

## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas  
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## CLUB MEETING, MAY 11, 2016

- Topics:** City Council Legislation Updates and Outlook for New York State Senate Races
- Speakers:** Hon. Mark Levine, New York City Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Hon. Mike Gianaris, New York State Senate, 12<sup>th</sup> District (Invited)
- Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016
- Time:** 8:00 PM
- Place:** The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue At 103 Street
- Room:** Ballroom

### **AGENDA**

- 7:45 PM Sign-in
- 8:00 PM Call to Order
1. Candidates for Judicial Delegate
  2. District Leader Reports
  3. Speakers: New York City Councilmember  
Mark Levine (7<sup>th</sup> District)  
NYS Senator Mike Gianaris (12<sup>th</sup> District)
  4. Adjourn

### **CALENDAR**

- Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue
- Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue
- Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue
- Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

## President's Report

By Lauren Williams

The weeks since our April meeting were busy ones for Three Parks, our members, and other city voters. Our Annual Benefit, held May 1 at Mexican Festival Restaurant, was a wonderful show of support for Three Parks and our honorees—NYC Council Members Helen Rosenthal and Mark Levine, and the West End Preservation Society. Those attending had time to talk with many of our elected officials, as well as candidates seeking election to Congress, NYS Senate, and NYS Assembly, and candidates for Judge and Judicial Delegates. Three Parks extends our thanks to our elected officials, candidates, members, and community members who made our 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration such a big success.

April 19 saw many of our members and others cast their votes in the New York State Democratic Presidential Primary. Predictably, national attention has moved to primaries in other states and the coming national conventions. Let us hope that we can influence more voters to participate in our upcoming elections in June, September, and November and surpass the low April turnout. The months between now and November will provide ample occasions for to us work for candidates on the national, state, and local levels.

DeNora Getachew from the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice addressed a number of timely topics at our April membership meeting. She talked about the Center's national efforts on reducing incarceration rates, modernizing voting laws, and increasing access to the courts and in New York State. She cited trends to enact stricter voting laws (which 17 states have done since 2010) as well as ones by California, Oregon, and West Virginia to make voter registration easier. She noted positive actions in New York State like online voter registration through the DMV, efforts to improve ballot layouts, and the governor's introduction of legislation for early voting, automatic registration, and voting rights for those on parole. She said the Center, as a non-partisan law and policy institute, also provides strategic leadership for legislative and policy campaigns related to modernizing voter registration processes and reducing the influence of money in politics. We also heard from candidates for NYS Senate—Bill Perkins seeking reelection in the 30<sup>th</sup> District and Micah Lasher running in the 31<sup>st</sup> District.

At our meeting on May 11, we will hear about proposed bills before the City Council, including one that will charge for plastic bags. We also have invited a speaker from the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee to address efforts to regain a Democratic majority in the NYS

Senate. Club members eligible to vote will cast their ballots for endorsement of candidates for State Offices, State Committee, and Judicial Delegate.

## Planning for November Elections

By Cynthia Doty, District Leader

So very much is at stake this November, not the least of which is the fate of the Supreme Court. It is crucial that we have a Democratic victory for President as well as for the Senate and House. We also have a chance to win the NYS Senate for the Democrats.

In order to defeat the GOP and win big for the Democrats, we need our election-day operations here in New York City to run smoothly. To do that we need competent poll workers and many more of them. The past primary had lots of voter interest, but, November will see many more voters. Since we were short-staffed at many poll sites on April 19, we clearly need more workers for November. So please spread the word.

Interested applicants can apply online at [electiondayworker.com](http://electiondayworker.com). There will be training classes in the summer. Let's do our part to serve the voters by not only encouraging them to come to the polls, but ensuring that their votes are counted and their voting experience is a positive one.

## TPID 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Benefit

By Lorraine Zamora

Thanks to all our supporters of the Three Parks Annual Benefit, held on May 1 at the Mexican Festival Restaurant, honoring NYC Councilmembers Helen Rosenthal (6<sup>th</sup> District) and Mark Levine (7<sup>th</sup> District), and the West End Preservation Society.

