

## ***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

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Daniele Gerard

***Editor***

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***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld

Cynthia Doty

***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas

# **MAY 14, 2008**

**FEATURED TOPIC &  
SPEAKERS:**

**HOUSING FORUM: Mortgages, Foreclosures, and  
the Ongoing Challenge of Renting in New York**

Jenny Laurie, Exec. Dir., Metropolitan Council on  
Housing

Elizabeth Malone, Dir., NHS Home Ownership Center

**Endorsement Votes**

**DATE:**

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

**TIME:**

8:00 PM

**PLACE:**

American Youth Hostels

891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

**ROOM:**

Chapel

### **AGENDA**

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. Judicial Candidates
3. Housing Forum
4. District Leaders' Reports
5. Endorsement Vote
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wed., May 28, 2008, 8 PM**

**Three Parks Board Meeting**

Place: Youth Hostel

891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St..

**Wed., June 11, 2008, 8 PM**

**Three Parks Meeting**

Place: Youth Hostel

891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

At the April meeting, having just driven down from Albany, Senator Eric Schneiderman, Senator Bill Perkins and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell provided a detailed report on the newly passed budget. We thank them for their generosity in answering so many questions and their good humor after so many sleepless nights upstate!

On May 14th, Three Parks is holding a Housing Forum where local housing experts Jenny Laurie of the Metropolitan Council on Housing and Elizabeth Malone of Neighborhood Housing Services Home Ownership Center will update us on the sub-prime & foreclosure crises in the City and on rent regulation, housing legislation and the current rental market. This promises to be an instructive evening that will include information currently underreported by the media. The membership will also vote on endorsements for Congress, State Senate, Assembly, State Committee, judges and delegates to the Judicial Convention.

**A flyer is included in the newsletter, so please spread the word by posting it in your building.** As always, you must be a member in good standing, and current in your dues, to vote in our endorsements. If you haven't paid your 2008 Three Parks dues, there's no time like the present!

At the time of writing, preparations were in full swing for the May 4th Three Parks benefit honoring Council Member Inez Dickens, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito and the service workers' campaign Justice Will Be Served. Proceeds will fund the Club's storefront in the fall. We hope everyone had a wonderful time!

Please remember to check the Three Parks website [www.ThreeParksDems.org](http://www.ThreeParksDems.org) frequently for updates on Club activities and for tabling opportunities, especially as the weather gets warmer.

## Albany Update

Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell

With the budget behind us, Albany turns to legislation. I wanted to share the details of a bill that I recently introduced that would begin to institutionalize the cooperation of state environmental and transportation agencies to more effectively tackle the problems of pollution caused by motor vehicles, traffic volume that affects both pollution levels and wear on roadways, and the need for revenue for the maintenance and upkeep of roads and bridges. The bill, A.10638, would establish the Sustainable Transportation Policy Task Force, a body that would be charged with examining ways in which environmental sustainability policies can be applied to or combined with transportation policy.

If passed, the legislation will provide a mechanism for long-term planning by adding sustainability to various state statutes and board and agency missions, as well as create a task force to develop tangible solutions that encourage environmentally responsible decision-making about vehicle purchases and driving habits. The task force would take a closer look at models that require vehicle owners to contribute their fair share, based on the type of vehicle they own, towards the maintenance of roads, bridges and tunnels. The immediate, and most specific, goal is to have the task force develop recommendations for toll and fee changes that will take into account vehicles' weight, emissions ratings and fuel efficiency.

It is anticipated that new fee and toll structures would reward smaller, lighter and more efficient vehicles and penalize larger, heavier, more heavily polluting and less fuel efficient vehicles. Variable fee and toll structures already exist, to a limited extent: trucks pay higher tolls than cars, and vehicle registration fees include a calculation based on weight. However, with the exception of the Port Authority's "Green Pass," tolls do not differentiate among cars, treating hybrids, small cars with low emissions, large SUV's

and other light trucks equally. The task force would evaluate the relevant factors and develop vehicle categories for such variable tolls.

I am circulating the bill for comment among environmental advocacy and transportation sustainability groups. A.10638 will hopefully place the conversation about addressing problems of traffic volume, funding for this state's vital transportation infrastructure, and improving air quality in a statewide context.

**Dump that old computer:  
Local groups to sponsor electronics  
collection on May 17-19**

By Joseph G. Rappaport

It's time to clear out your closets!

With computers outdated almost as soon as they're delivered and a switch to digital TV transmissions just eight months away, it's likely that you have some piece of old electronic equipment jammed into a closet or sitting in your hallway.

You could leave them at the curb for garbage pick-up. But you shouldn't – since these items contain materials that are toxic when land-filled improperly or incinerated.

