

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

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

Website: ThreeParksDems.org ♦ Email: ThreeParksDems@aol.com

***President***

Daniele Gerard

***Editor***

Ray Schwartz (tapsch@nyc.rr.com)

***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

## **March 2009**

**MARCH MEETING:** **Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

**FEATURED TOPICS  
&  
SPEAKERS**

**COMPTROLLER FORUM** Council Members Melinda Katz,  
David Weprin, and David Yassky  
**HEALTH CARE FORUM** Steve Max, TPID Member &  
Midwest Academy, and Sherry Glied, Columbia Univ. School  
of Public Health  
**ELECTION OF JUDICIAL DELEGATES & ALTERNATES**

**TIME:** 8:00 PM  
**PLACE:** American Youth Hostels  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street  
**ROOM:** Chapel

### **AGENDA**

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. Election of Judicial Delegates &  
Alternates (ballot box open 8:30-9:30 PM)
3. Comptroller Forum
4. Health Care Forum & Resolution
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wed., March 11, 2009, 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Meeting**  
Place: The Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103<sup>rd</sup> St

**Wed., March 25, 2009, 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting**  
Place: The Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wed. April 22, 2009 8 PM**  
**Three Parks Meeting**  
Place: The Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103<sup>rd</sup> St

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Thanks to all of you for yet another amazing turnout! Close to 150 people attended TPID's February meeting to hear Council Member Tony Avella and Comptroller Bill Thompson present their candidacies for Mayor. (Congressman Weiner was held over in Washington on the stimulus bill and will try to join us at another meeting.) The membership submitted dozens of questions on a wide variety of topics that allowed us to compare thorough responses from each candidate in advance of the Club's endorsement meeting. Thank you to both speakers for their informative presentations.

The Club's March meeting is jam-packed. All three candidates for Comptroller—Council Member Melinda R. Katz, Council Member David I. Weprin and Council Member David Yassky—will address the membership. When members arrive, please be sure to fill out an index card with your question! The TPID Health Care Forum will feature Steve Max, Three Parks Member and Associate Director & Lead Trainer of Midwest Academy, and Sherry Glied, Professor of Health Policy & Management at Columbia University's School of Public Health. They will discuss the pros and cons of single payer in relation to pending federal legislation; the proposed resolution that will be discussed and voted on appears later in the newsletter.

The membership will also elect four delegates and four alternates to attend September's Judicial Convention on behalf of the Club. Beginning promptly at 8 p.m., each candidate will have one minute to introduce her/himself to the audience; the ballot box will be open from 8:30 to 9:30.

Also, please remember to bring with you canned goods or other perishable items for donation to a local food pantry. During these difficult economic times, demand has skyrocketed.

By now, you should all have received the Club's letter inviting you to be listed on the invitation for the upcoming Three Parks Benefit. This year, we will present State Senator Bill Perkins with the Ted Weiss Public Service Award in recognition of his early and instrumental support of President Obama, his effective leadership in the State Senate, and his advocacy on behalf of issues important to our community. The Jesse Crawford

Community Service Award will go to West Side Campaign Against Hunger for their community-based food pantry, social services program and more.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3rd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Meridiana Restaurant, 2756 Broadway, where we will gather to support the Club's efforts to elect progressive Democratic candidates in 2009, advocate for social justice, and perform community outreach. Go to [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) to pick a level of sponsorship (\$500, \$250, or \$150) to have your name listed on the invitation; the deadline is March 16th. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

## District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

### SWINGING RIGHT TO MOVE LEFT?

The election and inauguration of President Barack Obama, the Democratic gains in Congress, and the new razor thin Democratic majority in the New York State Senate were inspiring events to celebrate but have been mixed with concern about the economy and some of the choices of our new leaders.

While President Obama's cabinet appointments have been reassuring in at least selecting competent and intelligent leaders, the choices of the leadership within New York are worrisome. Following the recent decisions of the new State Senate majority leader Malcolm Smith is like watching a long 14 wheeler trailer truck make a left turn onto a narrow street. First, the truck cab swings wide right and then the long trailer follows down the street. We hope that the turn is made successfully without mishap.

