



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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President

Daniele Gerard

Editor

Lauren Williams
(laurenwilliams1@cs.com)

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

JUNE 9, 2010

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: IMMIGRATION FORUM—COMPTROLLER JOHN LIU, COUNCIL MEMBER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO, AND THE NYCLU; PIZZA & PETITIONING; ENDORSEMENT VOTES FOR GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, and STATE COMPTROLLER

DATE: Wednesday, JUNE 9, 2010

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: American 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 & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Pizza & Petitioning
4. Immigration Forum
5. Endorsement Votes
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 8, 2010 Petitioning begins
July 12-15, 2010 Petitions submitted

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

THREE PARKS ANNUAL AUGUST PICNIC

Look for a postcard and email announcement of the date, time & location!

Wednesday, September 1, 2010 *NOTE DATE*

Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

TUESDAY, September 7, 2010 *NOTE DATE*

Three Parks Club Meeting, 8 PM

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

It's been an exciting time for Three Parks. Both May meetings were packed with endorsement votes and speakers—results from the voting appear in these pages. A huge thanks to District Leaders Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty and the Board for taking on the vast amount of work that goes into the club's endorsement process, from contacting candidates to drawing up and distributing the ballots to signing in members and guests at the door to organizing the counting. Thanks, of course, to the more than 100 members who voted. Finally, thanks to all the candidates and their surrogates who came before the membership to seek our support. In addition to those running for statewide and local political offices, we hosted ten judicial candidates and incumbent Judge Matthew Cooper.

Our June meeting will feature a forum on immigration. Comptroller John Liu, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, and staff from the New York Civil Liberties Union will bring us up to date on what's going on in New York and around the country. (See Steve Max's article elsewhere in the newsletter.) We will also serve pizza, distribute petitioning packages, and vote for endorsements for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State Comptroller. So be sure to attend, soak up the presentation, pick up your packets, and hit the streets to get our endorsed candidates on the ballot!

We are grateful to all of you for making the Three Parks 35th Annual Benefit a huge success—nearly 150 people swarmed to Meridiana to help us celebrate. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Representatives Rangel and Nadler, and a host of other elected officials came to wish us well. Our honorees, Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell and Bernardo Palombo, founder of El Taller, were extremely gracious. Three Parks was paid the ultimate compliment by the Assembly Member, who, after thanking us for being the first group ever to honor him, said, "When you want to get something done, you go to Three Parks." Thanks to all of you for making this true!

Be on the lookout for a postcard and e-mail blast announcing the date, time and location for the fabulous Three Parks annual picnic, a casual event where you can meet, greet, and enjoy the summer heat with your friends, neighbors and

electeds who drop in. We hope to see you all there.

Please note that the Three Parks September meeting has been scheduled for the first **TUESDAY of the month, September 7**, due to the Jewish holidays and the need for a meeting before the September 14 primary. Mark your calendars now. In the meantime, have a terrific summer. We'll see you out there petitioning over the next six weeks, and look forward to campaigning with you for all our endorsed candidates.

Endorsement Vote Results

The membership of Three Parks Independent Democrats endorsed the following candidates on Wednesday evening, May 12:

U.S. Senate NY (A)

Schumer	42
Credico	13
No Endorsement	5

U.S. Senate NY (B)

Gillibrand	42
No Endorsement	17

NY Assembly 69 AD

O'Donnell	53
No Endorsement	5

The membership of Three Parks Independent Democrats endorsed the following candidates on Wednesday evening, May 26:

U.S. Congress 15 CD:	Charles B. Rangel
NY State Attorney General:	Eric Schneiderman
NY State Senate 30 SD:	Bill Perkins
NY State Senate 31 SD:	Mark Levine
NY State Committee – 69 AD Male:	Dan Cohen
NY State Committee – 69 AD Female:	Lynn Thomas

NYS Civil Court – 5th Judicial District: Kelly O'Neill Levy

NY Civil Court – County Wide (incumbent seat): Matt Cooper

NYS Civil Court – County Wide Seat (two open seats): David Cohen & Leticia Ramirez

Results of Voting

U.S. Congress 15 CD

First Ballot

Joyce Johnson	4
Vincent Morgan	1
Adam Powell IV	2
Charles B. Rangel	48
Jonathan Tasini	36
No Endorsement	13

Second Ballot

Charles B. Rangel	33
Jonathan Tasini	28
No Endorsement	6

Third Ballot

Charles B. Rangel	26
No Endorsement	18

NY State Attorney General

Richard Brodsky	4
Sean Coffey	0
Eric Dinallo	1
Kathleen Rice	2
Eric Schneiderman	95
No Endorsement	4

