

## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station • P.O. Box 1316 • New York, N.Y. 10025 • (212) 539-7602

Website: [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) • Email: [ThreeParksDems@aol.com](mailto:ThreeParksDems@aol.com)

### *President*

Lauren Williams

### *Editors*

Lorraine Zamora  
[lzamora245@gmail.com](mailto:lzamora245@gmail.com)

Jock Davenport  
[kentuckynotslim@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckynotslim@gmail.com)

Richard E. Luna

### *District Leaders*

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### *State Committee*

Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

## CLUB MEETING JUNE 10, 2015

### **Topic:**

What's Happening in City Council & Landmarking of West End Avenue

### **Speakers:**

Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, New York City Council (invited)

Hon. Helen Rosenthal, Councilmember, NYC 6<sup>th</sup> Council District (invited)

West End Preservation Society (WEPS) Representative

**Date:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Place:** The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd St., Soho Room

## AGENDA

7:45 PM Sign-in

8:00 PM Call to Order

1. District Leader Reports
2. Plans for Annual TPID Summer Picnic
3. Petitioning for County Committee, District Leaders, and Judge Candidate
4. Topics: City Council Update & Pizza Petitioning Party.  
Speakers: Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Hon. Helen Rosenthal, and WEPS representative
5. Adjourn

*Endorsements for District Leader Candidates:*

*Ballot Box opens at 8:30 and closes at 9:15.*

## CALENDAR

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Membership meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Board Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 5:30-8:00 pm**

Three Parks Summer Picnic  
Central Park

**Wednesday, August 26, 2015 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Board Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, Sept 9, 2015 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Membership Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

**Thursday, September 10, 2015**

Primary Election Day

## President's Report

By Lauren Williams

Last month's full evening of informative speakers brought Albany and City Hall perspectives to our meeting. Assemblyman Keith Wright and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer spoke about the status and possible outcomes of affordable housing and rezoning proposals before the Assembly and City Council. Both bodies are on June timelines for decisions that will impact millions of New Yorkers. Both Wright and Brewer also reported on budget items we have addressed in recent meetings: education, NYCHA, and rent stabilization/rent regulations (including 421-A). NY Senator Adriano Espaillat added comments on parallel activities in the Senate. Their remarks acknowledged the importance of citizen action and vigilance such as Three Parks brings to bear on these complex and unresolved issues.

Our June meeting will open with reports from District Leaders Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty, as well as plans for petitioning and the Club's annual summer picnic. Speakers this month will provide updates on City Council legislation and initiatives, including the proposed citywide rezoning plan. Invited speakers are City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, and representative from the West End Preservation Society. Following Club tradition, we also will serve pizza to kick off our petitioning drive, which this year will be for Civil Court Judge, New York County Committee and District Leaders.

I encourage you to help with the petitioning. It is a critical step in candidate selection at the neighborhood level. The petitioning we do this June identifies the candidates that appear on our Election Day ballots. This year's elections really bring voters' political choices to the Club and neighborhood levels. Please help by circulating a petition among your neighbors and during our street tabling events. I look forward to seeing you at tabling and at our Club picnic on July 22.

## District Leader's Report

By Bob Botfeld

### Update on City Plan to Upzone

In previous District Leader columns, I reported on the proposed citywide upzoning proposal misleadingly named "Zoning for Quality and Affordability." This proposal principally permits builders to build larger and taller buildings than the zoning code currently allows in our neighborhood and throughout the city.

Last Thursday, May 20, representatives from the New York City Planning Department (City Planning) presented the plan to the Land Use Committee of Community Board 7 (Upper West Side).

During the presentation, City Planning restated the request from the real estate industry to build taller buildings in order

to accommodate modern construction requirements. In response to a question about what would prevent the builder from simply using the additional height to add more short floors to a building, the City Planning representative said that there was also a limit to the number of stories in the City's proposal. But there is NO limit in the City Planning published proposal. This needs to be watched closely.