Under the threat of losing his narrow democratic majority, State Senate Majority Leader Smith nominated ethically challenged and tenant hostile State Senators, Pedro Espada, to be head of the Housing Committee and conservative Carl Kruger to be head of the key Finance Committee. It was outrageous that these rogue Democratic State Senators Espada, Kruger, and also Ruben Diaz, Sr. used the threat of subverting the new narrow Democratic majority in order to extort key committee chairmanships.

Espada had been the ranking Democratic member of the Senate Housing committee for years. "During his tenure in this role he showed

no interest in our issues and was not helpful or supportive,, said Michael McKee of the Tenant's Political Action Committee. Unfortunately, now we need the support of Espada and the Housing Committee to get the tenant friendly regulations required to eliminate vacancy decontrol and raise the current \$2000 rent ceilings and income limit for rent stabilized units.

To help lobby Espada and let him know that he should support tenant friendly regulations or he will face a primary challenge call the Tenant's Political Action Committee, 11 Park Place, Suite 814, New York NY 10007 at (212) 577-7001 or email [action@tenantspac.org](mailto:action@tenantspac.org).

Governor Paterson's choice to replace Hillary Clinton, Kirsten Gillibrand, also raises concerns about her ability to support the progressive agenda that Paterson used to support when he represented our district as our State Senator. We must make our new Senator understand the strong support that a progressive agenda has in New York State. Three Parks has been active and successful in the past in lobbying Senators Clinton and Schumer on such issues as preserving Social Security and closing Indian Point. With Kirsten Gillibrand, we should do no less on issues of fair and progressive taxation, gun control, and getting out of Iraq.

## District Leader Report By Cynthia Doty

### TRACKING WHERE THE MONEY REALLY GOES

Trillions of dollars are now being rolled out from Washington, but how do we know where it will really go? Naturally everyone is at least a little bit suspicious, especially after living through the last 8 years of the Bush/Cheney administration. Thanks to them, not only do we have a banking and housing crisis, but we've also seen the gap between the rich and the poor grow dramatically and the environment devastated for economic profits. Plus all the lives lost in an unnecessary war where so many others got rich.

So how do make sure that this time things will be different?

First, our President has the right ideals guiding him....transforming our government so the little guys have a chance. From the top down, Obama is promoting a sense of responsibility by all of us

to seriously address poverty, hunger, universal health care, decent affordable housing, education, environmental stewardship, civil rights, international diplomacy and foreign aid. His plans may be grand and difficult to accomplish, certainly not immediately, but at least he's leading us in the right direction.

Now, we have the opportunity to play a role by speaking out and being vigilant. The stimulus bill is now on the web, so we all need to carefully follow the money and read all the details. If we see mistakes, we need to speak out immediately. And we need to keep reminding Obama, Paterson and Bloomberg that this money *must* go to win real economic justice for low and middle income New Yorkers. We must have universal health care, genuinely affordable housing, income security, safety net supports, education and training, jobs creation, and serious progressive environmental initiatives.

### *Recovery for All? Together, Yes We Can!*

## Judicial Delegate Nominees Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

**Theresa Canter** is a long time member of Three Parks and is currently serving as 2nd VP. It has been a privilege to serve the club in the past as President, Treasurer, and Judicial Delegate. Having a keen interest in our Judiciary and a commitment to choosing judges with the necessary experience, temperament and integrity, I would be honored to again represent the club as a Judicial Delegate.

**Alan Flacks** is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is committed to the merit screening process, which he helped to establish. A long-time Club member, a Democratic County Committeemember, Alan has also served as the Club's Corresponding Sec. and Membership Sec. Community and civic activities include his block assn., 24th Pct. Community Council, public member of Community Planning Board's Transportation Committee, Mid-Manhattan NAACP, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Community Advisory Board.

**Ernestine Gallagher**, a longtime member of Three Parks and member of the Board, has served as a judicial delegate five times and would be honored to serve again. Ernestine has worked on many campaigns over the years and organizes the Three Parks Holiday Party every year. She has also been active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

**Elizabeth Kellner** Member Three Parks 30+ years, 2008 Storefront regular and among the original 1984 Storefront team. Columbia Law and School of Public Health grad. Practiced law for 20 years as civil litigator at large NYC firm and insurance industry corporation. 20 year board member of community health care agency. Primary areas of interest are health care reform, public schools and affordable housing.

