

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Bob Botfeld
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State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

CLUB MEETING, MARCH 9, 2016

- TOPIC:** Candidates for NYS Senate (30th & 31st Districts), NYS Assembly (69th District), and NYS Democratic Committee (69th District)
Endorsement Voting for U.S. Senate and Congressional Candidates (10th and 13th Districts)
- SPEAKERS:** Candidates for NYS Senate: Bill Perkins and Brian Benjamin (30th District), Robert Jackson (31st District); NYS Assembly: Daniel O'Donnell (69th District); & NYS Democratic Committee: Lynn Thomas & Daniel Marks Cohen (69th District).
- DATE:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016
- TIME:** 8:00 pm
- PLACE:** The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 St.
- ROOM:** Ballroom

AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign-in
8:00 pm Call to Order
(8:15 Ballot Box Opens; 9:15 Ballot Box Closes)
District Leader Reports
Proposed Resolution on Voter Participation
Nomination of Candidates for Judicial Delegate
Speakers:
Candidates for NYS Senate (30th & 31st Districts)
Candidate for NYS Assembly (69th District)
Candidates for NYS Democratic Committee (69th District)
Adjourn

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Membership meeting
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Board Meeting
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 8:00 pm
Membership Meetings: April 13, May 11, June 8
Board Meetings: April 27, May 25, June 22
Save the Date: Sunday, May 1, 2016
Three Parks Independent Democrats Annual Benefit

President's Report

By Lauren Williams

At our February meeting we heard from all of the Democratic candidates for the 13th Congressional District. Suzan Johnson Cook, Adriano Espaillat, Mike Gallagher, Robert Jackson, Guillermo Linares, Adam Clayton Powell IV, Robert Rodriguez, Clyde Williams, and Keith Wright presented their credentials and platforms and then responded to questions from the audience. These candidates will be petitioning to be on the ballot for the Congressional Primary that will be held on June 28. This high-interest race is especially important since the winner will be seeking the seat held by retiring Congressman Charles Rangel.

On March 9, members will vote to endorse candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives (10th and 13th Districts) and again welcome candidates to our meeting. (Note: Senator Charles Schumer is seeking re-election and is currently unopposed. His name will be on the endorsement ballot.) The ballot box will open at 8:15 pm and close at 9:15 pm.

At this Three Parks meeting, candidates seeking to represent us in the New York State Senate and Assembly will speak, as will candidates for the State Democratic Committee. Members will nominate candidates for Judicial Delegate. We have invited Senate candidates Bill Perkins and Brian Benjamin (30th District) and Robert Jackson (31st District); and Assembly candidate Daniel O'Donnell (69th District). Club members Lynn Thomas and Daniel Marks Cohen, seeking re-election to the State Democratic Committee, also will speak. Endorsement voting for State Offices, State Committee, and Judicial Delegate will occur at our May 11 meeting.

I extend congratulations and a "welcome back" to our Club's 2016 Board of Directors elected at our February meeting. (The vote tally immediately follows this report.) Our board members provide hours of volunteer leadership and budget oversight through activities that include advocating for our Club's positions, planning club events and meeting programs, contributing to our newsletter and website, and meeting and communicating with our elected officials. They are a hard-working team and they deserve our support and thanks.

Make your plans now to attend our 41st Annual Benefit to be held on May 1. It's a wonderful way to support Three Parks and have the opportunity to meet and talk with our elected and prospective officials. At our annual fundraiser Three Parks also acknowledges the service and contributions of local public officials and community organizations. Further details on our 41st Annual Benefit

will be announced soon.

Please join Three Parks or renew your membership so you qualify to vote in the upcoming months. You will find our membership form online at www.threeparksdems.org or on page 7 of this newsletter.

Three Parks Election Results of 2016 Board President

Lauren Williams (29)

1st Vice President

Daniele Gerard (27)

2nd Vice President

Lynn Bender Max (26)

Treasurer

Ellen Flax (28)

Membership Secretary

Theresa Canter(31)

Corresponding Secretary

Lorraine Zamora (27)

Recording Secretary

Jock Davenport (29)

Members at Large

Wendy Dannett (25)

Elizabeth Kellner (29)

Erl Kimmich (29)

Marie Lunn (28)

Betsy Malcolm (27)

Bruce Markens (26)

Mary Ann Marks (30)

Steve Max (29)

Merle McEldowney (30)

Abigail McGloster (30)

Milivoy Samurovich (31)

Gerald Schultz (24)

Judy Wood (29)

Save the date: Sunday, May 1

Three Parks Annual Benefit

Honoring

Council Members

Helen Rosenthal & Mark Levine

& The West End Preservation

Society

District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

Taller Buildings Coming to the Upper West Side?

