

## ***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

## **May 2009**

**MAY MEETINGS:** **Wednesday, May 13, 2009 & May 27, 2009**

**May 13, 2009**

**FEATURED TOPICS  
&  
SPEAKERS**

**TIME:**

8:00 PM

**PLACE:**

American Youth Hostels  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street

**ROOM:**

Chapel

**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM** Hon.

Melissa Mark-Viverito, 8th CD; Hon. Inez Dickens, 9th CD; Gwen Goodwin, Robert Rodriguez & Calvin Solomon for the 8th CD; Landon Dais for the 9th CD

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES FORUM**

Richard Aborn; Leslie Crocker Snyder; Cyrus Vance, Jr.

**ENDORSEMENT VOTES** for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate & District Leaders

### **AGENDA**

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

1. President's Report
2. ENDORSEMENT VOTES (Ballot Box will be open from 8:15 to 9:30)
3. CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES
4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES
5. District Leaders' Reports
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, May 27, 2009 [NOTE ADD'L MTG DATE]**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 7 PM**  
**Three Parks Endorsement Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2009**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 24, 2009**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, August 26, 2009**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## **President's Report**

### **By Daniele Gerard**

Thank you to the speakers at April's Club Forum for Public Advocate: Council Member Bill de Blasio, Council Member Eric Gioia, Mark Green and Norman Siegel each gave overviews of their vision for the office. The membership also heard updates on state and city legislation from Senator Bill Perkins and Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito. All in all, a very informative evening!

We have two meetings scheduled for May—the first on May 13th and the second on May 27th. (Please note that two meeting flyers are enclosed. Thank you for posting them in your building a few days before each meeting.)

On May 13th, we are looking forward to hearing from the last two in our series of candidates' evenings. Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito is running for reelection in the 8th Council District. Her challengers are Gwen Goodwin of the Coalition to Save P.S. 109, Robert Rodriguez, Chair of Community Board 11, and Calvin Solomon, who is on leave from his job as Director, Community Affairs Unit at the Manhattan District Attorney's office. Council Member Inez Dickens is running for reelection in the 9th CD. Among her challengers is Landon Dais, the Program Director for Harlem Congregations for Community Impact, a Construction Management/GED program.

The three candidates for Manhattan District Attorney will also address the Club on May 13th; all three have been assistant district attorneys in that office. Richard Aborn, former president of Handgun Control, Inc. (now the Brady Campaign) and managing partner in the law firm Constantine Cannon, is also former president of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York. Leslie Crocker Snyder, a former judge of the New York City Criminal Court and State Court of Claims and Acting Supreme Court Justice, ran for DA in the 2005 Democratic primary. Cyrus Vance, Jr., a principal at the law firm Morvillo

Abramowitz, is a member of the NYS Appellate Division, First Department, Judicial Screening Panel, and also of the NYS Commission on Sentencing Reform. When members arrive, please be sure to fill out an index card with your question for the DA candidates.

The Club will also hold endorsement votes for Mayor, Comptroller and Public Advocate. Endorsement votes will be held on May 27th for District Attorney, City Council and Borough President. If you would like to speak for one minute on behalf of a candidate, please send an email to [ThreeParksDems@aol.com](mailto:ThreeParksDems@aol.com); one member per candidate will be chosen on a first come, first served basis.

The Club's May 27th meeting will feature a special presentation on a critical local issue—"The Future of New York City Public Schools: Mayoral Control, High Stakes Testing & Charter Schools." Panelists include Michael Fiorillo, UFT Chapter Leader, Newcomers High School; Leonie Haimson, Executive Director, Class Size Matters; and Aaron Pallas, Professor of Sociology and Education, Teachers College.

Finally, by the time you read this, the Three Parks Annual Benefit will be only a memory. We hope those of you who could make it had a wonderful time! Thank you again for all your hard work and support.

## **The Jesse Crawford Award**

### **By Cynthia Doty**

Jesse Crawford was a longtime Upper West Side community and political activist from the 1970s into the 90s. He was known especially for his support in founding the Northwest Central Park Multiblock Association and the West 104th Street Community Garden. Jesse was also a founding member of the community advisory board (CAB) established when the Volunteers of America and the Institute for Community Living planned to open the residence at 100th Street and Broadway for mentally ill homeless; he was at

the heart of resolving disputes over the location of this facility. Jesse was an active member of the congregation at St. Michael's Church, which he represented on the CAB.

A longtime Three Parks Board member, Jesse vigorously campaigned for causes such as zoning in Manhattan Valley, oversight of neighborhood homeless shelters, and social services and housing for AIDS patients. He worked tirelessly for many political candidates, including his good friend Council Member Philip Reed. Jesse also served in and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps; he died of AIDS in 1998. Three Parks named this award to honor Jesse's special contribution to the Club and to our community.