Many club members, candidates and elected officials showed up to help celebrate our 41 years of activism on the Upper West Side—including U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressmen Charlie Rangel and Jerry Nadler, State Senators Adriano Espaillat and Bill Perkins, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Public Advocate Tish James, State Assemblymembers Daniel O'Donnell and Keith Wright, District Leaders Earl Scott, Curtis Arluck and Joan Paylo, State Democratic Committee members Lynn Thomas and Daniel Marks Cohen, and State Senate candidates Robert Jackson and Micah Lasher.

In addition, we welcomed retired judge Milton Tingling and Civil Court judge Ta-nisha James. Also attending were the following candidates—Supreme Court: Nancy Bannon, James D'Auguste, Erika Edwards, Shawn Kelly, Kelly O'Neill Levy, Lynn Kottler, Andrea Masley, Shari Michaels, Frank Nervo, Robert Reed, Lori Sattler, Carol Sharpe and Verna Saunders; Civil Court: Ariel Chesler,

Nicholas Moyne, Hilary Gingold, Erik Grey, John Hanshaft, Judy Kim, Sabrina Kraus, Megan McHugh, Kim Parker, Josh Pepper, Phaedra Perry, Richard Tsai and Kathleen Waterman. Douglas Kellner, NYS Co-Commissioner of Elections, Franz Leichter, former State Senator, and Shah Ally, Chair of Community Board #12, also attended the event. Kudos to all who helped make this year's celebration a grand success.

We especially thank our benefactors, patrons and sponsors listed below. The proceeds from the fundraiser will allow us to continue our political and social justice efforts and community outreach in the coming year.

#### **Benefactors**

Hon. Daniel Marks Cohen	Elizabeth Krob Kellner
David Hershey-Webb	Hon. Jerrold Nadler
Himmelstein, McConnell,	Hon Daniel O'Donnell
Gribben Donoghue & Joseph	Suba Pharmacy

#### **Patrons**

Hon. Adriano Espaillat	Hon. Bill Perkins
Louisa Gilbert	Albertha Toppins
Sharick Irizarry & Sal Tharani	Hon. Edward C. Wallace
Micah Laher & Elizabeth Mann	

#### **Sponsors**

Ralph Andrew	Hon. Carolyn Maloney
Hon. Curtis Arluck	Bruce Markens
Mort Berkowitz	Lynn & Steve Max
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Hon. Bob Botfeld	Brenda Morgan
Hon. Gale Brewer	Josh Pepper
Isaella Calisi-Wagner	Liz Samurovich
Wendy Dannett	Hon. Milivoy and
John and Batya Miller Davenport	Christine Samurovich
Mark Diller	Ray Schwartz
Hon. Cynthia Doty	N. G. Slater
Renna Draynel	Rachel Smit
Ellen Flax	Michael & Roschel
Mary Geissman	Holland Stearns
Daniele Gerard	Sarah Steiner
Audrey Isaacs & Norm Lafond	Hon. Lynn Thomas
Hon. Robert Jackson	Ellen J. Werner
Craig Kraus	Lauren A. Williams
Hon. Franz Leichter	Hon. Keith Wright
Hon. John C. Liu	Lorraine Zamora &
Betsy Malcolm	Richard Luna

#### **Candidates For Judicial Delegate**

The election of Judicial Delegates will take place at the May 11 TPID club meeting. Each candidate will have an opportunity to speak before voting begins. Voting will be from 8:30–9:15 pm.

**Theresa Canter** is a long-time member of Three Parks and currently serves as Membership Secretary. In addition to having served as a Judicial Delegate, she has been privileged to serve the club in the past as President, Vice

President and Treasurer. Having a keen interest in our Judiciary and a commitment to choosing judges with the necessary experience, temperament and integrity, she would be honored to again represent the club as a seasoned Judicial Delegate.

**Alan Flacks** is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is conversant with the procedures, and delegates seek his guidance. He is committed to the merit screening process, which he helped to establish. After each convention, he writes and circulates a report of the proceedings to club members and other interested people. A long-time TPID club member and Democratic County Committee member, Alan also has served as the club's membership director. His community and civic activities include his block association, the 24<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council, NAACP, and the St. Luke-Roosevelt Community Advisory Board.

