimistic. 2010 will be a challenge for us progressives, but I believe we have the opportunity to make a difference and to influence policy and this year's elections. On the city level we have two exciting new citywide officials in Comptroller John Liu and Public Advocate Bill de Blasio who will be great counter weights to the Mayor. Plus the City Council has many new faces that have strong roots in community organizing and grass roots activism.

On the national level, we expect to finally have some new health care legislation. Even though it is far from what we in Three Parks advocated for, it is a major milestone in the long battle for reform and it has taken decades for any new health care legislation to even come out of committee, let alone pass both the House and the Senate. And the issue, with all its complexity, is finally on the table for debate. If we stay mobilized, we should be able to build on whatever is passed and continue to go after the negative practices of the insurance and pharmaceutical companies. Medicare for All is still worth fighting for and does not have to die when this bill passes.

As for the elections, we have many races to get involved with. Many of our good progressive incumbents are being challenged both in Congress and in the NYS Senate and Assembly, so we plan to do phone banking and canvassing

on their behalf. Then we want to do whatever we can to gain more progressive Democratic seats in the State Senate so the reform agenda can't be blackmailed away as it was this past year. Doing the same in the US Senate may be harder, but we will help out wherever we can. Having Sen. Joe Lieberman and Sen. Ben Nelson stand in the way of health insurance reform and women's reproductive health care is outrageous, and we must work to reduce their powers!

Then there is the climate change and energy legislation, banking regulation, jobs creation, local environmental issues, immigration reform, housing legislation and development, campaign finance and good government reform, public education support. Quite a long agenda!

So 2010 should be a busy year for us in Three Parks. Let's try to rekindle the hope we had a year ago and renew our commitment to fighting for the progressive agenda!

## **Resolution on Gas Drilling in New York State**

The following resolution will be voted on at the January 13th TPID meeting:

*WHEREAS large areas of New York State, including the New York City watershed and western New York, neighboring Pennsylvania and much of the rest of the country are facing potential environmental disaster from the unregulated expansion of a form of natural gas drilling known as hydraulic fracturing, or "hydrofracking,"*

*WHEREAS hydrofracking is a process in which millions of gallons of water, sand and an unidentified mix of chemicals are pumped into the ground to crack rock and release natural gas; the toxic mix is pumped back up for storage or dumping elsewhere and often pollutes the drill site, the ground water below and any surface water downhill from the site, thereby posing a tremendous threat of contamination to areas that supply the State's water and food,*

*WHEREAS there have been hundreds of reported spills, fires and contaminated water supplies related to conventional vertical well drilling in New York State and surface contamination related to the retention and disposal of fracturing fluid and wastewater from natural gas operations, while the track record of drilling companies in other states is abysmal,*

*WHEREAS in the 2005 Energy Bill former Vice President Dick Cheney, acting on behalf of major gas extracting corporation Halliburton, which also developed the process, arranged for hydrofracking to be exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Superfund Law and the Right-to-Know Act, among other regulations,*

*WHEREAS the environmental, human and animal health damage caused by hydrofracking will also have severe economic consequences for New York State's agriculture, forestry, wineries, real estate, and tourism,*

*WHEREAS regulations for closed, above ground storage facilities, pre-treatment, or other safety requirements for the fracturing fluid and wastewater generated during hydrofracking have not been adequately written into law,*

*WHEREAS the infrastructure costs of building and repairing roads, water treatment facilities, and other public services would in many cases exceed any ostensible economic benefits of hydrofracking to local communities,*

*WHEREAS staff resources of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation are woefully inadequate to manage current drilling activities in New York State and are therefore not sufficient to handle the widespread proliferation of deep-well horizontal drilling and hydrofracking, and*

*WHEREAS natural gas contributes far more to global warming than clean energy sources, such as wind and solar power.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats calls on the Governor and New York State Legislature to enact a ban on hydraulic fracturing; we urge all our federal, state and local elected officials to oppose hydraulic fracturing in New York State and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on our elected officials in the House and Senate immediately to bring hydraulic fracturing under the jurisdiction of all applicable federal laws.*

Condolences to longtime CFD member Lloyd McAulay and his family on the passing of his wife Mary McAulay.

## Proposed Nominees to the Three Parks Board of Directors

Elections will be held at the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

The District Leaders, Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty, are *ex officio* members of the Board.