ZQA (Zoning and Quality Affordability), the unwanted and unneeded upzoning bill, is expected to be voted on in the City Council in March. Although our Community Board 7, Manhattan BP Gale Brewer and over 75 percent of the community boards in New York City have voted against this bill, it may pass unless more pressure is placed on the City Council by local community members to overcome the lobbying by developers.

Our Three Parks neighborhood is specifically targeted within the ZQA bill. One of the zoning codes changed the most is 9A. Our Three Parks area equivalent of a town mall, Broadway between 96th Street and 110th Street, is zoned 9A. This is the **only** significant area zoned 9A in the city (there are two individual blocks on Grammercy Park also 9A).

At the behest of developers, the DeBlasio administration simply wants to increase the permitted height by three stories even though this community, just a few years ago, had a two-year debate about the height on Broadway and settled on 15 stories. ZQA has no provision for affordable housing. The affordable housing bill is known as MIH.

ZQA has other onerous provisions which BP Brewer has documented in her letter opposing ZQA. ZQA permits sliver buildings, skyscrapers on narrow lots, which tower over their neighbors. Finally, ZQA reduces the critical backyard space by a third, from 60' to 40,' (the open space and light that developers must have between buildings).

The Poll Site at the Masters

After months of pestering the Board of Elections, the BOE finally agreed to reopen the Masters poll site at 103 Street and Riverside Drive. Although we had measured the poll site and provided the BOE with a diagram to confirm that it had over 1,400 sq. ft. rather than the 450 sq. ft. they had somehow mismeasured, the BOE had been obdurate. Thanks to club member Mildred Speiser, State Committee Member Lynn Thomas, Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, and District Leader Cynthia Doty, at least 1,000 of our neighbors will be able to vote in the logical, nearby poll site as they have for years.

Expanding Voter Participation in NY State

By Daniele Gerard

Three Parks members have already been on the street registering voters—despite the frigid temperatures in February—which reminded us that we registered well over 10,000 voters from the 2008 and 2012 Obama storefronts, in addition to other voter registration drives over the years. Our club has a long history of working to expand voter

participation, and this year will be no different.

Please read the proposed resolution that follows which we will present and vote on at the next club meeting. The Board drafted it to expand the club's role in advocating for election reform so that all New Yorkers can make their voices heard. For example, we would like to support early voting legislation (A8582/S3813) pursuant to which New Yorkers would have up to two weeks to vote, including Saturdays and Sundays. (Some form of early voting is already available in over 30 states.)

We would also like to encourage passage of other long-overdue legislation, such as the Voter Empowerment Act (A5972) and the Modernized Voter Registration act of New York (A8626/S6631), which would streamline the voter registration process by automatically registering consenting, eligible New Yorkers who apply for services from various agencies, including the DMV, Department of Labor, Office for the Aging, and Division of Veterans' Affairs. The Voter Friendly Ballot Act (A3389) would create a ballot that is easier to read and understand.

The Voter Assistance Advisory Committee (on which I serve) to the Campaign Finance Board works with community partners and city agencies to register voters around the state. <http://www.nyccfb.info/nyc-votes/about-nyc-votes>. They have developed an online and hardcopy petition Three Parks can use to add the petition signatures we collect to the thousands that have already been gathered to grow the movement. Working together, we can convince the governor and our elected officials to increase voter participation in New York State.

Resolution on Voter Participation

WHEREAS nearly two million voting age citizens in New York State are not registered to vote,
WHEREAS New York consistently ranks at the bottom in voter turnout nationwide; for example, in 2014, just 20 per cent of voting age citizens exercised their franchise, making our state 46th in the nation,
WHEREAS voter suppression efforts are proliferating around the country in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, and
WHEREAS New York should be a leader in expanding voter participation in local, state and national elections, to decide whether a proposed measure requires legislative action and/or a constitutional amendment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats calls on the governor and members of the New York State Senate and Assembly to enact legislation and other measures to ensure all eligible voters can make their voices heard,

including, but not limited to, early voting, automatic voter registration, better ballot design, and no-excuse absentee voting.

State Committee Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

First, as this is an even-numbered election year, both Lynn Thomas and I are running for re-election as representatives of the 69th AD in the New York State Democratic Committee. And we ask for the club's endorsement for our re-election. Thank you.