**Audrey Isaacs** has been a very active Judicial Delegate/Alternate for the past four years. She's gone to the courtroom of each judge seeking elevation to Supreme Court Justice in an effort to see him/her presiding in judicial proceedings, and has compiled charts comparing qualifications of candidates for elevation to Supreme Court Justice. From 1975–2000, she was an attorney in private practice specializing in litigation, and has appeared for clients in state and federal courts, as well as city, state and federal agencies. She was an Administrative Law Judge (1996–2008), and was promoted in 2008 to supervise an administrative courthouse with four to five Administrative Judges.

**Bruce Markens** has served as a judicial delegate or alternate delegate four times, including being elected in the contested primary in 2013. As a delegate, he's used his independent judgment to support the most qualified candidates for the judiciary. He also has been on the Three Parks board for seven years, including a term as recording secretary, and has been active in many club activities. Bruce holds an advanced degree in political science and has a long-standing interest in legal and constitutional issues.

**Merle McEldowney** has served on the Three Parks board for five years. She believes that Three Parks represents the values that make NYC a better place to live, and that it is important that our judiciary reflects those values. When she retired from the NYC probation department, Merle became a probation officer in Family Court working on cases involved delinquent behavior, custody disputes and situations of neglect. Merle plans to use her experience to evaluate judicial candidates' values in order to make air decisions. She feels strongly that we should be able to select judges that will articulate the values of NYC in a manner that will convince other judges in other courts.

**Abigail McGloster** is a board member of Three Parks and is interested in being a Judicial Delegate/Alternate; she'd like to be part of the judicial process of selecting judges to serve our community. She's worked in the legal field as a paralegal and understands the legal process. In the screening process of choosing judges, she believes it's important that the candidates possess an excellent grasp of the law, maintain calm, be respectful to all parties appearing before them, and have the ability to balance justice.

**Stephanie Tegnazian** has been a Three Parks member for over two decades. She has attended county meetings for the planning stages of the Panel and gotten to know the judges by going to court to witness them "in action." She's proud of the heavy-lifting she's done to become well-informed and hopes that she will gain enough club support to become a judicial delegate and have an opportunity to vote at the convention.

Rama Rodvien  
Katherine Samuels  
Milivoy Samurovich  
Greg Samurovich  
Liz Samurovich  
Carl Joseph Scalise  
Doris Schreiber  
Gerald Schultz  
Jacob Sher  
John Slorance  
Rachel Smit  
Calvin Snyder  
Mildred Speiser  
Anna Lee Spiro  
Allan Spitz  
Roschel Holland Stearns  
Michael Stearns  
Stephanie Tegnazian  
Lynn Thomas  
Deborah Thomas  
Jane Thompson  
Barbara Trelstad  
Ken Tulloch

Ruben Vargas  
Jonathan Weil  
Edith Weil  
Lauren A. Williams  
M. Katherin Williston  
Judy Wood  
Lorraine Zamora  
Gloria Zeche  
Tamar Zucker  
Ariel Zucker-Brull

#### **Voters Eligible if Paid by May 11**

Marla Bruner  
Isabella Calisi-Wagner  
Adam Haridopolos  
Robert Ir  
Suzan Johnson-Cook  
Rita Kardeman  
Robert Leuze  
Christopher P. Scott  
Ann Shirazi  
Ahmad Shirazi  
Irene Shrier