The representative from City Planning was also questioned about the thousands of rent-stabilized and rent-controlled tenants that could be displaced due to the added incentive to build larger buildings to replace the older, shorter ones. The City Planning representative merely deflected the question and said that Housing Preservation and Development is "looking into this."

One good development was announced before the meeting. Due to opposition organized by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and others, proposed upzoning of areas zoned 8B—which is how our side streets are zoned—has been eliminated. The height limit of 75 feet will be maintained. This will keep landlords from building on top of most of the brownstones.

The neighborhoods that will be most impacted by the remaining potential upzoning proposals are those zoned 9A, which includes Broadway between 96<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> streets. This area could be dramatically changed if upzoning is passed, and many low-income and rent-regulated tenants could be pressured to move and be displaced.

The City proposal would increase the Broadway height limit to 175 feet. Today there are about seven buildings that are near this height or above on Broadway between 96<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> streets. They were built before contextual rezoning was introduced in 2007. If you would like to have a preview of what Broadway would look like if this upzoning bill is passed, you can observe two apartment buildings with the same height as the new proposed limit of 175 feet. One is on the southeast corner of 101<sup>st</sup> street and Broadway. The other is on the northwest corner of 102<sup>nd</sup> street and Broadway. Imagine a solid wall of buildings this height all along Broadway. If you do this exercise, please let me know what you think about the City upzoning proposal at [rjbwteg@aol.com](mailto:rjbwteg@aol.com) or let's chat at the June meeting.

## Gale Brewer Opens New Office

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer has opened a Northern Manhattan storefront office at 431 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street (between Morningside and Amsterdam). Nearest subways are the 1, 2, A, B, and D. The office is designed to provide the community with access to city services and assistance on housing, health, benefits, seniors, economic development, immigration, environmental, education, quality of life, and other issues. Call 212-531-1609 or visit [www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov) for more information.

## Three Parks Eligible Voters List

Endorsement of District Leader candidates will take place at the June 10, 2015 meeting. The ballot box will open at 8:30 pm and close at 9:15 pm.

## Eligible to Vote on June 10, 2015

Susan Andrews  
William Baldwin  
Susan J. Baldwin  
Robert Bardin  
Patricia Barrera  
Margret Beels  
Shoshannah Benmosche  
Bob Botfeld  
Marla Bruner  
Jacqueline Bukowski  
David Camacho  
Theresa Canter  
Daniel Marks Cohen  
Alex J. Colgan  
Margaret Collins  
Christian Cordova  
Mimi Daitz  
Wendy Dannett  
John Davenport  
Irene Dess  
Susan Dess  
Betty Jean Dixon  
Cynthia Doty  
Samantha Eva S  
Gerry Ann Fifer  
Alan Flacks  
Ellen Flax  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Mary J. Geissman  
Daniele Gerard  
Robert Ginsberg  
Pilar Gomez  
Timothy Greene  
Robert Gumbs  
Prince Haigood  
Marnie Hall  
Janet Harvilchuck  
Jacqueline Huey  
Audrey Isaacs  
Emma Jenkins  
Russell Jenkins  
David C. Kaplan  
Rita Kardeman  
Elizabeth Krob Kellner  
Erlend Kimmich  
Norman Lafond  
Kenneth Laufer  
David Lazarus

