

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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January 8, 2014

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: Speakers: Candidates for House of Representatives or Their Representatives (10th and 13th CD's)

Fair Elections New York Campaign - Invited

The Dangers of the Proposed Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement - Adam Weissman of Trade Justice

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH

TIME: 8:00 PM

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

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

AGENDA

7:45 PM Sign-in
8 PM Call to Order

1. President's Report
2. Nominations for Club Elections
3. District Leader Reports
4. Speakers: Candidates for House of Representatives or Their Representatives (10th and 13th CD's)
5. Fair Elections New York Campaign - Invited
6. The Dangers of the Proposed Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement - Adam Weissman of Trade Justice

CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, January 22, 2014
Board Meeting, 8pm, Youth Hostel Board Room

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Club Meeting, 8pm, Youth Hostel

Wednesday, Feb 26, 2014
Board Meeting, 8pm, Youth Hostel Board Room

March 4 – April 10, 2014
Petitioning for federal offices

June 24, 2014
Primary Election for federal offices

President's Column

By Elizabeth Kellner

This is the time of year we look back, but we also look forward. There are lessons to be learned, hopefully without too many regrets, but also a future filled with the hope of change to come. Even organizations like Three Parks can engage in some healthy reflection and introspection as we face a new year of challenges. What did we accomplish? Who did we reach? What is our message? How can it be better communicated? Have we been responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community of Democrats and residents we serve? Are "we" -- a progressive political club -- a "sustainable" model of activism? What must we do to ensure that? I'm not going to try to answer all these questions, but I offer them for your consideration as we grapple with setting priorities, allocating limited resources and giving a substantive focus to our political activities over the year ahead.

As the de Blasio administration prepares to take office, one thing is abundantly clear -- the nation is watching. The glaring spotlight of media and punditry attention will only intensify as high level appointments are scrutinized and the gears of government are shifted to reflect a new emphasis on reducing inequality. As efforts get underway to implement new programs and redirect resources to support this objective, no initiative is more important or poses a greater risk to the future of this new administration than the promise of universal pre-K and after school programs for middle school children. Even if it isn't the most important issue, it has become, like it or not, whether fair or accurate, in effect, de Blasio's "Obamacare", i.e. the measure of the man, his ability and competence, the signature initiative of his still gestating administration for the world at large.

Universal pre-K and middle school after school programs have been demonstrated to have a lasting impact on academic achievement, employment prospects and social mobility. The success of such programs improves the quality of life for society as a whole - poor, working and middle class, and well to do. All age groups benefit. With individual futures brighter, government expenditures on welfare, remediation, criminal justice etc. over the long term can be proportionately reduced and reallocated to other needs. In other words, it is the proverbial "win/win". As New York Democrats, we have a responsibility to make sure that it happens. The progressive agenda here in

NYC and nationwide can ill afford the body blow of the equivalent of another health care website meltdown.

In mid-December, the de Blasio administration officially launched the UPK Campaign to build grass roots, not for profit, institutional, business and celebrity support for the modest tax increase needed to achieve this goal. From those making \$500,000 or more a year, the campaign is asking the financial equivalent of only a "latte a day". Sadly, neither the 8+ million people of NYC nor the 50 point de Blasio margin of victory can ensure the UPK becomes a reality. Governor Cuomo, the State Senate and the State Assembly must also sign on, and it's an election year in Albany making any tax increase especially difficult. So please add your name and your support to the growing chorus of the UPK campaign. In the months ahead Three Parks hopes to bring you more information about what we as individuals and as an organization can do to help. Visit the UPK website at upknyc.org to sign on and receive updates. New York City can be a model for the country if we succeed, and we should all make a collective New Year's Resolution to ensure that success.

Nominating Committee Report

The annual meeting and club elections will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has proposed the following list of candidates. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the January 8, 2014 meeting. Bios of all candidates will be included in the February newsletter. We thank departing members Louisa Gilbert, Barbara Lee and Jane Wisdom for their contributions, and hope to continue to work with you.