### **Election of Judicial Delegates Voters Eligible May 2016**

Cyrus Adler	Jacqueline Huey
Jennifer Altman	Sharick Irizarry
Theo Atkins	Audrey Isaacs
Susan J. Baldwin	Emma Jenkins
William Baldwin	Russell Jenkins
Robert Bardin	David C. Kaplan
Patricia Barrera	Elizabeth Krob Kellner
Samuel Bartos	Erlend Kimmich
Margret Beels	Norman Lafond
Shoshannah Benmosche	Kenneth Laufer
Bob Botfeld	David Lazarus
Jacqueline Bukowski	Gail Leinwall
David Camacho	Anna Lewis
Theresa Canter	Marie Lunn
Daniel Marks Cohen	Betsy Malcolm
Christian Cordova	Bruce Markens
Mimi Daitz	Mary Ann Marks
Wendy Dannett	Lynn Bender Max
John Davenport	Stephen Max
Maxine DeSeta	Merle McEldowney
Susan Dess	Abigail McGloster
Irene Dess	George McGuinness
Cynthia Doty	Alex Medwedew
Renna Draynel	Minda Meister
Samantha Evans	Christopher Mooney
Gerry Ann Fifer	Brenda Morgan
Alan Flacks	Derrick Mullins
Ellen Flax	John Newell
Ernestine Gallagher	Joan Ogden
Martina Garcia	Michael Oliva
Mary J. Geissman	Mary Pasley
Daniele Gerard	Hank Perlin
Robert Ginsberg	Geraldine Phillips
Pilar Gomez	Elliot Podwill
Noah Gotbaum	Nicole Polier
Timothy Greene	Carmen Quinones
Robert Gumbs	Miriam Rabban
Prince Haigood	Carol Reisner
Marnie Hall	Patricia Ricardi

### **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.*

### **Proposed Demo of 108 Parking Garages**

By Elizabeth Kellner

NYC plans to turn over the sites of three multi-story parking garages on West 108 Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues to the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH) for the construction of 110 beds of transitional homeless housing, 145-200 units of permanent "affordable" housing, and 4580 units of senior housing. WSFSSH plans to seek zoning variances to increase the height of the buildings which accounts for the range in the number of units proposed to be built.

The three garages have been owned by the City for decades, and leased to private garage operators who charge their customers relatively affordable monthly, daily and hourly rates plus the city parking tax. There are approximately 700 permanent spaces, with another 100 to 200 daily customers. According to a parking study



commissioned by WSFSSH, these garages account for approximately 20 percent of the off-street parking available within a 12 block radius or, in other words, 24 blocks south to north (96 to 120 Streets). The City and WSFSSH do not plan to construct any new parking and neither has suggested what the 800+ users are to do with their cars once the garages are demolished.

Because the garage sites are owned by the City, the proposed project must go through the Uniform Land Use Review Plan (ULURP) which requires presentation to and a vote by Community Planning Board #7 (CB #7). On March 16, several CB #7 committees (Land Use and Zoning, Transportation, Housing, Health and Human Services) held a joint meeting at which WSFSSH and the City made presentations. Close to 200 members of the community spoke. Overwhelmingly, they opposed the demolition of the garages.

Community members who spoke voiced several concerns. One had to do with the mechanics of yielding parking spaces on the streets if the garages were put out of business. The community's middle, working, and low income residents would face enormous competition for the inadequate number of on-street spaces already lowered by changes made on Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, such as new bike lanes and intersection safety islands. Also in the works are Citibank bike racks. Together, they have

already taken away, or soon will take away, many dozens of parking spaces on our community's streets. Other undesirable outcomes mentioned at the meeting included pollution, noise, traffic, and safety concerns caused by increased driving to locate parking spots, double parking, and idling of cars waiting for alternate-side rules to end.

Additionally, lost productivity and business were mentioned. Another significant group of residents expressed concern about the precedent of giving the zoning variances and the impact that would have on the local quality of life. A third major group of objections noted that the Manhattan Valley neighborhood is already home to more than its fair share of CB #7 affordable housing stock—close to 50 percent—which does not include the dozens of existing residential supportive social service programs in the neighborhood. Finally, the health and learning environment of the Booker T. Washington School and large playing fields across the street from the garages could be negatively affected.

The garages are in the districts of Councilmember Mark Levine, Borough President Gale Brewer, Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, Senator Bill Perkins, and Congressman Charles Rangel. Levine and Brewer will have the most say in what happens. You can also contact CB #7's offices to get additional information and notice of future meetings which will further consider the project.



## Honorees at Three Parks 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Benefit, May 1, 2016

Left to right: Helen Rosenthal, Councilmember, 6<sup>th</sup> District; Erika Petersen & Josette Amato, West End Preservation Society; & Mark Levine, Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

## Yes, We Can!

By Merle McEldowney

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.*—Margaret Meade

TPID is a perfect example of Meade's belief.