At this year's May 3rd benefit, the award was presented to Doreen Wohl and the West Side Campaign Against Hunger for their efforts to combat poverty and hunger—a fitting tribute to a group that carries on Jesse's tradition of helping to improve the lives of those around us.

## Judicial Delegate Election Results

The results of the Three Parks March judicial delegate election were as follows: Theresa Canter (69 votes), Alan Flacks (65), Milivoy Samurovich (64), and Elizabeth Kellner (62) were elected as delegates to the Judicial Supreme Court Convention. Lynn Max (60), Corinne Pettey (59), Judy Wood (58), and Ernestine Gallagher (56) were elected as alternate delegates.

## Campaign for a Sweatshop Free Upper West Side

By Cynthia Doty

In May, the *Justice Will Be Served* organization (our 2008 Annual Fundraiser Honorees) will kick off a campaign to ask local shop and restaurant owners to take a pledge that they will obey existing labor laws and treat their workers fairly rather than resort to sweatshop practices.

*Justice Will Be Served*, along with Upper West Side Democratic leaders and clubs, is organizing a grassroots community effort to go door to door to all the stores in our neighborhood to discuss this pledge and the issues of fair wages and working standards. Watch for specific dates and details as we get organized, but if you would like to join this effort, please contact Cynthia Doty at 212-749-4085.

Outreach efforts are expected to get underway in mid-May and to extend throughout the summer with a goal to have hundreds of our local businesses proudly displaying their pledge stickers so all customers will know whom to patronize when they shop. We should support those who believe in treating their workers with respect and decency...not as slave labor!



## SELECTED EVENTS

### NEW YORK CITY RENT GUIDELINES BOARD REMAINING 2009 MEETINGS & HEARINGS

Thursday, June 4, 2009, 9:30 AM to Noon  
Public Meeting  
Department of City Planning, Spector Hall  
22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10 AM to 6 PM  
Public Hearing with Public Testimony  
The Great Hall at Cooper Union  
7 East 7th Street at corner of 3rd Ave. (basement)  
New York, NY 10003

Tuesday, June 23, 2009 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
Public Meeting - FINAL VOTE  
The Great Hall at Cooper Union  
7 East 7th Street at corner of 3rd Ave. (basement)  
New York, NY 10003

### **Labor's Stake in Health Care for All**

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8 PM  
NYC Central Labor Council and Rekindling Reform invite you to hear  
Leo Gerard, International President United Steelworkers & Co-Chair AFL-CIO Health Care Policy Committee

Place: SEIU 32/BJ  
01 Sixth Avenue, 1 block north of Canal  
Subways: A,C,E, 1,2,3 to Canal

### **Financial Education & Today's Economy: Information You Can Use**

Thurs., May 7th 2009, 6:30 PM

Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell will host an opportunity for the community to get answers to personal finance questions, including pensions and retirement, New York's 529 College Savings Program, and unclaimed funds.

Place: Goddard Riverside Community Center  
593 Columbus Ave. @ West 88th Street

### **Preserve and Protect West End Avenue**

Thurs. May 14, 2009, 6:30- 8:30 PM

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and the West End Preservation Society are sponsoring a discussion on the newly released study on preserving historic West End Avenue.

Place: West Side Institutional Synagogue  
120 West 76<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Theaters, Movie Houses and Stars of the Upper West Side: From Vaudeville to the Present**

Thurs., May 28, 2009, 6 PM, Free Event

Gary Dennis. Film Historian and Former Owner of Movie Place

Place: Bloomingdale Library, 150 West 100<sup>th</sup> Street  
(between Columbus and Amsterdam Ave.)  
Second Floor

## **MAYOR MIKE**

By Judy Wood

The Mayor's budget proposal released this week includes a sales tax increase, the most regressive tax there is. He claims that a progressive income tax on the wealthiest New Yorkers would drive people to leave the city. (the usual nonsense claim we hear every time). He once again proves that he is out of touch with the prevailing philosophy as both Albany and Washington are going the

progressive tax route rather than taxing the working class. Will the City Council find the spine to dispose of his plan and stand up for progressivism and fairness in our city rather than balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it?

A profile in courage is called for. We await their action

The submission deadline for the next newsletter is May 27, 2009



## **Health Care Committee Report**

By Steve Max, Chair

The committee has reached its goal of one thousand petition signatures for the Single Payer legislation also known as Medicare for All or HR 676. Congratulations and thanks to all the members who were out on the street gathering signatures. Our President, Daniele Gerard has personally delivered letters to our Senators and Congressman Rangel telling them that the club would like to meet with them to deliver the petitions and discuss the issues. We will keep everyone informed of their responses.

