

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

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# **MAY 12, 2010**

**FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS:** FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S. SENATE, CONGRESS, and STATE COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, MAY 12, 2010

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**PLACE:** American Youth Hostels  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

**ROOM:** Chapel/Ballroom

## **AGENDA**

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. FORUM FOR CANDIDATES
3. Endorsement votes for Assembly and U.S. Senate
4. New Business
5. Adjournment

## **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, May 26, 2010 \*NOTE DATE\***

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 7 PM**

**Three Parks Club Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

**Three Parks Club Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 23, 2010**

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, September 1, 2010 \*NOTE DATE\***

**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**TUESDAY, September 7, 2010 \*NOTE DATE\***

**Three Parks Club Meeting, 8 PM**

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Last month's meeting was fast-paced and informative. Our thanks go out to all the candidates who spoke to the membership or sent surrogates: State Senator Eric Schneiderman, State Senator Bill Perkins, Assembly Member Richard Brodsky, Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat, District Leader Mark Levine, Anna Lewis, and Council Member Gale Brewer for Senator Gillibrand. We also heard from candidates for judicial delegate to the September 2010 convention. Voting results are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The May 12 club meeting promises to be just as jam-packed. We are scheduled to hear from candidates (or their surrogates) for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, U.S. Senate, Congress, and State Committee. Members will be given an opportunity to speak on behalf of or against those running. We will also hold endorsement votes for Assembly and U.S. Senate.

Information for a call to action on gas drilling, directed to the Governor and the Commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, will be available at the meeting. So come prepared to voice your concerns! We've already seen what the grassroots can do—led by Landmark West, we've defeated a proposal to put bubbles over the Central Park tennis courts. Let's all keep working together to advocate for an actual ban on hydraulic fracturing across New York State.

Comptroller John Liu will address the May 26 club meeting about the State and City budgets; this year's candidates for Civil Court will also be stopping by to seek our support. Once again, members will be given an opportunity to speak on behalf of or against candidates. We will also hold endorsement votes for various offices. Be on the lookout for a postcard reminding you about this recently scheduled additional meeting.

Please note that the Three Parks September meeting has been scheduled for the first TUESDAY of the month, September 7, due to the Jewish holidays and the need to have a meeting before the September 14 primary. Mark your calendars now.

Finally, thanks to all of you for making the Three Parks 35th Annual Benefit a huge success—more to follow in the June newsletter.

## Fear of Sunshine

By Ed Sullivan

For a whole week in April, in each day's *New York Post*, there was a story attacking New York State Senator Bill Perkins for having the audacity to hold a Senate hearing examining the phenomenon of charter schools and their impact on education in New York State. The anti-Perkins diatribes in Rupert Murdoch's *Post* focused on two matters:

- that Bill Perkins, a critic of charter schools, got a scholarship to Collegiate Prep School back in the 1960s as part of its effort to reach out to disadvantaged students—this scholarship has rendered his criticism of charter schools hypocritical and
- that Bill Perkins received campaign contributions from the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) in his campaigns for State Senate, thereby explaining his lack of enthusiasm for charter schools.

(I myself received a scholarship to a private high school when I was young, so perhaps I am prejudiced, but I never realized that I was thereby disqualified, forever, from discussing public school issues.)

Bill Perkins justified Collegiate's faith in him by going on to win a scholarship to Brown University and has used his education to develop a successful career in public service in both the City Council and State Senate. He is often mentioned as a possible successor to Charlie Rangel in the House of Representatives. Good job, Collegiate. Good job, Bill Perkins. Or so one might say if one were not insistent that people who benefit from the establishment's occasional lapses into egalitarianism must forever be gratefully silent. When the establishment invents devices for crushing the vast majority of New York school children under the weight of established power, we must be silent? Really?