Elizabeth Kellner, President
Daniele Gerard, First Vice President
Theresa Canter, Second Vice President
Jock Davenport, Recording Secretary
Judy Wood, Corresponding Secretary
Lauren Williams, Membership Secretary

Wendy Dannett
Ernestine Gallagher
Erl Kimmich
Marie Lunn
Bruce Markens
Mary Ann Marks
Lynn Bender Max
Steve Max

Merle McEldowney
Abigail McGloster
Corine Pettey
Milivoy Samurovich
Gerald Schultz
Ray Schwartz
Lorraine Zamora

**2014 DUES AND ATTENDANCE
REMINDER**

**THERE WILL BE CLUB
ELECTIONS AND ENDORSEMENT
VOTES AT THE FEBRUARY
MEETING**

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 Holiday Party

By Lauren Williams

Over 200 partygoers enjoyed the Annual Holiday Party hosted by Three Parks Democrats on Sunday, December 8. Once again The Youth Hostel ballroom was bedecked with beautiful and festive decorations coordinated by Lynn Thomas and filled with wonderful holiday and dance music delivered by DJ Denise. Everyone feasted on the potluck buffet prepared by Ernestine Gallagher's team of chefs and members as well as guests. Three Parks President Elizabeth Kellner welcomed everyone and acknowledged the many

volunteers who helped with invitations, decorating, tending bar, serving food, and other party tasks.

Those attending donated over \$1,200.00 to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. Numerous elected and local Democratic Party officials joined members and neighborhood friends for the festivities. Pictures taken by Barbara Lee are posted on the Three Parks Web site and at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/30081092@N04/sets/72157638650901055/>

Transitioning to a Green Economy

By Erl Kimmich

How many of us believe that we do not have the technology or that it is not economically feasible to switch to wind and solar as our primary sources of electrical generation? The old fossil fuel and nuclear industries and their well heeled PR machines dominate the airwaves and print media with endless repetition about how we are not ready for this next necessary and inevitable step in the development of our energy generation. Their "experts" say we need a transition fuel scheme or "bridge fuel" to power our nation. They spend millions convincing politicians that this is the case.

Meanwhile renewables and energy efficiency are grabbing market share and saving us millions and millions of dollars in communities across the nation. The industry is at a level of development and maturity that has allowed more studies and findings to be published and more accurate projections and "what if scenarios" to be drawn. Some of what I gleaned by attending the forum: **Transitioning to a Green Energy Economy: How Municipalities Can Benefit** held on Nov. 20th in Newburgh, NY was eye opening and quite compelling. The event was attended by elected officials such as city council people, a mayor or two, and a state assembly person, as well as people from the technical professions that will play crucial roles as we change to cleaner, healthier, and less expensive ways of supplying our demand for power.

I learned that and I heard that: 1) wind power is the world's fastest growing energy source, 2) air pollution causes approximately 4,000 deaths in the US every year, 3) renewable energy is passing nuclear power as an energy source in the US, generating 6.944

quadrillion BTUs of energy compared to 6.173 quadrillion BTUs from nuclear power.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2012/01/10/renewable-energy-passes-nuclear-as.html?page=2>

4) global energy needs could be met with the installation of 3.8 million large wind turbines, 90,000 solar plants and hundreds of tidal, geothermal, and photovoltaic rooftop installations throughout the world. The costs would be less than those of traditional fossil fuel and nuclear generation.

www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/sad1109Jaco5p.indd.pdf

The speakers included: Mark Jacobsen, Director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University who leads vital research and publishes the results of the many studies he conducts. Thomas Rumsey, Vice President of External Affairs of the New York Independent System Operator (NYSIO) and Tim Corrigan of the New York Power Authority addressed the hundred plus people filling the room. The changes and adjustments already being made to the power grid and storage of intermittently produced energy from the wind and sun are also very encouraging developments. They pointed out that changes were already underway to standardize and streamline the approval of solar projects and other energy projects through the tangle of local zoning and code regulations. They provided answers to the somewhat technical questions about how new and intermittent power sources can be incorporated into the ever-evolving new and improved grid. Most importantly they answered with a resounding yes that you will still be able to flick a switch and have the lights come on in your home 24/7 after we shut down the nuclear power plants and the old inefficient, polluting, costly, and deadly coal and fossil fuel burning plants.