Barbara Lee  
Gail Leinwall  
Thomas Lopez-Pierre  
Marie Lunn  
Betsy Malcolm  
Bruce Markens  
Mary Ann Marks  
Stephen Max  
Lynn Bender Max  
Merle McEldowney  
Abigail McGloster  
George McGuinness  
Alex Medwedew  
Minda Meister  
Christopher Mooney  
Marty Morand  
Brenda Morgan  
Derrick Mullins  
John Newell  
Adele Niederman  
Joan Ogden  
Josh Pepper  
Hank Perlin  
Wilhelmina Perry  
Geraldine Phillips  
Nicole Polier  
Miriam Rabban  
Carol Reisner  
Milivoy Samurovich  
Carl Joseph Scalise  
Doris Schreiber  
Christopher P. Scott  
Jacob Sher  
Ahmad Shirazi  
Ann Shirazi  
Irene Shrier  
Mildred Speiser  
Allan Spitz  
Michael Stearns  
Roschel Holland Stearns  
Stephanie Tegnazian  
Lynn Thomas  
Deborah Thomas  
Jane Thompson  
Ken Tulloch  
Arlene Tyrkko  
George Voorhis  
Lauren A. Williams  
M. Katherin Willison  
Judy Wood  
Vernita Worrell  
Lorraine Zamora  
Gloria Zeche  
Tamar Zucker  
Ariel Zucker-Brull

## Eligible to Vote if Paid for 2015

Bobbie Beck  
Gail Meyers  
Rachel Smit

*In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2015 and have attended at least one meeting in the last six months. Members who were paid for 2014 and meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2015 dues. New memberships become effective 30 days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, new members must attend at least one meeting after the 30-day period and within six months prior to the election. Memberships that have lapsed due to nonpayment of dues are considered new. Members cannot vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other democratic clubs and an economy that gives rise to such pain and relentless inequality.*

## TPID 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit

Thanks to all our supporters of the 40<sup>th</sup> Three Parks Annual benefit, May 3, at Mexican Festival, honoring Comptroller Scott Stringer and The P.S. 163 Parents Association. Many club members, candidates and elected officials including Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressmembers Charlie Rangel, Jerry Nadler and Carolyn Maloney came out to celebrate our 40 years of activism on the Upper West Side! In addition to the sponsors listed below, we also thank our judicial attendees, including Civil Court Judges Lou Nock, J. Mabelle Sweeting and Tanya Kennedy, and Civil Court Candidates Tanisha James, Judy Kim and Robert Rosenthal. Also thanks to Supreme Court Candidates Nancy Bannon, Arlene Bluth, Arthur Engoron, Kelly Levy, Andrea Masley, Shari Michaels, Robert Reed, Lori Sattler and Carol Sharp. The proceeds from the fundraiser will allow us to continue our political and social justice efforts and community outreach in the coming year.

## Benefactors

Renna Draynel	Hon. Joyce Miller
Louisa Gilbert	Hon. Daniel O'Donnell
Elizabeth Krob Kellner	Hon. Adam Clayton Powell
Betsy Malcolm	

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have issued warnings on the volatility and danger of crude oil extracted from shale deposits in western Canada and the United States. Although Canadians are more concerned about the oil travelling west in their country to the ocean, where there could be spills, the rail transport of crude oil extracted from shale deposits in western North Dakota and eastern Montana has spiked dramatically and alarmingly.

We all need to be concerned

## **Support for John Conyers**

By Erl Kimmich

Our country seems stalled on its journey toward greater freedom, equality and democracy and an economy that is beneficial to all. A major part of this has to do with an unwillingness to confront and deal with the effects of slavery and the racist structures that have been with us since Africans were first brought forcibly to these shores. The simple fact is that our wealth was built on slave labor.

There has never been an acknowledgement, apology, or any kind of relief offered to the descendants of slaves. Instead there have been Black Codes, racist drug laws, chain gangs, imprisonment, near-slave labor, work release programs, red-lining, environmental racism and so on, up to the present day. All these perpetuate the plantation mentality. This creates profound divisions in our society and diminishes us as human beings.

We need a federal study of this enduring legacy. We need to understand the contribution made by African Americans, and the effects of the sacrifice they were forced to make. We need to understand what it means to allow statues of slave masters and pro-slavery warriors such as Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee to stand in our parks and cities while the local police gun down or beat to death the descendants of the institution those slave masters fought to keep. We need to understand that jail and prison are more available to blacks than a home with heat in the winter in an economy that is designed to exclude the unemployed and working poor.