Perkins's accusers actually claim that his mother "pulled strings" to get her son special treatment at Collegiate. Pulled strings? How? She was a Harlem mother trying to give her child a better education. The accusation could be dismissed as the bleating of morons, except that the morons

are well-placed operatives in the right wing media of our city and country, big supporters of charter schools. As to the UFT contributions, the UFT routinely gives the maximum allowable amount to the campaigns of friendly legislators that look to be winners in upcoming elections. Perkins did not receive the maximum; he received less. One State Senator who did receive maximum contributions from the UFT is Craig Johnson, who supports charter schools, and who was present at the hearing at the invitation of Senator Perkins.

But these are actual facts, not the *Post's* forte. The *Post* wants to link the Bill Perkins with the UFT because the UFT, and teachers' unions around the country, are main targets of the charter movement. Unions make it difficult to fire experienced teachers, whose pay reflects their years of service, and hire younger, cheaper teachers. After all, how can a business make money if so much of the income is going to those who actually do the work? Moreover, teachers' unions, as a group, contribute a great deal to American political campaigns, and most of their money goes to liberal politicians. It's the liberals who tend to vote for larger school budgets. Conservatives tend to vote for tax cuts, thus smaller school budgets.

## A Different View of the State Budget Debate

By Steve Max

Reports of the budget fight in Albany depict Governor Paterson responsibly balancing the budget with spending cuts and syrup taxes while, for reasons of "politics" or personal perversity, wayward legislators obstruct his every effort. This is no doubt accurate, but whether budget cuts are the solution is questionable.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "New York's governor is proposing a \$1.1 billion cut to state education aid; more than \$400 million in reduced payments to health care providers and about \$100 million in other health-related cuts; \$143 million in funding cuts for four-year public colleges and cuts to a financial aid program serving students from low- and moderate-income families; and the elimination of state revenue-sharing aid to New York City along with a reduction in revenue-sharing aid to other localities." (4/19/10)

Budget cuts make sense depending largely on what one expects of the economy. If an upturn soon brings more tax revenue, cuts can be quickly restored. Borrowing to bridge the gap, however, would be far less disruptive. With prolonged slow growth, it is simply insane to go on cutting the budget year after year as social needs increase and services languish. By virtue of geography, New York's economy is somewhat more related to Wall Street profits than Main Street jobs. Although profits are rising again, the national outlook for overall economic growth is weak. The first quarter projection for 2010 shows real economic growth slowing from the end of last year to 3.2 percent. The Congressional Budget Office projections have the growth rate rising slowly to 4.8 percent in 2014 and then dropping back to the low 2's for the rest of the decade. Compare that to pre-recession growth rates of 6.5 percent in 2004 and 2005 and 6 percent in 2006, and it becomes clear that the good times are not soon returning.

In this situation, tax increases make more sense than budget cuts. Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia and Peter Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, have both argued that spending cuts can actually be more harmful to a state's economy than tax increases on high incomes. They, and 125 other economists, wrote in a 2008 letter to Governor Paterson:

"Economic theory and historical experience give a clear and unambiguous answer: it is economically preferable to raise taxes on those with high incomes than to cut state expenditures. The reasoning is straightforward: in a recession, you want to raise (or not decrease) the level of total spending. ... Raising taxes on high income households also will reduce spending, but by much less than the amount of the tax increase since those with plenty of income typically spend only a fraction of their income. By contrast, almost every dollar of state and local government spending on transfer payments to the needy and for the salaries of public servants providing vital services to our communities enters the local economy right away, generating a greater economic impact. The New York local spending impact difference is even greater when you consider that much of the higher state income tax will be deductible against federal income taxes, and that non-residents who commute to high-paying jobs in New York will pay much of the increase."

[http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/FPI\\_Release\\_EconomistsOnFiscalPolicy\\_December2008.pdf](http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/FPI_Release_EconomistsOnFiscalPolicy_December2008.pdf)

At the federal level, the effective tax rate on million dollar plus incomes was reduced from 32 percent to 22 percent (1992 - 2007) largely as a result of lowering taxes on investment income. Restoring it to the previous level would also raise NY State taxes that are pegged to the federal tax. The share of corporate income taxes has dropped dramatically in New York State and should be increased as well. Balancing the budget on the backs of everyone but those most able to pay is not only fiscally unsound but also morally reprehensible.