There's not room enough to go into the details of the advances made in how intermittent energy will be stored and the changes to the grid that are already being deployed. (You can find more information through the links which will be accessible through our website. See the Indian Point or Fracking pages.) The breakdown in how our electricity would be produced according to Jacobsen is roughly over 80% wind and solar with the rest being provided by geo-thermal, hydroelectric, etcetera. The second half of the program on the 20th was devoted to how municipalities in the Mid Hudson region could fund large projects and support

smaller commercial and residential projects in their townships. The benefits locally and nationally of making these changes ASAP include: Better health (4000 annual air pollution related deaths and billions of dollars of related health care costs nation wide were cited as an example of the severity of the problems caused by the carbon burning). Improved national security as liquid petroleum refineries and nuclear plants would be taken off line and shut down.

Our contribution to climate change and all the related issues would be greatly reduced. The economy would see a tremendous boost as savings in health care alone could help drive more ambitious and comprehensive retrofitting of buildings jobs in energy efficiency manufacturing and building the new green infrastructure could quickly lead to vastly reduced unemployment. I left Newburgh feeling that the forum supported what Three Parks folks have felt for quite some time, which is that the diversion of government and private funds to less efficient more costly energy sources like nuclear and fossil fuels only delay the solutions to global warming and air pollution mortality. It underlined the necessity to deny a renewed license for the Indian Point Nuclear Plant and begin decommissioning immediately. It also reinforced that we must strengthen our resolve to stop investing in pipelines and infrastructure whether for export or domestic use of natural gas and oil. Many thanks to Manna Jo Greene of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater for putting this event together.

Links:

"Providing All Global Energy with Wind, Water, and Solar Power, Part 1: Technologies, Energy Resources, Quantities and Areas of Infrastructure and Materials."
www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/JDENPolicyPt1.pdf

"U.S. Renewable Electricity Future Is Within Reach."
<http://blog.ucsusa.org/u-s-renewable-electricity-future-is-within-reach>

"Empire State Building Retrofit Surpasses Energy Savings Expectations."
http://blog.rmi.org/blog_empire_state_retrofit_surpasses_energy_savings_expectations

"New York State Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Potential Study."
www.nwcouncil.org/dropbox/6th%20Plan%20Industrial/Industrial%20Conservation%20Data%20Catalogue/ISC

[%20Document%20Catalogue_Public%20Version-5%20June%202009/Documents/Tier%201/NewYorkSto%20EE&ER%20Potential%20in%20New%20York%20Vol%201%20Aug%202003.pdf](#)

"Providing All Global Energy with Wind, Water, and Solar Power, Part II: Reliability, System and Transmission Costs and Politics."

www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/DJEnPolicyPt2.pdf

Do we need an LNG terminal?

By Merle McEldowney

Liberty national wants to spend 200 million dollars to construct a facility to turn Liquid Natural Gas to natural gas. They tell us that we will need to import gas from overseas to provide enough power for 20 days of peak energy in the north east. Once a company gets a permit to build and builds a terminal to convert LNG to regular gas for import, it is easy to switch all this, and get a permit and export the gas. On Long Island it will be gas from the Marcellus Shale.

Natural Gas needs to be converted to Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in order for it to be shipped by sea. There are terminals to accomplish this conversion being built all over the USA to export gas abroad.

The United States is already a major exporter of LNG. The price of gas in the USA is now \$4.13 per million btu. It is being sold on the Japanese-Korean market for 18.00 per million btu. Most of the gas that is being transported is gas that is obtained by fracking.

Because of the danger of a major hurricane on the east coast, Governor Christie has already vetoed this terminal off the coast of New Jersey. This new project, south of Jones Beach, is in an area hit hard by Hurricane Sandy.

We want Cuomo to take the same steps as Governor Christie and say no to terminals to convert gas to LNG off our shores. We want him to support renewable resources.

Another proposal is to build a wind farm in the area to bring renewable fuels to the New York area. This proposal makes a lot more sense than piping fracked gas through New York for export.

Three Parks Independent Democrats is sponsoring a

meeting about two ways to get energy from the area off our shores.