**Marie Lunn** has served on the board for 4 years and has been a Three Parks member for 8 years. She has worked on several campaigns, helped with petitioning and served as a poll worker. She is also a member of the NY County Committee.

**Lynn Max** Co-Manager of the Obama/Biden 2008 Campaign Storefront. Steering Committee Member for our successful rezoning campaign. Co-Chair of Three Parks Social Security Campaign and Three Parks 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign (John Hall). Co-Manager of the Kerry/Edwards Campaign Storefront in 2004. Looking forward to working together for more important victories in 2009.

**Corine Pettey** Former District Leader, Riverside Dems. Elementary School Principal for 24 years. I oppose the Bush policies of reversing the gains we have made in voting rights, women's rights and civil liberties. I oppose his budget policy of tax cuts for the rich and lack of a comprehensive health care policy.

**Milivoy Samurovich** Founding member of Three Parks, served for five years a District Leader. Also, served on CB 7, co-chaired the Urban Renewal sub-committee, on the committee that opposed the Westway Highway. Served on CB 1, chair of Battery Park Committee during planning phase. Led Tenants Committee of my apartment building and organized rent strikes, and served on Co-op Negotiating Committee.

**Judy Wood – First Vice-President.** I have been an active member of Three Parks for many years and former District Leader of the Club. I edited the Club newsletter for three years. After the success of our storefront where I supervised phone banks many nights and traveled to Penn. I have served as a Judicial Delegate previously and want to continue to push for our reform agenda.

## Three Parks Health Care Resolution

Whereas: The most cost effective method of delivering health care is through public systems such as Medicare in the USA and similar single payer systems in other countries<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas: Administrative costs under Medicare, for example, are less than two percent of expenditures compared to eleven percent in virtually identical for-profit Medicare Advantage plans<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas: The United States spends six times as much on health care administration as the average of all other industrial countries due to private insurance costs of advertising, sales, underwriting, paperwork, and executive salaries;

<sup>1</sup> *The Case for Public Plan Choice In National Health Reform.* Prof. Jacob S. Hacker. Center For Health, Economic and Family Security. U.C. Berkeley Law School. [www.law.berkeley.edu/chefs.htm](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/chefs.htm)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

Whereas: The profits of private health insurance companies derive from a combination of stock market speculation and charging more in premiums than is paid in benefits;

Whereas: The New York State Assembly has memorialized Congress to pass Single Payer legislation, H.R. 676;

Whereas: "Single payer" means: Universal health care coverage; Doctors, hospitals and other health care providers bill one national publicly administered fund (the single payer) instead of billing thousands of separate insurance companies; Health care providers remain in whatever type of practice they are currently employed;

Whereas: There are plans for national health insurance coming before Congress that range from minimal to total reliance on private for-profit insurance; and

Whereas: Many polls have shown majority support for a publicly administered system.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. Three Parks Independent Democrats supports expanding the role of public health care and minimizing the role of private for-profit health insurance in any new national system.
2. We join the Assembly in supporting The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) and urge our representatives in the House and Senate to work to bring the bill out of committee for a fair debate.
3. Should this not happen, we support the inclusion of a public option similar to Medicare in any universal health plan that is adopted.

Condolences to Rosetta Williams on the passing of her dear friend Henry.

Condolences to the family and friends on the passing of Alan Zimmerman, a political activist, environmentalist and petitioning expert.

## Judicial Delegate Season By Milivoy Samurovich

The time has come for the March 11 election of our judicial delegates to the September Judicial Convention. At the Judicial Convention, the

judicial delegates will select the Democratic candidates for New York State Supreme Court who will run in the general election in November.

The judicial delegates will choose from among the candidates that have been previously, recommended by a Democratic screening panel composed of representatives of city and county bar associations, law schools, community and issue groups (such as housing) and watchdog organizations. The screening panel will recommend up to three candidates as qualified for each open position. If an incumbent supreme court judge is up for re-election and the screening panel rates the incumbent as qualified, then no other candidates are considered or rated as qualified.