## Resist Racial Profiling in Arizona!

By Tim Walsh

As you know, on Friday, April 23, Jan Brewer, the governor of Arizona, signed anti-immigrant legislation that makes racial profiling in that state legal. The law requires Arizona law enforcement officers to stop and detain people if they "have a reasonable suspicion" that they may be undocumented immigrants. Mobilization of resistance to this legislation (Arizona SB 1070) has begun. Please sign a petition at either [ColorofChange.org](http://colorofchange.org) <http://www.colorofchange.org/sb1070/?id=2057-697864> or [Presente.org](http://presente.org) <http://presente.org/campaigns/shame>

You can get additional information on the law and its potential effects on civil rights at the United Farmworkers Web site: [http://ufw.sollink.net/\\_board.php?mode=view&b\\_code=cre\\_leg\\_back&b\\_no=6408](http://ufw.sollink.net/_board.php?mode=view&b_code=cre_leg_back&b_no=6408)

## Condolences

It is with deep regret that Three Parks Independent Democrats announces the passing of Gloria Swanson, a longtime member and active participant in the Club. We will miss her.

## Judicial Delegate Endorsement

The judicial delegate endorsement vote was held during the April 2010 meeting. There were eight candidates for the four delegate and four alternate positions. The delegates endorsed were Canter (40), Flacks (56), Kellner (40), Pettey (36). The

alternates endorsed were Gallagher (35), Davenport (32), McEldowney (34), and Samurovich (36). Since there was a tie between two candidates with the fourth highest totals, Corine Pettey and Milivoy Samurovich, they agreed to break the tie with a coin flip, which Corine won.

## Central Park Tennis Courts— Round One

By Merle McEldowney

Following vigorous community opposition, the Parks Department has decided to drop its controversial plan to put up tennis bubbles in Central Park during winter months.

It's not over 'til it's over—Parks Commissioner Benepe has indicated that if they can figure out how to get electricity to the park to run the bubble, they will still try to build tennis bubbles.

Watch the Three Parks Web site for the location and time of the May 13 CB 7 meeting and try to be there! The problem of noise from the generators is solved, but the Parks Commission is still recommending bubbles that are 3 ½ stories tall that will have lights on all night. Bubbles will block the view of the trees that the Park's designers thought were critical to the Park's beauty. Eliminating the noise will not take away the fact that the West Side tennis courts in the 90's will be available only for people who can afford to pay \$100.00 an hour.

## New York State Democratic Party Convention

Tuesday, May 25 to Thursday, May 27, 2010  
Rye, New York

For more information, see State Committee Members Lynn Thomas and Larry Hirsch or District Leaders Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty

## Eligible Voters Three Parks Democrats – May 12, 2010

In accordance with the Three Parks Constitution, a member is eligible to vote at an endorsement meeting if dues have been paid for the current year and the member has attended at least one meeting, as a member, in the six months prior to the endorsement meeting. New memberships becomes effective 30 days after the first dues payment. Membership from the previous year lapses if dues are not paid by the Annual Meeting held in February of the current year. Members who were in good standing (dues paid) during the previous year but whose membership has lapsed, may reinstate themselves by paying dues before or at the endorsement meeting. Additional members may become eligible to vote by the second endorsement meeting on May 26. Members are urged to pay dues by check.

### Voters Eligible May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

Cyrus	Adler
Seth	Andrew
Ralph	Andrew
Mollie	Bailey
William	Baldwin
Emily	Baldwin
Susan J.	Baldwin
Robert	Bardin
Margret	Beels
Shoshannah	Benmosche
Susan	Bernofsky
Joan	Bondell
Bob	Botfeld
Marla	Brunker
David	Camacho
Theresa	Canter
Daniel	Clark
Dan	Cohen
Alex J.	Colgan
Margaret	Collins
Luanne	Corea
John	Davenport
Alex	Donn
Lucille	Donovan
Lucille M.	Donte
Cynthia	Doty
Renna	Draynel
Bernadette	Evangelist
Gerry Ann	Fifer
Alan	Flacks
Ellen	Flax
Jill	Freeman
Ernestine	Gallagher
Mary J.	Geissman
Daniele	Gerard
Joseph	Gianono
Louisa	Gilbert
Robert	Ginsberg
Simon	Ginsberg
Elizabeth	Ginsberg
Thomas	Goggin
Pilar	Gomez
Aramis	Gomez
Elizabeth	Gomez