The State Committee has been a bit quiet as of late—the party pulled together a (somewhat sneaky) superfast snap meeting at the end of February to endorse Chuck Schumer for re-election to the U.S. Senate. A proper spring meeting has not yet been called, although when it is I will be working hard with the Progressive Caucus to push the State Committee to endorse the FULL Women's Equality Act in the legislature (the Republicans keep leaving out a pro-choice portion of the law). Moreover, I will use all the influence I have to clip the wings of the Independent Democratic Conference, that group of five Democratic state senators that supports the Republican minority in the Senate to throttle progressive legislation, including the above-mentioned Women's Bill of Rights. And I will also be out on the campaign trail in September attempting to elect REAL Democrats to those seats in order to give the State Senate an ironclad Democratic majority. For the record, these real Democrats are Tony Avella—Queens; David Carlucci—Rockland; Jeffrey D. Klein—Bronx; Diane J. Savino—Staten Island; and David J. Valesky—Oneida). I hope you will join me, too.

More recently, I have been involved in the Task Force on HDFC (Housing Development Fund Companies) which was created to preserve affordable housing and, in particular, co-ops threatened with extinction if the City does not take action to prevent it. There are almost 1,300 HDFC co-ops, containing almost 26,000 units, in New York City (including over 40 buildings in Manhattan Valley alone). Of these, most are in Manhattan, about a third are in Brooklyn, and a fifth are in the Bronx. The creation of HDFC co-ops was a sought-after solution to the abandoned building crisis in the 1970s. Having buildings come out of city property was the primary goal of the tenant and homesteader ownership programs. In that regard, HDFC co-ops were a success: tenants got their own homes often for little more than \$250 per apartment; the city got out of the landlord business and started collecting taxes; and neighborhoods were stabilized. However, now that abandonment is no longer a problem but stratospheric real estate prices are, the mechanisms that used to regulate

the affordability of HDFC co-ops have proved to be insufficient to shield these co-ops from gentrification.

The city never thought of itself as the sponsor of a large number of limited-equity cooperatives. There are many impediments to successful management: properties are not tracked, resale formulas were never established, restrictions have not been supervised, a support system for co-ops in distress is non-existent, and no way of acting is specified when regulations lapse. While the majority of HDFC co-ops are receiving tax exemptions, these are neither regulated nor understood as a tradeoff for affordability. Many co-ops have significantly improved the life of their shareholders. However, hundreds of households live in co-ops with precarious conditions (absent boards, corrupt management, urgent need of capital repairs, defaulting shareholders, lack of access to loans, etc.) and the mechanisms available to help them are notably intricate. Issues are currently resolved only through long and often expensive legal battles.

The Task Force on HDFCs, a coalition of not-for-profit housing groups (including my organization, the Housing Partnership) concerned with the preservation of HDFC co-ops, is proposing a series of reforms that will save these co-ops for generations to come through a new 100 per cent tax exemption in exchange for a regulatory agreement that forces co-ops to limit resale prices to rates affordable to households of income levels less than 80 per cent of AMI. These reforms would also require HDFC to enter in contract with a monitoring agency. HDFCs that decide not to enter into it would be taxed at full rate. We have begun meeting with city and state elected officials about this idea, and will be organizing meetings for HDFC shareholders in the spring. Only by focusing our attention on the proper handling of the HDFC co-ops, can the city transform a loose end into thousands of units of affordable housing.

Poll Workers Wanted

Poll workers are need for the April 19 and June 28 primaries. Please sign up online at electiondayworker.com, or contact District Leader Cynthia Doty at cldoty@aol.com

Free The Buchanan 11

By Merle McEldowney

Well, no one is locked up, but we will be before a judge on March 8 at 4:00 pm. The Buchanan 11 will be in court for a hearing on our arrest for blocking traffic in and out of the Indian Point Power Plant. Before the court hearing we will

have a rally and press conference in front of the Peekskill courthouse.

While we have been waiting for our day in court the nuclear reactor at Indian Point has continued to leak tritium-tainted water into the Hudson River.

We need to make certain that the problems with this power plant are not swept under the rug. The publicity from our original demonstration was decent. This rally should be even bigger, so I am hoping that some Three Parks members will come along with me and Three Parks member Bruce Rosen to Peekskill on March 8. We will be taking a train that leaves from 125th street at 1:54 pm and arrives in Peekskill at 2:45 pm. There will be a press conference and a rally before the court hearing that is scheduled for 4 p.m. Please join us if you can. We can arrange to go together. If you do intend to go, please email me at merle.mcelandowney@gmail.com.