The screening panel interviews the candidates, reviews their decisions and rulings, as well as their history on the bench. The review includes professional experience, participation in activities involving issues benefiting the community and citizens generally, as well as such matters as pro bono work. T

The judicial delegates, in turn, review the information provided by the candidates that have been selected as qualified by the screening panel . They meet the candidates in forums and at events in candidates' homes. The delegates also get input from the membership of their own organizations, their District Leaders and the community at large. In turn, they form the team that will support the judicial candidates who are the most qualified and best reflect the views of the membership on issues of concern to our areas, such as housing, zoning, job discrimination and other matters that come before the appropriate court.

This complicated process demands time and effort. Serious commitment is required of judicial delegates in order to fulfill the responsibility of representing the club membership and our community.

## **FOOD BANKS IN NEED**

**By Judy Wood**

We read on a daily basis that folks are losing their jobs and may be losing their homes. Food banks are reporting that more and more families are coming in to supplement their weekly food basket. Many of you helped fight hunger at the Three Parks holiday party by donating 250 pounds of

food which we donated to the West Side Campaign against Hunger on W. 86<sup>th</sup> St.

But the need is still great, so we are asking everyone to please contribute again. We will bring the food to the pantry where it goes directly into the hands of those in need. So, we ask that you bring at least two or three items to the meeting on Wed. March 11. Any nonperishable items are appropriate; and we will deliver all donations to the food pantry.

## **Three Parks Board of Directors Elections Results from the February 2009 Meeting**

Daniele Gerard, President  
Judy Wood, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Theresa Canter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Ellen Flax, Treasurer  
Lynn Max, Membership Director  
Ray Schwartz, Corresponding Secretary  
Lauren Williams, Record Secretary

Members at Large:

Jock Davenport	Merle McEldowney
Ernestine Gallagher	Corine Pettey
Arlene Geiger	Milivory Samurovich
Elizabeth Kellner	Deborah Thomas
David Kogelman	Ken Tulloch
Marie Lunn	Yvonne Vulliemoz
Bruce Markens	Tim Walsh
Mary Ann Marks	

The only contested office was for the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Judy Wood received 77 votes and Bob Ginsberg received 19 votes.

## **Newsletter Submissions**

**By Ray Schwartz, Editor**

Three Parks Independent Democrats welcomes the submission of articles and letters that represent a wide variety of reporters for publication in the newsletter. Submissions should be limited to 250 words and will be printed at the discretion of the editor and available space. All submissions must include the author's name.

The deadline for the next newsletter is April 8, 2009. The next Club meeting is **April 22** and is later in the month than usual because of the Passover holiday.

## Eligible Voters for March 2009 Meeting

This list reflects dues paid for 2009 as of Feb 27, 2009, plus attendance at one meeting in the previous six months in accordance with the Club Constitution.

### Eligible to Voters

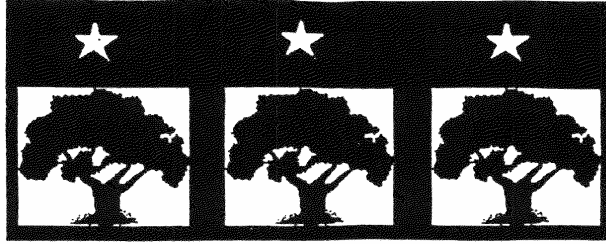
Jennifer Altman  
Ralph Andrew  
Stephanie Andrew  
Anna Avila  
Mollie Bailey  
William Baldwin  
Emily Baldwin  
Susan J. Baldwin  
Robert Bardin  
J. Thomas Barnard  
Bobbie Beck  
Thomas Becker  
Margret Beels  
Richard Bellman  
Joan Bondell  
Bob Botfeld  
Chaim Bronstein  
Marla Bruncker  
Nicholas Bryan  
Theresa Canter  
Jacqueline Carhart  
Dan Cohen  
Margaret Collins  
Luanne Corea  
Wendy Dannett  
John Davenport  
Lisa DiCaprio  
Lucille M. Donte  
Cynthia Doty  
Renna Draynel  
Amaka Ezeh  
Gerry Ann Fifer  
Alan Flacks  
Ellen Flax  
Elizabeth Forel  
Brian Fox  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Arlene Geiger  
Mary J. Geissman  
Daniele Gerard  
Joseph Gianono  
Louisa Gilbert  
Robert Ginsberg  
Bernice N. Gordon  
Sherry Gorelick  
Bonnie Gould  
Ed Gragert  
Joan Grosser  
Marion Harris  
Janet Harvilchuck  
Cynthia M. Holden  
Rodney Holman  
Jacqueline Huey  
Sally Jacobs  
Juanita Jones  
Ulla Jorgensen  
David C. Kaplan  
Helen Karlan  
Michael Katz  
Elizabeth Krob Kellner  
Douglas Kellner

