

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

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, N.Y. 10025 ♦ (212) 539-7602

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

### ***President***

Daniele Gerard

### ***Editor***

Lauren Williams  
(laurenwilliams1@cs.com)

### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

# **MAY 9, 2012**

**FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS:** ENDORSEMENT MEETING for State Senate, State Assembly, State Committee, Civil Court, and Surrogate's Court and PANEL on GREEN ALTERNATIVES TO POWER NEW YORK—Get the Facts on Renewables, Efficiency, and Conservation: Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; Clare Donohue, Co-founder, Sane Energy Project; Max Joel, Director, Energy Connections Program & NYSERDA Coordinator, Solar One

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**PLACE:** The Youth Hostel  
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. District Leaders' Reports
3. Endorsement discussion and votes
4. Green Alternatives Panel
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

## **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, May 23, 2012**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2012**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**Wednesday, June 27, 2012**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Thanks to all our speakers at the Three Parks candidates forum on April 11: State Senator Bill Perkins, Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, and judges Barbara Jaffe and Rita Mella, who are running for Surrogate's Court. Thanks also to Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito for updating us on participatory budgeting.

At the May 9 meeting, eligible members will discuss the various candidates for State Senate, Assembly, State Committee, Civil Court, and Surrogate's Court and vote for all of these offices. Immediately following, we will present our panel on Green Alternatives to Power New York – Get the Facts on Renewables, Efficiency, and Conservation. We are lucky to have several experts on the current outlook for New York:

Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. Founded in 1991, the NYC-EJA is a non-profit citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in the struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA played a major role in the writing of legislation about PlaNYc and NYC's sustainability initiatives, the city's waste management plan, NYS power plant siting, brownfield redevelopment, green buildings, and climate change impacts.

Clare Donohue helped found the Sane Energy Project in January 2011, which is organizing grassroots activity to stop the Spectra Pipeline and promote a renewable energy future for New York City. Having grown up in the Catskills, she became involved in the fight against fracking after a friend mentioned that drilling was planned near the Pepacton Reservoir and famed Beaverkill River. A kitchen and bath designer, Clare is also a member of CDOG (pronounced SEE-dawg) and United for Action and one of the organizers of the Renew New York discussion series that most recently hosted "The Boiler Dilemma" panel.

Max Joel is Director, Energy Connections Program, NYSEDA Energy Smart Communities Coordinator, Solar One. A green energy, arts, and education center located near Stuyvesant Town, Solar One is home to New York City's only all-native species park and first standalone solar-powered building. The organization works to create a greener City through education, outreach, and the arts.

Finally, the club's 37th Annual benefit on April 1 at Café Frida was an immense success – we hosted 100 guests and friends of Three Parks to honor Assembly Member Glick and Community Voices Heard. A splendid time was had by all! On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all our

supporters for making possible the work Three Parks does and will continue to do at our upcoming storefront.

## District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

### City Planning Commission approves UWS Retail Zoning Plan

On Monday, April 23, it was reported that the New York City Planning Commission (CPC) has approved the UWS Retail Zoning Plan with minor modifications. The UWS Retail Zoning Plan was developed to help protect the small, independent retailers and restaurants on the Upper West Side. The CPC's decision followed a contentious public hearing on April 11 at the Department of City Planning at 22 Reade Street. In an effort to show local opposition to the proposed zoning, several landlord associations brought over twenty paid lobbyists to the hearing to give testimony opposing the Retail Zoning Plan. Defending the plan were Councilmember Gail Brewer, who initiated and sponsored the plan; Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito; the past and present chairs of Community Board 7, Mel Wymore and Mark Diller; and most importantly demonstrating overwhelming local support by testifying and representing over ninety local businesses were Three Parks Independent Democrats members Bob Botfeld, Isabel Caputo, Cynthia Doty, Merle McEldowney, Corine Pettet, Lynn Max, Brenda Morgan, State Committee Member Lynn Thomas, and Lauren Williams. The Three Parks members spoke eloquently about how the small businesses were important to them and our community and also read the submitted testimonials of our local merchants. The Three Parks contingent successfully prevented the lobbyists from dominating the hearing.

The last minute CPC modification will allow properties which currently have tenants with greater than 40 foot wide street level stores to be grandfathered, i.e. the landlord will always be able to rent the overly wide space to a new tenant. Under the original proposal, if a 40 foot plus wide store remained vacant for more than two years, the space would then become subject to the 40 foot limit. While there are 37 properties that will be impacted on the UWS in the proposed modification, the Three Parks area of the proposed zoning plan will scarcely be affected since we have only one or two properties that could be grandfathered.

The City Council is expected to vote on the UWS Retail Zoning plan within the next two months.

**Save the Date!**

June 26, 2012

Congressional Primary

## FRACKONOMICS

By Erl Kimmich and Merle McEldowney

About 600 people overflowed the pews of the Society for Ethical Culture on Tuesday, April 24 to hear three renowned experts debunk the financial myths of shale gas drilling and point us toward a green energy future.