A new version of the Single Payer slide show from a recent club meeting is now available on a disk complete with narration. It is also on the club health care web page. If you would like a copy, contact Steve Max at [stevemax@mindspring.com](mailto:stevemax@mindspring.com). Our response to distortions made by Senator Grassley about the public option in a mixed public-private health plan is included in this newsletter, in a shortened version, and a complete version has been added to the web page along with the glossary of health care debate terms.

**TPID Response to Senator Grassley's Remarks  
Opposing a Public Health Care Option, Iowa Town Hall Meeting, 4/9/09**

Senator Grassley	Three Parks Independent Democrats
People do not want to be forced into a one-size-fits-all plan.	The public option is just that—optional. No one will be forced into it. There is also no reason there can't be several different plans within the public option. <b>The goal is a payment system that provides affordable, quality health care for all Americans.</b>
If we have a public option, 119 million people will opt out of private plans and the shock would undermine the economy. Health care is 16% of the economy and we can't risk a dramatic downturn and another bailout.	The Senator should not use fear tactics to have it both ways. First, he says that people don't want to be forced into a public plan, but then he states that fully 59% of the people with private plans would opt out of them given a choice!  Private, public and single payer insurance is simply different ways of paying the doctor. Health care would continue to be a major part of the economy, except that public plans are less wasteful and costly to administer. Moreover, covering an additional 46 million people who are currently uninsured will boost the economy because of additional spending.
Under Medicare, doctors get paid too little and are leaving the system. Doctors are leaving poor and rural areas.	"While Medicare fees have declined in real terms since the mid-1990s, the trend for private insurer payments to physicians has lagged even more: in 1995, commercial fees were 1.43 times Medicare fees on average; by 2003 this fee ratio had fallen to 1.23." Doctors' fees, while among the highest of the professions, have been declining across the board.  Elected officials, particularly Republicans, should stop attacking Medicare and fund it fully so doctors can be adequately reimbursed.  Of course, there will always be some doctors who want to treat only the wealthy. A single payer system would remedy this problem because while doctors would continue to practice independently, they would be within the overall fee structure of the plan.
If the new system is completely based on private insurance, with no public option, there will be more insurance companies coming into the health field, which will increase competition and reduce costs.	Between 1997 and 2002, the most recent years for which we have comparable data, the number of direct health and medical insurance carriers rose by 37.6% and their annual payroll rose by 80%. There is no indication that this brought down health insurance costs. In fact, just the opposite has happened. "Gains in health insurance costs began to outstrip those of all benefits during 1998 and 1999. Since 1999, the gap between health insurance costs and total benefit costs has widened, as health insurance costs began to rise sharply."  Insurance premiums are primarily a function of the underlying costs of health care, the risk factor, administrative costs, income from financial speculation, if any, and profits. Most of these factors are not subject to reduction through competition. Increasing the number of insurance companies simply complicates the task of collecting from them and drives up administrative costs of providers.
President Obama promised that people who liked their health plans could keep them. If there is a public option, employers will abandon private plans and the President's promises will not be kept. Therefore, we can't have a public option.	The President promised that his plan would not require that people give up insurance they wanted to keep; he did not pledge to keep every existing plan in business. In fact, U.S. employers point to their health insurance plans as obstacles to competing with companies located in countries with national (single payer) health care.  The reality is that employment-based health care is diminishing and becoming unaffordable: between 2000 and 2005, the percentage of employers offering health plans dropped from 70% to 60%. Among large employers (200 or more employees), the percentage covering Medicare eligible retirees dropped from 66% in 1988 to 31% in 2008. The average premium paid by covered workers rose from \$1,543 in 1999 to \$3,354 in 2008. Finally, from 2000 to 2007, the number of people in employment-based plans decreased by about two million, while the number in government plans (Medicare, Medicaid and the VA) increased by 14 million.
Doctors and patients must make medical decisions, not the government.	Of course, no one would disagree with this statement, but Senator Grassley uses it to promote the myth that public insurance will intrude into treatment, while private insurance will allow doctors to act in the best interest of the patient. Under the current private-based system, however, just such an intrusion is thoroughly documented. For example, the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) recently reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 93% of New York members complain they have had to change their choice of prescription medications because of insurance carrier restrictions;</li> <li>▪ 92% of New York physicians agree with the statement: "Insurance company financial incentives or disincentives to physicians regarding treatment protocols may not be in the best interest of their patients"; and</li> <li>▪ 87% of New York physicians say that insurance companies pressure them "to prescribe a course of treatment based on cost rather than on what may be best for the patient."</li> </ul>

Please go to [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) for the Club's response, including footnotes.

## Eligible Voters for May 2009 Meetings

This list reflects dues paid for 2009 as of May 1, 2009, plus attendance at one meeting in the previous six months in accordance with the Club Constitution.