Most electronic equipment collected curbside in Manhattan is burned just across the river by the city at the Newark incinerator. Proper recycling is a far better alternative, since computers and TVs typically contain lead, mercury and other materials that are dangerous when burned and released into the air.

Instead, wait just a few days until May 17-19, when the Lower East Side Ecology Center sets up an electronics collection bin on Broadway at an event sponsored by the 104<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association, the 102-103th Street Block Association, State Senator Eric Schneiderman and Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell (sponsor list in formation).

The collection dates are:

**Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18  
from 10 AM- 4 PM.  
Monday, May 19, 4-7 PM**

The LESEC will set up a bin on the west side of Broadway between 102nd and 103rd streets in front of Radio Shack and Strawberry stores. There is no cost for collection and items donated are tax-deductible. Items collected include:

- Computer equipment
- TVs
- Cell phones, phones & equipment
- MP3 players (iPods, etc.)
- Playstations.

For more information about the LESEC's collection events and how they safely recycle the material they collect, visit [www.lesecology.org](http://www.lesecology.org).

While the City Council recently passed bills that require manufacturers to collect their own products, collection programs won't begin until July 2009. So take this chance to get rid of these unwanted items quickly and safely.

**NYC LABOR CHORUS  
2008 Spring Concert**

Saturday  
May 17 at 7:30 PM  
People's Voice Cafe  
45 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Donation \$12

**Three Parks Judicial Delegate Candidates  
Election on May 14, 2008**

**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.

**Ernestine Gallagher**, a longtime member of Three Parks and member of the Board, has served as a judicial delegate

three 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.

**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 Committee member, 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.

**David Kogelman** is an arbitrator and general practice attorney. He has been active in petitioning, registering voters, and in 2004 volunteering at our storefront and organizing our Pennsylvania bus trips. He welcomes the opportunity to continue serving our Club and community.

**Corine Pettet** 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.

**Stephanie Tegnazian** has been a member of Three Parks for about 20 years and is ready to be a Judicial Delegate. She asks questions and has attended the judicial panel screenings and has made an effort to get to know the candidates at informal meetings and learn how the process works. She has listened to the applicants decisions and considered how fair the parties involved parties were treated.

**Deborah Thomas** has been a lifelong Democrat and an Upper Westsider for over 20 years. She is an opera singer and currently works as a teaching artist in the New York Public Schools, where she teaches Opera Appreciation and acts as Arts Provider for a program called "ESL Through The Arts." In this program, for which she co-authored the curriculum, she assists English Language Learners in writing and performing musical plays to improve their English language skills. Besides politics, some of her other interests include animals, history, languages and travel.

**Judy Wood** is First Vice-President and an active member of Three Parks for many years and former District Leader of the Club. I edited the Club newsletter for three years which was very exciting. Now I am looking forward to the 2008 presidential campaign which we hope will give us a chance to turn things around.

## LATEST JUDICIAL NEWS

By Alan Flacks

In the last weeks, there have been some strange events on the judicial front here in Manhattan (the First Judicial District). State Supreme Court Justice James Yates, who was to retire on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008, to become Gov. Paterson's counsel, changed his mind, saying he prefers being a judge. Judicial observers thought that he would be appointed Chief Judge next year when Judith Kaye retires. Perhaps it would appear less unseemly to have him appointed as the State's Chief Judge from the ranks of judges than appear to be seen as an appointment as a crony of the Governor. Perhaps the promise of the Chief Judgeship was not to be. Or perhaps the Governor would rather have as counsel someone who would remain for more than the balance of this year. All these scenarios certainly would have been discussed, so that leaves us to believe that there must be something more.

Shirley Werner Kornreich was nominated for the Supreme Court seat vacated February 4<sup>th</sup> by Stephen Crane, but she still is awaiting State Senate confirmation. Sen. Bruno should "unleash" his Republicans to do so or he may not get any governor-appointed Republican Court of Claims judges. Since Paterson is getting along better with Bruno than his predecessor, Kornreich's confirmation could be imminent. Her elevation to the State trial bench would create a County-wide Civil court seat, but until this actually occurs, the Party is not seeking applicants.

Meanwhile, our Party's screening panel is reviewing the three candidates (Nora Anderson, John Reddy, Milton Tingling) seeking the Surrogate Court seat created by the retirement of Rene Roth, who reached the constitutional-mandated retirement age.