We need to understand that the darker the shade of a person's skin, the more statistically likely it will be that they find themselves in the lowest economic strata of our society, and thus more likely to be institutionalized, or to find themselves in work release programs working for pennies on the dollar for for-profit businesses, just as happened in the post-Civil War period under the Black Codes. The whole criminal justice system is set up to ensure that a person without means will go to jail for the same offense that someone in the upper classes will walk away from. This inequality is mirrored throughout society from education and healthcare to housing and transportation. The poor are being screwed, and African-Americans are disproportionately the ones who find themselves on the bottom rung of the economic ladder.

## **Another Threat from Big Oil**

By Wendy Dannett

If you think fracking is the only threat to ordinary Americans from big oil, think again. Another threat comes from moving a tremendous amount of crude oil across the country by train, millions of gallons at a time. Trains are wreaking havoc on the environment. These trains are called "bomb" trains, so named because if they crash, they explode much like a bomb.

From North Dakota eastward through New York and the Seneca Lake region, and then down next to the Hudson River these bomb trains put everything in their path at risk. Because they travel on current rail lines, they go through towns and next to waterways. A bomb train rail line was only 40 yards from where the Amtrak train derailed, according to John Kane, talk show host on WBAI. Bomb trains derail at the rate of one a month. One such train destroyed the town of Lac-Megantic, Quebec, on July 6, 2013, killing 47 people.

In the first three months of 2015, four oil train accidents sent emergency responders to deal with crude oil in drinking water and exploding fireballs. Though there were no fatalities, the accidents again demonstrate the severe threat from Alberta tar sands crude oil being moved in mile-long trains.

New rules were announced recently at a joint press conference of U.S. and Canadian officials. They have the "sticky fingerprints of the oil and rail industry," says Todd Paglia of Forest Ethics. The rules have set higher standards for tank cars; however, they don't take effect for years. Meanwhile, the tank cars move so fast over substandard road beds that an explosion can occur even on newer cars traveling at only 50 miles per hour. The older cars will continue to roll by homes for a very long time. If there are fewer than 35 crude oil tank cars in a row, they can roll through a downtown area near you for years and years to come.

In an article entitled "Trains Will Still Move Oil Despite Wrecks, Keystone XL," by Bobby Magill of Climate Control, he states that the U.S. and Canadian governments

John Conyers House Resolution (HR) 40 would do four things:

1. It acknowledges the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery.
2. It establishes a commission to study slavery, its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against freed slaves.
3. It studies the impact of those forces on today's living African Americans.
4. The commission would then make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African Americans.

We need to ask and we have a right to know: How has slavery influenced this situation that exists today and what can we do to improve the lives of its descendants? We cannot meaningfully express, either in words and deeds, our deep gratitude for the sacrifices made by the black ancestors and their descendants without controlling and transforming a brutally unjust capitalist system. We cannot right the terrible wrongs of the past unless we confront it with generosity. We have to be willing to transform a society and an economy that gives rise to such pain and relentless inequality.

## **Equal Rights Day Demonstrate for Equal Rights—June 14**

Right now transgender New Yorkers have equal rights in about 60 percent of our state. But go from Albany to Nassau County, and if you are transgender you lose your rights. You can be denied a job, housing, medical care or access to a restaurant...legally.

Join us on Sunday, June 14, as we make clear that transgender New Yorkers deserve equal rights.

Transportation: The rally is 2½ blocks from the Mineola LIRR station and my husband and I may be driving. Contact Betsy Malcolm at [betsymalc2@aol.com](mailto:betsymalc2@aol.com) if you need a ride from the Upper West Side.

**When:** Meet up on Sunday, June 14 at 12:30 to 1 pm.

**Where:** The Garden City Parking Lot #11, located at the corner of Golf Club Road and 11th Street, Garden City, NY 11530. The march (about 7 blocks) begins at 1 PM and ends at a 1:30 rally.

1:30 rally: Nassau County Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501.