### Eligible to Vote

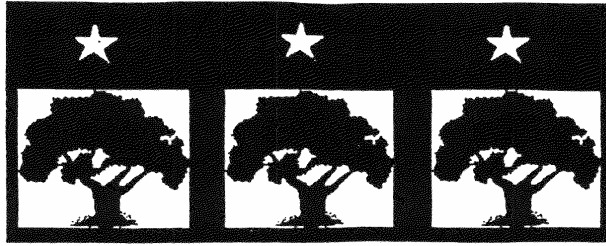
Cyrus Adler  
Jennifer Altman  
Stephanie Andrew  
Ralph Andrew  
Susan Andrews  
Anna Avila  
Emily Baldwin  
Susan J. Baldwin  
William Baldwin  
Robert Bardin  
J. Thomas Barnard  
Bobbie Beck  
Thomas Becker  
Margret Beels  
Richard Bellman  
Shoshannah Benmosche  
Marvin Berkowitz  
Joan Bondell  
Bob Botfeld  
Marla Brunker  
Nicholas Bryan  
Theresa Canter  
Jacqueline Carhart  
Dan Cohen  
Alex J. Colgan  
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  
Timothy Foley  
Elizabeth Forel  
Brian Fox  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Arlene Geiger  
Mary J. Geissman  
Daniele Gerard  
Joseph Gianono  
Louisa Gilbert  
Robert Ginsberg  
Pilar Gomez  
Bernice N. Gordon  
Sherry Gorelick  
Bonnie Gould  
Ed Gragert  
Jannie Green  
Jacob Gross  
Marion Harris  
Janet Harvilchuck  
Raymond Hoey  
Cynthia M. Holden  
Rodney Holman  
Jacqueline Huey  
Sally Jacobs

Juanita Jones  
Micky Josephs  
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  
Lisa Lemish-Lazarus  
Joan Levinson  
Estelle Levy  
Marie Lunn  
Betsy Malcolm  
Joel Mandelbaum  
Bruce Markens  
Mary Ann Marks  
Lynn Bender Max  
Danny Max  
Stephen Max  
Connie Max  
Merle McEldowney  
George McGuinness  
Alex Medwedew  
Ernest Mehler  
Dorothy Mehler  
Minda Meister  
Gail Meyers  
Batya Miller  
Ruther J. Miller  
Martin Morand  
Brenda Morgan  
John Newell  
Joan Ogden  
Elizabeth Olana  
Marianne Olmstd  
Diane Ostrofsky  
Iretta Owens  
Joshua Pepper  
Hank Perlin  
Wilhelmina Perry  
Annie Petrus  
Corine Pettet  
Geraldine Phillips  
Rose Podrasky  
Steve Poppel  
Lisa Anne Prochazka  
Florence Puccetti-Hepner  
Stephen Randazzo  
Anne Raphael  
Fred Reichman  
Patricia Reilly  
William Reilly  
Carol Reisner  
Eve Remba

Jonathan Rubin  
Suzanne Samelson  
Milivoy Samurovich  
Eugene Sarver  
Carl Joseph Scalise  
Alma Schieren  
Rosalind Schmall  
Doris Schreiber  
Ray Schwartz  
Judy Segal  
Barry N. Sher  
Ann Shirazi  
Ahmad Shirazi  
Irene Shrier  
Vicki Slate  
Gladys Smith  
Calvin Snyder  
Judith Solomon  
Mildred Speiser  
Anna Lee Spiro  
Dick Starkey  
Elizabeth Starkey  
Roschel Holland Stearns  
Michael Stearns  
Stephen Stearns  
Gloria Swanson  
Donna Tapper  
Clara Taylor  
Stephanie Tegnazian  
Ruth Tepper  
Deborah Thomas  
Lynn Thomas  
Jane Thompson  
Yara Trokel  
Ken Tulloch  
Ruben Vargas  
George Voorhis  
Yvonne Vulliemoz  
Tim Walsh  
Mike Watson  
Pamela Wax  
Eileen Weiss  
Jeri Wellman  
Lauren A. Williams  
Rosetta Williams  
Judy Wood  
Dan Woods  
Vernita Worrell  
Gloria Zeche  
Marlene Zucker  
Tamar Zucker  
Ariel Zucker-Brull

### Eligible If Dues Are Paid

Lucille Donovan  
Dayle Frick  
John Hurley  
Arlene Patete Hurley  
Kathy Rothschild  
Caryl Young



*THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

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, May 13, 2009**

**Forum for Candidates for City Council & Public Advocate  
Endorsement Votes for Mayor, Comptroller,  
Public Advocate & District Leaders**

## **ADDITIONAL MAY MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009**

**Panel: The Future of NYC Public Schools  
Endorsement Votes for DA, City Council & Boro. Pres.**