## Three Parks Eligible Voters as Of April 20, 2008 for the May 14, 2008 Endorsement Vote

Eligible voters have paid 2008 dues and have attended at least one meeting as a member in the previous six months

|           |            |                 |                |            |                 |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Adler     | Cyrus      | Huey            | Jacqueline     | Reilly     | Patricia        |
| Altman    | Jennifer   | Hurley          | Arlene Patete  | Reisner    | Carol           |
| Andrew    | Ralph      | Jorgensen       | Ulla           | Roesch     | Majorie         |
| Andrew    | Stephanie  | Kaplan          | David C.       | Rubin      | Jonathan        |
| Andrews   | Susan      | Kardeman        | Rita           | Samelson   | Suzanne         |
| Avila     | Anna       | Kaufman         | Jan Caryl      | Samurovich | Liz             |
| Baldwin   | Susan J.   | Kellner         | Elizabeth Krob | Samurovich | Milivoy         |
| Baldwin   | Emily      | Kellner         | Douglas        | Samurovich | Christine       |
| Baldwin   | William    | Kirkland        | Galen          | Sarver     | Eugene          |
| Bardin    | Robert     | Koenig          | Jerry          | Scalise    | Carl Joseph     |
| Barnard   | J. Thomas  | Kogelman        | David          | Scher      | Nina            |
| Beason    | Catherine  | Korman          | Iris J.        | Scher      | Ernest          |
| Becker    | Thomas     | Lanier          | Madi           | Schieren   | Alma            |
| Beels     | Margret    | Laufer          | Kenneth        | Schreiber  | Doris           |
| Benmosche | Shoshannah | Lavin           | Marguerite     | Schwartz   | Ray             |
| Berlin    | Bobby      | Lazarus         | David          | Segal      | Judy            |
| Botfeld   | Bob        | Lee             | Barbara        | Shepard    | Abbey           |
| Bronstein | Chaim      | Lemish-Lazarus  | Lisa           | Sher       | Barry N.        |
| Bryan     | Nicholas   | Leuze           | Robert         | Shrier     | Irene           |
| Canter    | Theresa    | Levinson        | Joan           | Smith      | Gladys          |
| Carhart   | Jacqueline | Levy            | Estelle        | Snyder     | Calvin          |
| Chan      | Evans      | Lunn            | Marie          | Speiser    | Mildred         |
| Cooper    | Jill       | Mandelbaum      | Joel           | Stearns    | Roschel Holland |
| Davenport | John       | Marks           | Mary Ann       | Stearns    | Michael         |
| Dolgin    | Phyllis    | Martin          | Kathleen       | Strauss    | Steve           |
| Doty      | Cynthia    | Max             | Danny          | Swanson    | Gloria          |
| Draynel   | Renna      | Max             | Connie         | Tapper     | Donna           |
| Egmont    | Kathy      | Max             | Lynn Bender    | Taylor     | Clara           |
| Faulkner  | Jeanne     | Max             | Stephen        | Tegnazian  | Stephanie       |
| Fenno     | Christine  | McEldowney      | Merle          | Tepper     | Ruth            |
| Fifer     | Gerry Ann  | McGuinness      | George         | Thomas     | Deborah         |
| Flacks    | Alan       | Meister         | Minda          | Thomas     | Lynn            |
| Flax      | Ellen      | Meyers          | Gail           | Thompson   | Jane            |
| Forel     | Elizabeth  | Miller          | Batya          | Trokell    | Yara            |
| Fox       | Brian      | Montes          | Virya          | Tulloch    | Ken             |
| Freedman  | Russell    | Morgan          | Charles R.     | Vargas     | Ruben           |
| Frick     | Dayle      | Morgan          | Brenda         | Voorhis    | George          |
| Gallagher | Ernestine  | Newell          | John           | Vulliemoz  | Yvonne          |
| Geiger    | Arlene     | Ogden           | Joan           | Walker     | David           |
| Geissman  | Mary J.    | O'Shaughnessey  | Patrick        | Walsh      | Tim             |
| Gerard    | Daniele    | Ostrofsky       | Diane          | Wax        | Pamela          |
| Gianono   | Joseph     | Owens           | Iretta         | Weiss      | Eileen          |
| Gilbert   | Louisa     | Pepper          | Joshua         | Wellman    | Jeri            |
| Ginsberg  | David      | Petty           | Corine         | Williams   | Lauren A.       |
| Ginsberg  | Simon      | Phillips        | Geraldine      | Wood       | Judy            |
| Ginsberg  | Robert     | Pinsley         | Allison        | Woods      | Dan             |
| Gomez     | Pilar      | Podrasky        | Rose           | Worrell    | Vernita         |
| Gould     | Bonnie     | Prochazka       | Lisa Anne      | Young      | Caryl           |
| Green     | Joan       | Puccetti-Hepner | Florence       | Zeche      | Gloria          |
| Holden    | Cynthia M. | Reilly          | William        |            |                 |