Special Election on April 19

By Betsy Malcolm

On April 19, the same day as the Presidential primary, there will be an important special election on Long Island. Democratic Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky is running for the State Senate seat left vacant when State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos was convicted of corruption. Who would be better to clean up the corruption in Albany than this former federal prosecutor who successfully convicted corrupt politicians, including State Senator Pedro Espada and Congressman Michael Grimm? Kaminsky has spent his career working to end government corruption. He is also strong on environmental issues, standing next to Governor Cuomo when Cuomo announced his veto of the Port Ambrose LNG terminal.

With the State Senate in Republican hands we are unable to even get votes on many of the issues we, as Democrats, care passionately about. These include a \$15 minimum wage indexed to inflation, the Dream Act, campaign finance reform, mayoral control of the schools and equitable funding, paid family leave, legalizing small amounts of marijuana for recreational use, and GENDA (transgender equality under the law). We are only a few seats short of flipping the State Senate majority, however, and all 63 State Senators are up for re-election this year. This Long Island election could be one of the crucial seats we need and could shift momentum in our favor going into November.

Will you join me in making phone calls or going out to Long Island to canvass? I will be going out most days from late March until the election. I can easily run a phone bank if there is enough interest. Please contact Betsy Malcolm at betsymal2@aol.com if you want to get involved.

Electronic Voting Fraud: A Threat to Democracy

By Wendy Dannett

Harvey Wasserman is an independent journalist, longtime antinuclear activist, and writer on stealing elections through electronic voting. He was recently interviewed by Amy Goodman of “Democracy Now” about his upcoming book “The Strip and Flip Selection of 2016: Five Jim Crows and Electronic Election Theft.”

Wasserman voiced his concerns about the upcoming election being stolen. He feels electronic voting was used to steal the presidential election in Ohio in 2004, and that John Kerry was the rightful winner over George Bush. “The secretary of state... Kenneth Blackwell, and the governor, Robert Taft used their power of electronic voting count to flip the vote...” He says he watched it happen.

This year, about 80 percent of the vote nationally will be cast on electronic voting machines. “There is no verifiability.” There are 6 swing states: Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Arizona with Republican governors and secretaries of state and no method of verifying the electronic vote count. Wasserman says those two men can go in with an IT person and flip the vote in 60 seconds. Millions of dollars and people campaigning can be negated by an electronic vote flip, and there is no verification. Harvey feels this was done with Obama, but he got so many votes—he won by over 10 million votes—that it would have taken them too many states to flip.

Goodman asked where he got the idea of votes being flipped. Wasserman stated that when you compare exit polls—which are accurate to 1 percent—with electronic outcomes, there are tremendous variations. And he and others have documented the flipping. The source code on electronic voting machines is proprietary. Even governments have no access to a final verification. We’re going into a national election, and not just for the presidency; Senate and House seats can also be stolen. He believes three Senate seats were stolen in 2014; in North Carolina, Colorado, and Alaska, so Republicans do not have a legitimate majority in the Senate. And now, in 2016, there is again a Republican Governor and secretary of state in Ohio—and there is no verifiability on electronic vote count. “This stuff has been going on a long time,” Wasserman points out. The methods were perfected overseas by the CIA and other covert/overt operations. In the USA, it started in 1988, with George H. W. Bush using electronic machines in New Hampshire to beat Bob Dole in that state’s primary.

He believes that not only Republicans do it: he questions Rahm Emanuel’s re-election in Chicago, and believes Scott

Walker stole his re-election in Wisconsin. The latter win was based on the “miraculous” discovery of 3,000 votes in a glitched voting machine. “Wherever you have a governor and secretary of state from the same party, be they Democrat or Republican, they have the power, under the electronic voting system, to flip the outcome of an election, with no verifiability, because the courts have ruled that these privately owned machines have proprietary software.” This is not democracy.

Wasserman points out that there are many ways money is used to influence elections. Why shouldn't we think they would rig voting machines? Wasserman and others wonder, and so do I, whether we are going through a huge charade of a national campaign, primaries, and then a general election, when the actual outcome can be flipped electronically in 60 seconds with no verification.

Public Hearing

Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer will hold a public hearing on overcrowding and facilities needs in Manhattan's public schools on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The meeting will take place at P.S. 125, 425 West 123rd Street from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information please contact Bruce Markens at bmarkens@aol.com.