Many changes in political policy in our country have come about because of political action, and many of us have participated in the protest activities that changed policy: The civil rights movement changed race relations; the Viet Nam War terminated because of protest marches and demonstrations.

When people were dying from AIDS in South Africa, it was mass demonstrations and civil disobedience that forced the drug companies to allow generic aids drugs to be sold there. A book could easily be written about the success of mass movements that have changed the world.

Locally, Three Parks activism has had its own success in achieving change. It was not that long ago that our club was part of a campaign to pressure the United States government to keep the stock market out of the social security fund. In opposition to the fossil fuels industry, we told the governor to stop fracking in New York State. After thousands of letters and phone calls, he decided to close the door to profits through hydrofracking. Many board members made phone calls and attended protests to deny a permit to the Port Ambrose project, and the governor vetoed it. The continental pipeline threatened the lives of many people living upstate. Pressure from Three Parks members got the governor to veto it. We have yet to get the Indian Point power plant closed, but we will persevere and succeed!

There is so much work to do: The Trans-Pacific Partnership extends patents on drugs, allows corporations to sue nations when they take action to protect the environment and keeps countries from passing laws to protect the safety of their

food supply. If we are able to stop approval, it will require us to educate even more people and make it politically difficult for Congress to vote for such legislation.

The future of this planet is at risk if we do not stop climate change. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground and switch to renewable energy. Three Parks will be a part of this movement until protection for our children and grandchildren is achieved.

We need to make sure that fossil fuels remain in the ground. Anyone who has watched the floods and droughts that have plagued this planet knows that we need to stop burning this stuff. Natural gas may burn cleaner, but to get it out of the ground releases methane that is even more toxic to the environment. Even if we could get Tar Sands oil to the ports in the gulf of Mexico with no risk (we can't!), the pollutants and gas released during drilling will poison this planet.

On May 14, there will be a demonstration in Albany organized by the same group who organized the climate march last year. It will be a massive call to action. Our state officials need to hear that we do not want our state to be full of pipelines transporting fracked gas to and from other places. And we do not want "bomb trains" going through Albany and down the Hudson River. A word about bomb trains: Carrying 4.5 million gallons of crude oil pumped from the Tar Sands in Canada, they span over a mile long. With alarming frequency, they careen off tracks into rivers, catch fire and explode. When spilled in water, their heavy oil exterminates river ecosystems.

So, I am going to Albany on May 14. I hope you will, too. For more information go to <https://350nyc.org>.

See you in Albany!

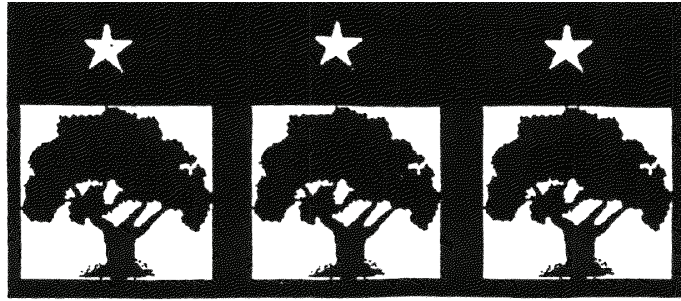
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Today Suba Pharmacy remains one of the few independent, family-owned storefronts on the Upper West Side. Located at 2721 Broadway (at 104 Street), its prices are competitive with, and often significantly lower than, the major drug store chains in the area. The pharmacy is well-known for its personable and knowledgeable service.

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***Whenever you go to Suba Pharmacy, bring this coupon with you; you will receive 10 percent off all your purchases (excluding prescriptions) \$20 and up!***



### 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

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### 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

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

**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

**City Council Legislation Update and Outlook for NYS Senate Races**

Speakers: New York City Councilmember Mark Levine (7<sup>th</sup> District) and NYS Senator  
Mike Gianaris (12<sup>th</sup> District) (Invited)

Endorsement Voting for NYS Senate and Assembly, NYS Democratic Committee,  
and Judicial Delegate