## Three Parks Members Eligible to Vote if 2008 Dues are Paid on or before May 14, 2008

|             |          |          |           |              |           |
|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Andrew      | Seth     | Healy    | Robert J. | Sternoff     | David     |
| Barrera     | Patricia | Leinwall | Gail      | Tucker       | Susan     |
| Berger      | Dan      | Medwedew | Alex      | Tucker       | Paulette  |
| Bondell     | Joan     | Perlin   | Hank      | Weiman       | David     |
| Colgan      | Alex J.  | Remba    | Eve       | Williams     | Rosetta   |
| Dannett     | Wendy    | Seidner  | Cathy     | Zelin        | Madeleine |
| De Seta     | M.       | Shirazi  | Ahmad     | Zucker       | Tamar     |
| Foley       | Timothy  | Shirazi  | Ann       | Zucker       | Marlene   |
| Foreman     | Eva      | Spiro    | Anna Lee  | Zucker-Brull | Ariel     |
| Golub       | Robert   | Starkey  | Dick      |              |           |
| Harvilchuck | Janet    | Starkey  | Elizabeth |              |           |

# **WE'RE ALL PINKIES AND BROWNIES – ESPECIALLY AMERICANS**

By David and Cy Adler

When our son David came home from his first day at PS 163, my wife and I wondered what he had discovered in public school.

–How was school, we asked.

–Okay, he said.

Public School 163 is on West 97<sup>th</sup> Street near Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. The district houses a variety of middle-class and working poor whose ancestors came from all corners of the world. Realtors refer to the area, erroneously, as the Upper West Side, though geographically it is still in the southern half of New York Island. To the east are housing projects and Central Park; to the north are Columbia University, CCNY and Harlem.

– What are the kids in your class like, David?

– Nice.

Not given to long-winded explanations, David munched his peanut butter sandwich.

– David, what do the kids in your class look like?

He stopped eating and looked up in surprise.

– They're all brownies and pinkies!

– Brownies and pinkies?

– Most are brownies.

He commenced chomping his peanut butter sandwich.

As I sat in awe at David's perception of reality, I looked at my hand and at my wife's face: we were indeed pinkies. David had made a brilliant observation; he didn't call his classmates 'blackies' or 'whities,' for in fact they were not white or black. We had met a few of David's classmates: dark-hued Jina, whose parents came from Kerala, India, had long, shiny coal-black hair; blond, curly-haired African-Americans Abraham and Jacob were born in Durban, South Africa. David was color-observant, not color-blinded, nor misled by what older people might say about race. At

age six he had jumped over, if not shattered, the race-color line.

The air in America would be calmer and sweeter if the news media adopted the phrase 'pinkies and brownies' instead of misleading terms such as 'blacks and whites.' Look at the players and fans at an American baseball game; you will see pinkies and brownies.

Political candidates running for office should take an oath to use pinkie/brownie rather than black/white in their speeches. It's time we Americans stopped dividing people into racial groups. This world is big enough for all shades of men and women. We are just a small slice of this mixed-up and multi-hued gaggle of six billion brownies and pinkies. A six-year-old can lead us.

Condolences to Three Parks Member Iris Korman on the death of her Grandmother Edith Ammer.

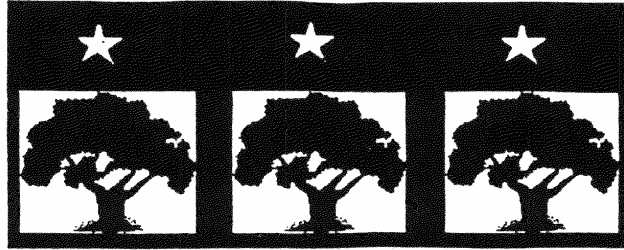
## **Free Legal Assistance for Tenants**

Assembly Member O'Donnell will provide an opportunity for individuals with questions or problems with housing to consult with a volunteer attorney. Appointments can be for May 29<sup>th</sup> by calling 212-866-3970 and asking for Joyce Goodman.

## **Council Member Gale Brewer's Annual Open House**

Council Member Brewer's Annual Open House will take place on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 4 PM to 7 PM and on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM at 563 Columbus Ave. at 87<sup>th</sup>. For additional information contact her office at 212-873-0282 or [gale.brewer@council.nyc.gov](mailto:gale.brewer@council.nyc.gov).

The deadline for submissions for the June, 2008 Newsletter is May 28, 2008.



***THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS***

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

Please pay your 2008 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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## **2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

***New Member***\_\_\_

***Renewal***\_\_\_

**Membership Category -- Check One**

Individual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$8)\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$40)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 2008"**

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

**HOUSING FORUM:  
Mortgages & Foreclosures in NYC and  
Challenges for Renters**