NY State Senate 30 SD

Bill Perkins	92
Basil Smikle	8
No Endorsement	4

NY State Senate 31 SD

Francesca Castellanos	0
Adriano Espaillat	25
Rafael Figuereo	0
Felix Jerez	0
Mark Levine	63
Anna Lewis	25
Misotis Munoz	0
No Endorsement	5

NY State Committee – 69 AD Male

Dan Cohen	62
Bob Ginsberg	42
No Endorsement	3

NY State Committee – 69 AD Female

Lynn Thomas	79
No Endorsement	24

NY County – 5th Civil Court District

Melissa Crane	2
Erika Edwards	9
Kelly O'Neill Levy	79
Jeanotte Rodriguez-Morick	2
No Endorsement	1

NY Civil Court – County Wide (incumbent)

Matthew Cooper	63
No Endorsement	16

NY Civil Court – County Wide (two open seats)

Anthony Cannataro	21
David Cohen	28
Melissa Crane	9
Erika McDaniels	12
Paul Goetz	14
Michael Katz	23
Sabrina Kraus	8
Jeanotte Rodriguez-Morick	19
Leticia Ramiriez	24
No Endorsement	8

District Leader's Report

By Bob Botfeld

Thanks to all the Three Parks members that helped complete our very busy endorsement vote on May 26 within the allotted meeting time. In addition to Daniele's superb job in running the meeting, special thanks need to be extended to the critical sign-in table staffers. These unsung members of our club enable us to function month after month: Lynn Max, Corine Pettey, Ellen Flax, Marie Lunn, Mary Ann Marks, Deborah Thomas, and Lauren Williams.

Since two runoff ballots were required, our volunteer counters and ballot monitors had to provide a quick and accurate count for each round of balloting. Thanks very much to Bruce Markens who helped organize the counters, Judy Wood, Josh Pepper, George McGuinness, Steve Randazzo, Judith Solomon, Judy Segal, Nathan Riley, (Barry Sher) Nos, Stephanie Tegnazian, Martina Gonzales, Joan Levinson, Ken Tullock, Erl Kimmich, Lauren Williams, Marie Lunn and any others who I may have neglected to list.

The names of candidates we endorsed will be placed on the Three Parks endorsement petition. It's that time of year again: our chance to meet our neighbors, talk about local issues and politics, get some fresh air, and yes, while we're standing on that corner (or knocking on your neighbor's

door) get those petitions signed – the most important political activity of the year. Petitioning starts June 8 and ends July 12 through July 15.

Our petitioning on behalf of our candidates is critical to their success. If a candidate doesn't get the required signatures, he or she won't be on the ballot; if they're not on the ballot, they can't be elected. All elected officials appreciate support from any community organization. But petition gathering is the one activity that sets us apart from other community service organizations.

The petition process has its critics. But it insures that the candidate listed in the polling booth (or the candidate's supporters) has made some effort to talk to his/hers neighbors and let his/hers views be known – and listened to their constituents.

I look forward to the petitioning process as an opportunity to engage in my own, albeit unscientific, political polling. Each year I believe I have learned some political nugget through petitioning. Last year, it was apparent the statewide dissatisfaction with the New York legislature was mirrored in our neighborhood.

I look forward to learning about what you hear from our neighbors as you join in our critical annual ritual.

Election Workers Needed

Election Inspectors and clerks are needed to work at the polls for the Primary and the Election.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact our District Leaders, Cynthia Doty (212-749-4085) or Bob Botfeld (212-865-1450).

Suggestions for Helping Veterans of Our Current Wars By Tim Walsh

At our March meeting, two recent veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan addressed the Three Parks membership. Afterward, a listener asked what members could do to help veterans of our current wars. Iraq Veterans Against the War, in a Memorial Day greeting, has suggested the following actions. Please read the IVAW suggestions, and decide if they interest you:

- Have a sit-down with any veteran you know. Ask them how they are doing, learn about their experience, and listen. Find out if they

need any help (counseling services, discharge issues, educational access) and connect them to appropriate services. See if they are connected with any veterans' groups or might want to connect with other vets in IVAW.