Tankers, Turbines and Our Offshore Energy Future

Thursday January 30 2014 at 6:30 PM

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

236 West 73rd Street near Broadway

Sean Dixon, an attorney with Clean Ocean Action, is one of the leaders of a coalition against Liberty Natural Gas,

David Alicea will talk about the benefits and drawbacks of offshore wind, and what would be necessary to realize a project off our shores.

Al Appleton will discuss "enlightened" energy policy, which our state should lead the way in promoting, and what we can all do to help.

Fast Track Must Be Stopped !

By Merle McEldowney and Wendy Dannett

The Constitution delegates to Congress the obligation to make trade agreements. In January, the Congress will vote whether to cede that obligation to the President. It will likely be called "Trade Promotion Authority", and is also known as "Fast Track".

FastTrack, was invented by President Nixon to present finalized trade pacts of Congress for an up or down vote. But it expired in 2007, and Trade Agreements have been approved by congress since then.

If Fast Track is approved regarding the Trans Pacific Partnership, or TPP, it will mean that trade agreements must, again, be voted up or down by Congress with no chance to amend the treaties or hold hearings on them. They will not be able to amend parts that put the American people's health at risk or sections that keep us from protecting our environment.

A discussion of the TPP is very important. As of now, it is being negotiated by 600 corporate lobbyists in secret. There have been leaks but essentially no one is sure what is in it. If Fast Track passes it is possible that this trade agreement will pass without many Congress people, or the public, really knowing what is in it. We do know that there are 29 chapters in the TPP, and only 4 of them really relate to trade.

One chapter, on intellectual property, will extend

patents on “biologic” drugs from eight to 12 years. This extension will mean that many drugs that cure cancer and other diseases will not be available as affordable generic drugs for an even longer period of time. In developing countries it will mean these life saving drugs will not be available and lives will be lost.

A very disturbing part of the agreement, ISDS (investor state dispute settlement), is already part of existing trade agreements so we know how it will function. ISDS allows a corporation to sue when a law or regulation limits corporations’ profits. This lawsuit is settled in an international tribunal that does not represent the people of the country. It does not consider dangers to the environment or to public health. It is essential that we be able to pass laws that protect our food, health and our environment without the threat of lawsuits in foreign tribunals from corporations.

There are previous lawsuits that have been filed under ISDS.

In Mexico the Mexican government was ordered to pay \$16.7 million us dollars by NAFTA. This is in response to an investor law suit by Metalclad Corporation in the US, a waste-disposal company which accused the

Mexican government of violating NAFTA's Chapter 11 when the state of San Luis Potos refused it permission to reopen a waste disposal facility. (The state governor ordered the site closed down after a geological audit showed the facility would contaminate the local water supply.)

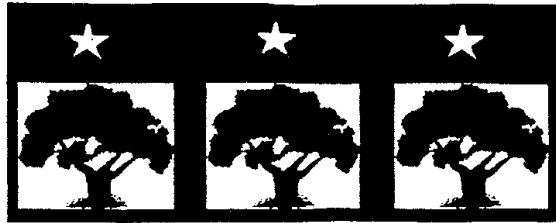
Infinito Gold, a Canadian mining company, has just slapped Costa Rica with a \$1 billion lawsuit because the nation decided to protect its rainforests rather than host an open-pit gold mine.

Another lawsuit: There is a 250 million dollar lawsuit being filed against Quebec for not allowing fracking under the Saint Lawrence river until they can determine it is safe. The gas company is suing for profits they could have potentially received if they could have developed their leases.

In the House of Representatives 194 democrats and 43 republicans have signed letters stating their opposition to Fast Track. Jerrold Nadler has taken a firm stand against fast track; however, Congressman Charlie Rangel has not yet taken a position. Everyone needs to call him!!

WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

SEE YOU IN 2014!



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
CATHEDRAL STATION P.O. BOX 1316 + NEW YORK, NY 10025 (212) 539-7602

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, January 8th 2014

**The Most Dangerous Trade Treaty You Never Heard Of-
The TransPacific Partnership
PLUS
Candidates or their Representatives for the 10th and
13th Congressional Seats**