## **I Love New York**

By Merle McEldowney

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

I recently returned from visiting a friend in Paris. For a week, I was fortunate to be able to walk street after street, block after block, and understand why the Parisians love Paris. Each neighborhood is a little different than the others, but all the blocks are wide and sunny. The character of the neighborhoods is preserved through an appreciation

of the historic architecture. As in New York, there are always people out and about. It is a city where people walk and stop at their local cafes and greet their neighbors.

I love New York the way the Parisians love Paris. My personal corner of New York is the West 70's. The historic brownstones and the trees are lovingly landscaped by neighbors and street associations. There is a unique diversity here: tourists, many languages, families walking their children to our wonderful public schools and shopping with their kids on scooters. Small, unique merchants are part of the fabric of the neighborhood. We still have a local hardware store and a good bagel shop.

Unfortunately, Broadway has turned corporate and there are almost no businesses where the owner is present. Because of new zoning regulations resulting from community activism, Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues will continue to serve our neighbors rather than allow owners to maximize their property values.

There are four "boutique hotels" in this area. I am sure their advertising features the advantage of staying in a really special New York neighborhood. New Yorkers from other parts of Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens could talk about their corners of the city with equal affection.

As a board member of Three Parks Independent Democrats, I worked very hard for your election. We did not want Christine Quinn to be mayor. We thought she was a continuum of the Giuliani and Bloomberg era that was concerned with the riches that some of our neighborhoods could bring to a few rather than the beauty that reflects our city's unique history and quality of life.

We are the city that tore down Penn Station, an architectural beauty. There was even serious consideration of tearing down Grand Central Station. Only the birth of a preservation movement and Jackie Kennedy Onassis could save this gem. Now there is talk of burying it in shadows.

Central Park is the architectural marvel and jewel in the middle of our city. To thousands of city residents, it is our back yard. Now they are allowing tall buildings to ruin the skyline and put parts of the park in shadow. Can you imagine Parisians allowing a skyscraper to be built next to the Luxemburg Gardens?

So, Mayor de Blasio, as your supporter and a lover of New York City, it looks as if you are selling our neighborhoods to the wealthy. As a true New Yorker, my comment is: Say it isn't so!

We supported you for mayor, we believed you loved New York as we do. We hope you do. So on the plan to redo historical neighborhoods and your possible approval of a plan to develop the area around Grand Central—as New Yorkers say: Say it isn't so.

## **Annual Club Picnic in Central Park!**

### **Please put Wednesday, July 22, on your calendar!**

Our 12th Annual Three Parks Potluck Picnic will be in Central Park by the pool/pond lawn at 103rd Street, same place as last year. Petitioning season will be over and since there are no club meetings in July or August, it's the perfect opportunity for club members to gather and share a lovely evening in the park schmoozing and eating with our neighbors, electeds and candidates.

We will be sending out a reminder postcard invitation, email blasts and an Evite (please respond!) as we get closer to the date. In order to facilitate picnic planning, we will have a sign-up sheet at the June 10th meeting for food and volunteers.

As always, we request that you please bring a dish to share with your fellow club members.

### **May 2015 Endorsement Vote for Judicial Delegates**

Judge of Civil Court—Manhattan County:

Tanya Kennedy—41

No Endorsement—3

Judicial Delegates to the September 2015

Supreme Court Convention:

Theresa Canter—42

Alan Flacks—61

Merle McEldowney—33

Alternate Delegates:

Audrey Isaacs—26

Abigail McGloster—24

Stephanie Tegnazian—19

## **MEMORIALS**

### **ROSETTA WILLIAMS**

Long-time Three Parks member and former Board member, Rosetta Williams, passed away on April 26 after a brief illness. Rosetta was a warm and caring person who was always there to extend a helping hand when needed and to offer wise and practical counsel. She could always be counted on to make her famous fried chicken for the club picnic and holiday parties, in addition to petitioning, campaigning, working at the polls and serving on the County Committee.