As the Three Parks Constitution provides, to be eligible to vote, a member new to the Club during the calendar year of such vote must have attended at least one other meeting of the Club within the previous six months. Members of Three Parks in the prior calendar year must have attended at least one Club meeting within the previous 6 months and have their dues current by the vote. Any person residing in the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District or any adjoining Assembly District, or anyone employed in or doing business in the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, who is a registered voter enrolled in the Democratic Party shall become a member in good standing 30 days after application for membership and payment of dues.

*The 2010 Membership Form is included in the Newsletter. Renew your membership or join now to be able to vote at the February 10th annual general meeting.*

## NY State Democrats and Albany Reform: Is It Hopeless? By Ray Schwartz

The short answer to the above questions is, I do not know. The NY Senate debacle of 2009 does not provide much confidence for reform. As I observed the Senate circus I noticed that reforms

in the State Assembly were minimal and no meaningful ethics reforms are being seriously discussed in either chamber.

The Brennan Center, NYPIRG, Citizens Union, Common Cause, League of Women Voters and other groups have identified two basic types of reforms that need to be implemented: Ethics and the Legislative procedures.

A brief summary of the needed ethics reforms are:

1. Establish an independent state ethics commission.
2. Create more stringent requirements for financial disclosure for public officials.
3. Limit contributions from public contractors and lobbyists to end the "pay-to-play" practices of Albany.
4. Strengthen the ban on the personal use of campaign contributions.

For details please read the proposal prepared by Blair Horner and Alex Freundlich.

The changes in the legislature's procedures are focused on enabling individual members of the Assembly and Senate more authority to have a real voice in the functioning of committees, moving bills from committees for votes by each chamber, real debate and fiscal analysis and make each chambers transactions transparent. The Brennan Center published a short update and summary on the needed changes exactly a year ago as a review of their original report from 2004. As we have all noticed no meaningful reforms have occurred.

The performance of the NY State Senate Democrats this past session will make it very difficult for the Democrats to argue to independents, and many registered Democrats, that control of the Senate should remain Democrat. Indeed, many registered Democrats may not vote at all because of the view that "they are all useless" or are in Albany to "get what they can for themselves".

How should a reform minded independent Democratic club proceed during the upcoming endorsement and election cycle?

My endorsement of individual candidates will depend on where they place on their list of priorities ethics and legislative procedural reforms. If they are not on the very top of the list why should I provide my endorsement?

## November 2009 General Election Results

By Bob Botfeld

Thanks to the active street campaigning of so many Three Parks members, Thompson carried the Three Parks election districts (EDs) in the November general election, collecting 52% of the vote to Bloomberg's 48% and reversing the results from the Bloomberg/Ferrer contest in 2005. In 2005, Ferrer received 46% to Bloomberg's 54%.

Overall, the 2009 vote Three Parks area voter turnout was 31.5% compared to the citywide 24.5% voter turnout.

For the political numbers junkies, below is the list of Three Parks election districts in the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District with the final vote totals for both the 2009 and 2005 mayor general elections:

ED	Nov. 3, 2009		Nov. 3, 2005	
	Bloomberg	Thompson	Bloomberg	Ferrer
23	157	185	213	90
30	129	184	149	77
32	119	115	217	114
33	184	121	213	125
34	175	189	205	114
35	193	117	142	82
37	87	127	103	146
38	136	76	199	183
39	43	120	74	165
40	83	204	128	245
41	42	140	65	165
42	117	147	155	172
43	118	83	133	80
44	193	117	208	117
45	119	86	121	85
46	217	138	256	104
47	117	137	184	140
48	114	136	110	125
49	215	110	258	100
50	130	140	158	152
51	39	135	54	145
52	125	156	159	142
53	70	120	104	131
54	51	97	66	117
55	121	94	152	72

56	178	101	233	100
57	93	49	113	49
58	122	133	133	127
59	40	82	77	91
60	121	168	167	208
61	94	112	107	134
62	206	162	254	143
66	45	92	78	106
78	52	131	91	111
79	96	233	119	144
108	52	64	53	83
109	76	103	81	105
TOTAL	4269	4704	5332	4589

### Three Parks Holiday Party 2009

TPID's 2009 Holiday Party proved that Democrats don't need an historic landmark election victory to bring friends together to celebrate one another and the causes we fight for, win or lose. On the afternoon of Sunday, December 6, The Chapel at the Youth Hostel once again pulsed and glowed with fabulous decorations, excellent food and drink, get down and dance music, and most importantly, the indomitable spirit that makes TPID known city-wide for its active membership, progressive politics and, last but not least, the wherewithal to host one helluva holiday party.