### Voters Eligible May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

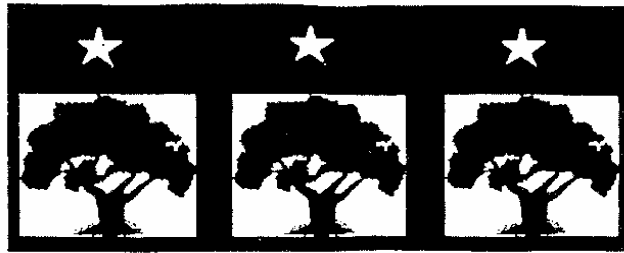
Bonnie	Gould
Janet	Harvilchuck
Jacqueline	Huey
Laura Sally	Jacobs
Ulla	Jorgensen
Micky	Josephs
David C.	Kaplan
Rita	Kardeman
Michael	Katz
Douglas	Kellner
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Erland	Kimmich
Jerry	Koenig
Iris J.	Korman
Kenneth	Laufer
Marguerite	Lavin
David	Lazarus
Barbara	Lee
Gail	Leinwall
Robert	Leuze
Marie	Lunn
Betsy	Malcolm
Joel	Mandelbaum
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Kathleen	Martin
Stephen	Max
Lynn Bender	Max
Merle	McEldowney
George	McGuinness
Alex	Medwedew
Ernest	Mehler
Dorothy	Mehler
Minda	Meister
Gail	Meyers
Batya	Miller
Christopher	Mooney
Martin	Morand
Brenda	Morgan
John	Newell
Joan	Ogden
Diane	Ostrofsky
Iretta	Owens
Joshua	Pepper

## Voters Eligible May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

Corine	Petty
Russell	Pinsley
Rose	Podrasky
Lisa Anne	Prochazka
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner
Carol	Reisner
Eve	Remba
Jonathan	Rubin
Suzanne	Samelson
K.	Samuels
Christine	Samurovich
Milivoy	Samurovich
Ken	Sandler
Eugene	Sarver
Carl Joseph	Scalise
Alma	Schieren
Doris	Schreiber
Ray	Schwartz
Judy	Segal
Barry N.	Sher
Jacob	Sher
Ahmad	Shirazi
Ann	Shirazi
Irene	Shrier
Anna Lee	Spiro
Alan	Spitz
Roschel Holland	Stearns
Michael	Stearns
Donna	Tapper
Clara	Taylor
Stephanie	Tegnazian
Ruth	Tepper
Lynn	Thomas
Deborah	Thomas
Ken	Tulloch
Cathy	Unsino
Ruben	Vargas
George	Voorhis
Yvonne	Vulliemoz
Tim	Walsh
Jonathan	Weil
Lauren A.	Williams
Rosetta	Williams
Susan E.	Wilson
Judy	Wood
Dan	Woods
Vernita	Worrell
Jenna	Zak
Gloria	Zeche
Marlene	Zucker
Tamar	Zucker
Ariel	Zucker-Brull

## Voters Eligible if Paid - May 2010

Jennifer	Altman
Susan	Andrews
Elinor	Cohen
Wendy	Dannett
Maxine	De Seta
Arlene	Geiger
Helen	Karlan
Joan	Levinson
Barbara	Milton
Hank	Perlin
Geraldine	Phillips
Mary	Rocco
Vicki	Slate
Judith	Solomon
Mildred	Speiser
Jane	Thompson
Mike	Watson



*THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS*

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Please pay your 2010 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*

**2010 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 pay your dues with a check or via PayPal--cash and money orders are far more difficult to process. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2010\*\*\*\***

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

**NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12**

**FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR,  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S.  
SENATE, CONGRESS, and STATE COMMITTEE**