Voting Eligibility

In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2016 and attended at least one meeting in the last six months. Members who were paid for 2015 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible to vote upon payment of 2016 dues. New memberships become effective 30 days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the 30-day period and within the six months prior to the election. Memberships that have lapsed due to nonpayment of annual dues are considered new. Reminder: Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.

Three Parks Eligible Voters for March 9

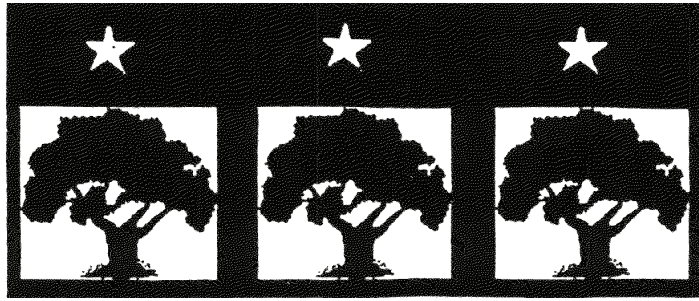
Cyrus Adler
Susan J. Baldwin
William Baldwin
Margaret Beels
Bob Botfeld
Jacqueline Bukowski
Theresa Canter
Daniel Marks Cohen
Christian Cordova
John Davenport
Irene Dess
Cynthia Doty
Gerry Ann Fifer
Alan Flacks
Ellen Flax
Ernestine Gallagher
Mary J. Geissman
Daniele Gerard
Robert Ginsberg
Pilar Gomez
Timothy Greene
Prince Haigood
Marnie Hall
Jacqueline Huey
Sharick Irizarry
Emma Jenkins
Russell Jenkins
Elizabeth Krob Kellner
Erlend Kimmich
Kenneth Laufer
David Lazarus
Gail Leinwall
Anna Lewis
Marie Lunn
Betsy Malcolm
Bruce Markens
Mary Ann Marks
Stephen Max
Lynn Bender Max
Merle McEldowney
Abigail McGloster
George McGuinness
Christopher Mooney
Derrick Mullins
John Newell
Joan Ogden
Michael Oliva
Geraldine Phillips
Katherine Samuels
Liz Samurovich
Carl Joseph Scalise
Doris Schreiber
Jacob Sher
Rachel Smit
Mildred Speiser
Anna Lee Spiro
Allan Spitz

Michael Stearns
Roschel Holland Stearns
Stephanie Tegnazian
Deborah Thomas
Barbara Trelstad
Ken Tulloch
Lauren A. Williams
M. Katherin Williston
Judy Wood
Lorraine Zamora
Tamar Zucker
Ariel Zucker-Brull

Voters Eligible if Paid for March 9

Susan Andrews
Robert Bardin
Patricia Barrera
Samuel Bartos
Shoshannah Benmosche
Marla Brunker
Isabella Calisi-Wagner
David Camacho
Mimi Daitz
Wendy Dannett
Susan Dess
Betty Jean Dixon
Samantha Evans
Adam Haridopolos
Janet Harvilchuck
Robert Ir
Audrey Isaacs
Suzan Johnson-Cook
David C. Kaplan
Norman Lafond
Robert Leuze
Alex Medwedew
Minda Meister
Brenda Morgan
Hank Perlin
Nicole Polier
Miriam Rabban
Carol Reisner
Rama Rodvien
Patricia Rowe
Milivoy Samurovich
Christine Samurovich
Gerald Schultz
Christopher P. Scott
Fredrick Sherman
Ann Shirazi
Ahmad Shirazi
Irene Shrier
John Slorance
Lynn Thomas
Jane Thompson
Gloria Zeche

**March 9 Endorsement Voting
Ballot Box opens at 8:15 pm
& closes at 9:15 pm.**



Three Parks Independent Democrats

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

Please pay your 2016 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

2016 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 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 2016”

Thank you for your cooperation!

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

Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

**Forum with Candidates for the NYS Senate (30th & 31st Districts), NYS
Assembly (69th District), and NYS Democratic Committee (69th District)**

Speakers: Bill Perkins & Brian Benjamin (30th District); Robert Jackson (31st District);
Daniel O'Donnell (69th District), and Lynn Thomas & Daniel Marks Cohen (69th District)

**Endorsement Voting for U.S. Senate and
Congressional Candidates (10th & 13th Districts)**