- Host an event to watch IVAW's Winter Soldier testimony footage, start a Winter Soldier book reading group, or use Winter Soldier in your classroom. Footage is available online at www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier>
- Volunteer with the GI Rights Hotline at 877-447-4487 or at www.girightshotline.org> and/or get GI Rights cards to pass out to GIs and Veterans by emailing to haber.jim@gmail.com
- Ask any mental health counselors or alternative health practitioners (massage therapists, acupuncturists, Reiki healers, etc.) to provide free services for veterans. Hans Buwalda, VVAW counselor, is developing a national network of providers, so add to her list by contacting her at 773-370-4789 or at info@storiesandart.com>
- Make a donation to IVAW at <http://www.ivaw.org>> Any amount helps.

Best Wishes from Three Parks

Three Parks extends best wishes for a speedy recovery to club member Kathleen Martin after her recent hospital stay.

Immigration: Redefining the Problem

By Steve Max

There is no immigration problem. There is a labor problem, a worker problem, a jobs and wages problem. There is nothing that is being said about immigrant workers today that wasn't being said about native-born American workers until only a few decades ago. "Black people coming up from the South will take your job." "Okies will take your job." "Hillbillies will come to Cincinnati and take your job." Does anyone remember, "Women will take your job"? That was what the right wing said.

The labor problem is international. What the United States is doing, in effect, is squeezing a toothpaste tube at one end while it tightens the cap at the other end. American trade policy, particularly the North American Free Trade

Agreement (NAFTA), is increasing poverty in Mexico, as are similar agreements throughout Latin America. Poverty is forcing people to leave their own countries, home towns, families and friends and come here, not because we are such nice folks, but just to survive. The American response is to build a wall.

- NAFTA, by permitting heavily subsidized, low-priced imports of US corn and other agricultural products to compete with small Mexican farmers, has driven the Mexican farmer off the land. Some two million (as of 2006) Mexicans have been forced out of agriculture. Many of those who remain are living in desperate poverty. These people are among those that cross the border to feed their families. Meanwhile, corn-based tortilla prices climbed by 50 percent. No wonder so many Mexican peasants have called NAFTA their 'death warrant.'
- NAFTA's service-sector rules allowed big firms like Wal-Mart to enter the Mexican market and, selling low-priced goods made by ultra-cheap labor in China, to displace locally based shoe, toy, and candy firms. An estimated 28,000 small and medium-sized Mexican businesses have been eliminated.
- Wages along the Mexican border have actually been driven down by about 25 percent since NAFTA, reported a Carnegie Endowment study. An over-supply of workers, combined with the government policy of crushing of union organizing drives, has resulted in sweatshops along the border where wages typically run 60 cents to \$1 an hour.

Taking the profit out of exploiting immigrant labor.

In addition to restructuring trade agreements, the US must take the profit out of the exploitation of immigrant labor in order to protect both immigrants and the low wage American labor with which immigrant labor competes for jobs. This means:

- Raising the minimum wage.
- Strict enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act and OSHA.
- Reforming labor law to promote union organization.
- Equalization of benefits through mandated vacation time and national health care such as

now exists in all other western industrial countries.

- All of the above should be applied equally to US born, documented, and undocumented workers.

If Americans want to eliminate the negative social and economic impacts of impoverished immigrants, this is the only way to do so. We must remember that each generation fears immigrants for one fabricated reason or another; we always seem to forget that so many of our forbears once were impoverished immigrants too.

* Roger Bybee and Carolyn Winter, published on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 by *CommonDreams.org*

Volunteer to Help!

**June 8, 2010 Petitioning Begins
July 12-15, 2010 Petitions Submitted
September 14, 2010 Primary**

Please contact our District Leaders for more information:

**Bob Botfeld at 212-865-1450
Cynthia Doty at 212-749-4085**

Riverside Center, the mega-development proposed by Extell/Carlyle, has been officially certified by City Planning and now begins the ULURP process.

W. 59th to W. 61st Street - West End Avenue to Riverside Boulevard

Public Meetings are as follows:

Thurs. June 3, 6:30-9:00 PM - American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway (61st St.) Extell presents its plan. Opportunity to ask questions.

Tues. June 15, 6:30 PM - PS 191, 210 W. 61st St. (Amsterdam Ave.). Public Speak-out.

Tues. June 29, 6:30 PM (site to be selected) Public Speak-out continued.

Tues. July 6, 6:30 PM - Full Community Board 7 (CB7) meeting, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd St. Public can speak. CB7 votes. CB7 makes recommendations.

Please check <www.nyc.gov/mcb7> for updates and documents.

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New York, N.Y. 10025

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

**IMMIGRATION FORUM
PIZZA AND PETITIONING
ENDORSEMENT VOTES FOR GOVERNOR,
LT. GOV. and STATE COMPTROLLER**