We were joined by the usual parade of politicians and judicial candidates, fans and admirers from other clubs, friends and supporters, and of course our members - bless you, every one of you, as Tiny Tim would say. Among the planners, organizers and volunteers who made it all possible were the stalwarts who keep doing this year after year after year, and some new faces who can now appreciate firsthand all the hard work that goes into making this happy annual event possible. Special thanks are due to Lauren Williams, Ernestine Gallagher, Lynn Thomas, Judy Wood, Mary Ann Marks, Marie Lunn, Rosetta Williams, Iretta Owens, Clara Taylor, Alex Medwedew, Yvonne Vulliemoz, Lynn Max, Steve Max, Bruce Markens, Milivoy Samurovich, George Voorhis, Corine Pettey, Thanks too must go to all those who helped set up and clean up, contributed the delicious food we consumed (as usual scarcely a morsel remained), and brought donations for the food pantry, West Side Campaign Against Hunger; quite a supply was delivered to the church the following week.

Since TPID's famous Holiday Party has always been a free event with a goal to build community and thank our friends and supporters, we must rely on the generosity, large and small, of all those who contribute their time and energy. Please remember this next year when we ask for your help so that the tradition continues and a good time can be had by all.

### Riverside Park Mulchfest

Saturday, January 09, 2010  
10:00 AM-02:00 PM

Take your tree to Mulchfest 2010. To "treecycle" your tree, drop it off at one of the following locations:

- West 79th Street & Riverside Drive
- West 97th Street & Riverside Drive
- West 106th Street & Riverside Drive
- West 116th Street & Riverside Drive
- West 138th Street & Riverside Drive
- West 145th Street & Riverside Drive

**Please remove all ornaments before leaving your tree at the drop off site.**

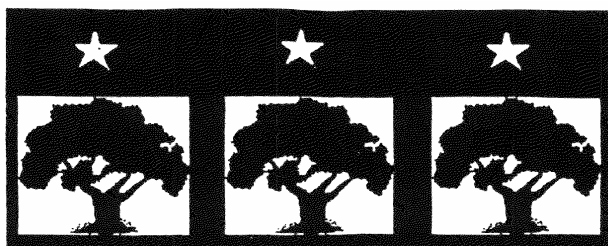
### Manhattan Electronic Recycling

For the month of January, the Manhattan-based e-waste management group, The 4th Bin will be doing house- and office-calls, picking up old electronics and disposing of them in an environmentally appropriate manner. Fill out a form, see link below, and they will collect clunky old mp3 players, virus-ridden laptops, water-damaged digital cameras and other high-tech gadgets you've been hoarding rather than throwing away. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bin has partnered with local community and national nonprofit organizations such as City Harvest, the March of Dimes, and others to help get the word out and to make sure that some of the profits from this activity go to worthy causes.

- The 4th Bin will pick up your unwanted electronics. It's easy; they come to you, for free.
- Help the community: Proceeds are donated to City Harvest.
- The 4th Bin reuses or recycles every single item.

To access an online form, go to:  
[http://4thbin.com/index.php?view=pickups\\_res](http://4thbin.com/index.php?view=pickups_res)

To schedule a pick up, email [info@4thbin.com](mailto:info@4thbin.com).  
For information, email or call 646.747.5985.



*THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

Please pay your 2010 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting  
or by mailing it with your check to:

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

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## **2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

***New Member***\_\_\_\_\_

***Renewal***\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$10)\_\_\_\_\_

Low Income Family (18) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$50)\_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H)\_\_\_\_\_ (W)\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter via email.**

**Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2010"**

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

## **NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010**

**GAS DRILLING IN NEW YORK STATE: Polluting Our  
Water, Costing Us Billions & Supporting Halliburton**

Please check the Three Parks website, [threeparksdems.org](http://threeparksdems.org), for recent health care and other updates & assessments