Rosetta was a devoted member of her church and community. At Trinity Lutheran Church, she was Head Usher, active in the Grandmother's Club, and especially known for the eloquence of her prayers. In Frederick Douglass, she was president of the Senior Citizen's Association, responsible for organizing trips, picnics and other activities. Rosetta was also captain of her building's NYCHA Tenant Patrol.

Those of us who knew and loved Rosetta were blessed to have her in our lives and be on the receiving end of her sage advice. She will be missed in the club and the community.

Rosetta was a proud and devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Losing her own mother at an early age, deepened her resolve to raise her own children with great care and tenacity, giving them a good education, and a firm foundation. Our deep condolences to all the members of her family.

### **LINDA SCHOENER**

A memorial service for Linda Schoener, who died unexpectedly in April of cardiac arrest, will be held on June 27 at 4:00 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The service will be held in the St. Martin of Tours Chapel, located slightly to the right behind the High Altar. The Chapel can be reached from the walkway that circles the High Altar (directly ahead from the Cathedral's main entrance on Amsterdam Avenue.

Linda received a master's degree from Columbia University. She believed in social justice, loved public events, wrote about broadband, and was grateful for her friendships with so many of us. We express deepest condolences to her family and friends.



### **NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS: 96 to 110 STREETS**

6/4 (Thur) Minnie's Land, 6:30 pm. Matthew Spady on the Audubon Estate history. At Hostel International (891 Amsterdam Ave.) Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group, 212-666-9774, [upperwestsidehistory.weebly.com](http://upperwestsidehistory.weebly.com)

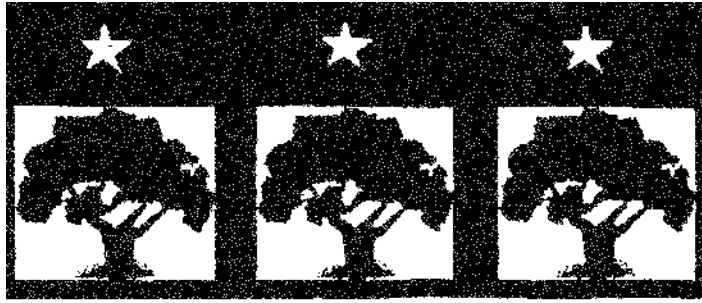
6/5, 6/7, 6/12, 6/14 (Fri & Sun) OPERA—La Favorita by Gaetano Donizetti. Performances on 6/5 & 6/7 will support the Youth Shelter, and on 6/12 & 6/14 will support Nepal. \$15 suggested donation. West Side Opera Society (Trinity Lutheran Church, 164 W. 100th St.), 212-362-2048.

6/10 (Wed) Bloomingdale Neighborhood Tour, 6:00 pm. Meet at South End of Straus Park (106th & Broadway). FREE TOUR by Jim Mackin. RSVP [info@columbusamsterdambid.org](mailto:info@columbusamsterdambid.org) 212-666-9774

6/13 (Sat) Folk Meets Jazz: Songs of Social Justice, 7:00 pm. El Taller Latino (St. Michael's, 225 W.99th St.) An encounter between Hudson Valley Sally and the John Cantrell Trio, Suggested donation: \$20. 212 - 665 - 9460 // (w) tallerlatino.org

6/20 (Sat) Morningside Shakedown Concert, 4:00-8:00 pm. Featuring popular local band Kwame Binea Shakedown. FREE. Friends of Morningside Park (Morningside Pond, 113th-114th St.). 212 - 937 - 3883

GREEN MARKET, W.97 & Columbus, Fridays 8:00am – 2:00 pm



### Three Parks Independent Democrats

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

Please pay your 2015 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting or by mailing it with your check to:

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Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
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#### 2015 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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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 2015”

Thank you for your cooperation!

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

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

***What's Happening in City Council, Landmarking of West End Avenue,  
and Pizza Petitioning Party***

Speakers: HON. MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO (invited), HON. HELEN ROSENTHAL (invited),  
and West End Preservation Society (WEPS) Representative