Erland Kimmich  
Jerry Koenig  
David Kogelman  
Iris J. Korman  
Kenneth Laufer  
Marguerite Lavin  
David Lazarus  
Barbara Lee  
Gail Leinwall  
Joan Levinson  
Estelle Levy  
Marie Lunn  
Joel Mandelbaum  
Bruce Markens  
Mary Ann Marks  
Danny Max  
Connie Max  
Stephen Max  
Lynn Bender Max  
Merle McEldowney  
George McGuinness  
Alex Medwedew  
Ernest Mehler  
Dorothy Mehler  
Minda Meister  
Gail Meyers  
Batya Miller  
Martin Morand  
Brenda Morgan  
John Newell  
Joan Ogden  
Elizabeth Olana  
Diane Ostrofsky  
Iretta Owens  
Joshua Pepper  
Wilhelmina Perry  
Annie Petrus  
Corine Pettey  
Rose Podrasky  
Lisa Anne Prochazka  
Florence Puccetti-Hepner  
Stephen Randazzo  
Fred Reichman  
Patricia Reilly  
William Reilly  
Eve Remba  
Jonathan Rubin  
Suzanne Samelson  
Milvoy Samurovich  
Eugene Sarver  
Carl Joseph Scalise  
Alma Schieren  
Rosalind Schmall  
Doris Schreiber  
Ray Schwartz  
Judy Segal  
Barry N. Sher  
Ann Shirazi  
Ahmad Shirazi  
Vicki Slate  
Gladys Smith

Calvin Snyder  
Judith Solomon  
Mildred Speiser  
Anna Lee Spiro  
Michael Stearns  
Stephen Stearns  
Roschel Holland Stearns  
Gloria Swanson  
Donna Tapper  
Clara Taylor  
Stephanie Tegnazian  
Ruth Tepper  
Lynn Thomas  
Deborah Thomas  
Yara Trokel  
Ken Tulloch  
Ruben Vargas  
George Voorhis  
Yvonne Vulliemoz  
Tim Walsh  
Pamela Wax  
Jeri Wellman  
Judith White  
Rosetta Williams  
Lauren A. Williams  
Judy Wood  
Dan Woods  
Gloria Zeche  
Marlene Zucker  
Tamar Zucker  
Ariel Zucker-Brull

### Eligible to Vote If Dues Are Paid by March 11, 2009

Cyrus Adler  
Susan Andrews  
Shoshannah Benmosche  
Phyllis Dolgin  
Lucille Donovan  
Mogos Fassil  
Dayle Frick  
Robert J. Healy  
Larry Hirsch  
Raymond Hoey  
John Hurley  
Arlene Patete Hurley  
Jan Caryl Kaufman  
Lisa Lemish-Lazarus  
Robert Leuze  
Hank Perlin  
Geraldine Phillips  
Carol Reisner  
Kathy Rothschild  
Hayette Rugg  
Irene Shrier  
Jane Thompson  
Eileen Weiss  
Vernita Worrell  
Caryl Young



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Please pay your 2009 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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## **2009 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 2009"**

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

## **NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

**Comptroller Forum  
Council Members Melinda Katz, David Weprin and David Yassky**

**Health Care Forum  
Steve Max and Sherry Glied**

**Election of Judicial Delegates**

***Note the April meeting will be held on April 22nd  
Deadline for the next newsletter is April 8, 2009***