Deborah Rogers outlined the economic realities of hydraulic fracturing by underscoring the vast difference between resources, the amount of gas geologists believe is in the ground, and reserves, the amount actually recoverable with current technology. So although there may be 100 years of resources, current estimates show only about eleven years of accessible reserves. Because, according to Rogers, the goal of some in the industry is to raise the price of their companies' stock, they publicize the amount of resources in the shale and the amount of energy these resources could provide to impress stock analysts in brokerage firms. It is these analysts who in turn evaluate a stock and encourage people to buy it to raise prices – all based on the illusion that resources equal actual reserves.

Jannette Barth, a Ph.D economist known for her intensively data based analyses of the economic effects of fracking, spoke next. Her research shows that towns in Texas and Oklahoma (states with decades-long experience with drilling) where there was drilling were no better off than towns where there was none. In fact, property values dropped in areas with drilling. "Extractive industries produce short-term booms followed by long-term busts," she said. New York State would likely suffer similarly from a loss of tourism and agriculture and a drop in property values if fracking were permitted here.

Al Appleton, former NYC DEP Commissioner, said he had no doubt that he could write the regulations necessary to make gas drilling safe *on paper*. In reality, however, there is no way to enforce such regulations. Appleton specifically mentioned the Environmental Defense Fund as an example of a major green organization that mistakenly believes that hydraulic fracturing can be effectively regulated. He pointed out that if we are going to invest billions of dollars in energy, we should be doing it in implementing conservation measures and kick-starting renewables.

Appleton closed by enumerating the tasks before us: stopping the Spectra Pipeline, banning hydraulic fracturing in New York State, educating our government officials, and electing policy makers who will lead us to a greener future. He urged us to "apply endless pressure endlessly."

Here's how you can do your part: Call and/or write to Governor Cuomo (212-681-4580) and Senator Gillibrand (212-688-6262) and tell them you want them to (1) institute a ban on fracking in New York State, (2) stop the Spectra

Pipeline, and (3) make New York State a nationwide leader in the development of sustainable energy.

Go to [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) to find all the information you'll need to make your voice heard. The Gas Drilling Web page has links to our elected officials making it even easier to write to them. In the meantime, on April 24, Three Parks delivered to Governor Cuomo, Senator Gillibrand, Representative Nadler, Borough President Stringer, and the Hudson River Park Trust 558 constituent letters calling on them to stop the Spectra Pipeline.

## Condolences

Sincere condolences to club member Bobbie Beck on the untimely death of her husband Richard Bellman. He too was a member and also a great civil rights lawyer. We have suffered a tremendous loss with his passing.

## State Committee Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

The lawsuit to resolve the redistricting mess continues. Shortly after my April column we learned that State Supreme Court Judge Rick Braun had ruled against us (the plaintiffs in *Cohen v. Cuomo*), and so we appealed to the NYS Court of Appeals, which is the highest court in the state and the court that will be the final word on the matter. Oral arguments were in Albany on April 26, and it was a "hot bench," which means that lots of questions were asked by the Court; and while not a sign of a decision one way or another, it is definitely a sign of interest in the case and shows that the judges may not have preconceived notions of their decision. Due to the timing of the case, an answer is expected shortly, particularly since petitioning for State Senate and Assembly seats begins in June, and we do not know what the district lines will be if they are overturned. The Court is aware of the time pressure and will render a decision quickly to allow time to redraw the lines – we anticipate that if we prevail the Court will refer the decision to the same three judge federal panel that drafted the congressional lines. This makes sense since the experts used in the congressional redistricting are standing by and they are familiar with data needed to draft the lines. Plus, since this activity would be supervised by federal judges, the lines would be in compliance with the Voting Rights Act which protects the interests of minority voters.

I also attended the United for Action (<http://unitedforaction.org/>) panel on gas fracking at the Society for Ethical Culture on April 24 (co-sponsored by Three Parks), and it was excellent. Three experts spoke, including economist Jannette Barth and Deborah Rogers – a former Wall Street financial consultant featured in a recent *Rolling Stone* article "The Big Fracking Bubble" (<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-big-fracking-bubble-the-scam-behind-the-gas-boom-20120301>) which is

really worth reading. The two women pointed out two very sobering points. Economist Barth examined county by county comparisons in other states (Texas, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania) and determined that economic activity and quality of life goes DOWN where fracking is permitted – income goes down, homelessness goes up, and crime goes up – all the opposite of what fracking supporters say will happen in New York if it is permitted. Barth's studies were based over years, through the boom, recession and recovery, to allow for changes in the national economy to be considered. Former analyst Rogers talked at length about how gas companies are "cooking their books" to increase the amount of debt that they can obtain from banks. The companies have grown accustomed to using wildly unrealistic numbers in the gas explorations. These

overinflated energy numbers, impossibly high expectations and overindulgence in leverage all sound familiar, said Rogers – just like Enron, the Texas-based energy company that went bust in 2001. Rogers pointed to Chesapeake Energy, the company highlighted in *Rolling Stone* and this week in the *New York Times* with a front page business section article about its financial irregularities and how its debt has been downgraded to junk status. Chesapeake's errors are (to borrow a Titanic reference in honor of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary) the tip of the iceberg. While we must continue the fight from an environmental perspective, it is also clear that a multi-pronged effort to expose the sham accounting of the gas fracking industry is beginning, and it is beginning to have an impact – and not a moment too soon.

## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS ELIGIBLE VOTERS MAY 9, 2012

### ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Cyrus	Adler
Ralph	Andrew
Susan	Andrews
Mollie	Bailey
William	Baldwin
Emily	Baldwin
Susan J.	Baldwin
Robert	Bardin
Samuel	Bartos
Margret	Beels
Shoshannah	Benmosche
Bob	Botfeld
Vincent	Brancato
Marla	Brunker
Jacqueline	Bukowski
David	Camacho
Theresa	Canter
Michael	Cohen
Daniel Marks	Cohen
Bette	Cohen
Alex J.	Colgan
Margaret	Collins
Wendy	Dannett
John	Davenport
Lucille M.	Donte
Cynthia	Doty
Renna	Draynel
Gerry Ann	Fifer
Alan	Flacks
Ellen	Flax
Ernestine	Gallagher
Martina	Garcia
Mary J.	Geissman
Daniele	Gerard

Louisa	Gilbert
Robert	Ginsberg
Thomas	Goggin
Pilar	Gomez
Robert	Gumbs
Adam	Haridopolos
Janet	Harvilchuck
Jacqueline	Huey
Brian	Jordan
Ulla	Jorgensen
Micky	Josephs
David C.	Kaplan
Rita	Kardeman
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Erlend	Kimmich
David	Kogelman
Kenneth	Laufer
Marguerite	Lavin
David	Lazarus
Barbara	Lee
Gail	Leinwall
Joan	Levinson
Estelle	Levy
Noah	Lichtman
Marie	Lunn
Betsy	Malcolm
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Stephen	Max
Lynn Bender	Max
Merle	McEldowney
Abigail	McGloster
George	McGuinness
Judith	Medina
Alex	Medwedew
Dorothy	Mehler

Ernest	Mehler
Minda	Meister
Gail	Meyers
Antonine	Momplaisir
Martin	Morand
Brenda	Morgan
Barbara	Morgan
Derrick	Mullins
Forrest C.	Murphy
John	Newell
Joan	Ogden
Joan	Paylo
Josh	Pepper
Hank	Perlin
Annie	Petrus
Corine	Petty
Geraldine	Phillips
Rose	Podrasky
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner
Carol	Reisner
Nathan	Riley
Suzanne	Samelson
Katherine	Samuels
Milivoy	Samurovich
Eugene	Sarver
Carl Joseph	Scalise
Doris	Schreiber
Ray	Schwartz
Judy	Segal

Barry N.	Sher
Jacob	Sher
Ann	Shirazi
Ahmad	Shirazi
Irene	Shrier
Mildred	Speiser
Allan	Spitz
Michael	Stearns
Roschel Holland	Stearns
Donna	Tapper
Clara	Taylor
Stephanie	Tegnazian
Lynn	Thomas
Deborah	Thomas
Jane	Thompson
Ken	Tulloch
Ruben	Vargas
George	Voorhis
Yvonne	Vullemoz
Isabella	Wagner
Ellen	Werner
Lauren A.	Williams
Rosetta	Williams
Jane	Wisdom
Judy	Wood
Dan	Woods
Vernita	Worrell
Gloria	Zeche
Ariel	Zucker-Brull

**ELIGIBLE IF PAID**

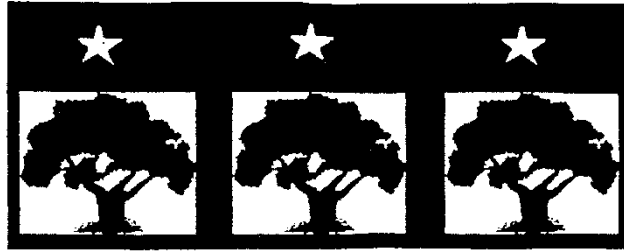
Susan	Andrews
Brian	Jordan
Eugene	Sarver

Members who were paid for 2011 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2012 dues.

New memberships become effective thirty days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the thirty day period and within six months of the election. Memberships that have lapsed prior to 2011 are considered new.

**Reminder: Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.**





*THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 539-7602

Please pay your 2012 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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## **2012 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 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 2012\*\*\*\***

*Three Parks Independent Democrats*  
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New York, N.Y. 10025

**NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9**

**ENDORSEMENT MEETING  
GREEN ALTERNATIVES TO POWER NEW YORK**