

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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President

Daniele Gerard

Editor

Ray Schwartz (tapsch@nyc.rr.com)

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

October 15, 2008 Meeting

**FEATURED TOPIC &
SPEAKERS:**

**Congressman Jerrold Nadler:
Financial crisis, Election update and more!**

DATE:

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

SPECIAL TIME:

7:00 PM

(NOTE EARLIER TIME DUE TO DEBATE AT 9 PM)

PLACE:

American Youth Hostels

891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM:

Chapel

AGENDA

6:45 PM Sign-in

7 PM Call to Order

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports & Campaign Storefront
3. Congressman Jerrold Nadler
4. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wed., October 22nd, 2008, 8 PM

Three Parks Board Meeting

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St

Tues., November 4, 2008 Election Day

Wed., November 12, 2008, 8 PM

Three Parks Meeting

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

Wed., November 19, 2008, 8 PM

Three Parks Board Meeting

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 5-8 PM

Three Parks Holiday Party

Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Now it's all Obama, all the time—with a few other Democratic candidates thrown in! Volunteers are streaming into the Democratic Victory Storefront '08 to register voters, canvass in Pennsylvania, phone bank, sell buttons and lots more as we pull out all the stops to win the White House next month. And on our way, we'll help increase majorities in the House and Senate and turn the New York State Senate Democratic too!

Since Labor Day, the juggernaut at the Storefront (2742 Broadway at 105th Street, managed by Three Parks and Broadway Democrats) has registered more than 5,000 voters, has arranged for several hundred people to travel by bus and train to canvass for Obama/Biden in Pennsylvania on weekends, and began phone banking at the end of September, using twelve new long distance landlines and volunteers' cell phones.

Over a thousand volunteers have signed up through our small office, an acknowledgement of the importance of this historic campaign. Many thanks to our storefront manager, Lynn Max, to Steve Max, organizer extraordinaire, and to all the volunteers who have been putting in the long hours it will take to win this election on the ground. Drop by, get involved, and see how the grass roots is putting democracy back to work for all of us.

Senator Bill Perkins and NYS Obama Director Dave Pollak gave a rousing presentation at the last Club meeting. Of the eighteen battleground states, Obama/Biden need to win one big one or two small ones to take the minimum 270 electoral votes on November 4th. Each battleground state has been "assigned" to neighboring states to help get out the vote. Senator Perkins and Dave Pollak rallied the troops and crystallized our mission—New York is going to help win Pennsylvania for the Democrats! Thanks so much to both speakers for an informative and enthusiastic presentation.

We are fortunate to have Congressman Jerry Nadler as the speaker at the upcoming Club meeting to tell us what's going on in Congress. It's been a roller coaster lately; the membership is looking forward to hearing about the twists and turns of the ride.

Remember the upcoming final Presidential debate on October 15th following the Three Parks meeting. We hope to see you all at the Storefront then and on Election Night when we can all celebrate together!

NY's CAMPAIGN MISSION: TURN PA BLUE!

By District Leader Cynthia Doty

With McCain pulling out of Michigan and conceding that state to Obama, we expect the Republicans to turn all their energy and money into campaigning in Pennsylvania. That means lots of negative TV ads and attack mailings and, no doubt, some Rove-like smear tactics. Right now Obama is doing very well in PA thanks to an excellent field operation and lots of amazing volunteers from out of state, but in order to hold on to the momentum we have to keep the effort going.

That's where our storefront operation comes in. We have 4 weeks to go, and its time for all hands on deck. We have already sent trips to Bristol, PA, and we will be expanding the trips to every Saturday and Sunday through Nov 2nd and Election Day. We have also started our phone banks and will be expanding them to every evening and some days. We may also have some late shifts for calls into Wisconsin, Indiana, Colorado, and Nevada if the Obama campaign asks us to. Additionally, we are recruiting volunteers to go to PA and other states for the last weeks to provide voter protection services.

We won't be forgetting about NY, however, so we will be doing everything we can to turn out record numbers at all our polls. We will be holding information sessions so first-time voters and disabled voters can learn how the machines work as well as preparing all our inspectors for the huge crowds.

Finally we want to deliver a progressive

Democratic majority in Congress for Obama to work with so we will be canvassing and calling for several candidates. We have already helped Adler in New Jersey and plan to help Stender and Shulman in NJ as well. We may do calls for Maffei, Massa, and others in New York, if we have volunteers. And of course we are volunteering for our State Senate candidates, especially Jim Gennaro in Queens.

So the next four weeks are absolutely crucial to our Democratic victory! Get on the bus, get on the phone, get into our storefront! This election is too important to sit on the sidelines. We need your help! Now is the time! If you want to wake up on Nov 5th excited about the future, volunteer now! The future is ours!

District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

The Secret Word

Our Obama/Biden Democratic Victory storefront on Broadway and 105th Street is a phenomenal success. Over a thousand volunteers have signed up to help, we have registered over 5000 voters, begun phone banking and loaded hundreds of volunteers into buses, vans, and cars for door to door canvassing for Obama in Pennsylvania and a few for the Adler congressional race in New Jersey. We have been requested to recruit now for future phone bankers and canvassers for GOTV activities in Ohio in the final weeks.

The storefront is a fully functional campaign office equipped with twelve long distance lines, a wireless computer network, printer, copier and fax. For the Vice-Presidential debate, the storefront was converted into a screening room with surround sound and theater-like projection thanks to the ingenuity of Steve Max.

The storefront is open every day except Monday until 9pm. On weekends the day begins at 8:00am when the buses, vans, and cars begin loading the door to door

canvassers for their long day in Pennsylvania. While the storefront officially closes at 9pm, volunteers remain until much later to fax back the phone banking call sheets to the Obama field offices and also prepare for the next day's tabling activities.

Our store front on Broadway and 105th street has been discovered by the local papers and visiting journalists. Come into the storefront and you will bump into a reporter – from a budding journalist from the Columbia Spectator to a broadcaster from the Voice of America. If you are visiting Sweden next week, you could hear about us on the local Swedish radio. Storefront volunteer, Gustav Lantz, is a Swedish journalist covering the campaign with blogs, print reports for the Socialist Democrat newspaper, and radio broadcasts.

If you have not volunteered for our Obama/Biden storefront at 105th and Broadway you are missing a very wonderful experience. Where else can you see octogenarians battle teenagers for the right to sit behind a table of clipboards covered with voter registration cards and absentee ballots? Or listen to a discussion about how many westsiders can one comfortably pack into a 15 person van.

Need an Obama T-shirt? They come in S, M, L, XL, and XXL. We stock several varieties of bumper stickers and rally signs.

And of course, our buttons. Do you want a button? Do you like to sell buttons? We have had over 130 different button styles.

We fund our storefront activities primarily by selling buttons and bumper stickers. The \$2, \$3, or \$4 price for each button is a suggested donation amount. Even though it happens many times every day, I am constantly amazed by how often we receive \$5, \$10 or more for a 2¼" thin round metal button which has the asking donation price of \$3.

And that is the secret word - donation. In past campaigns we often neglected to add

the word 'donation' to the price tag. However, in 2004, at a Kerry/Edwards button table, the local precinct police took objection to our 'selling' buttons. So in 2008 we are very scrupulous in displaying the word 'donation' on all our signs.

So what was happened to our 'sales' as a result of asking for a donation instead of insisting on a selling price? 'Donations' have been much higher. Not only are customers/benefactors buying more buttons than ever before but often they give far more than the suggested donation price. Many volunteers are equally helpful with donating their time. They sign up for two hours, then donate for six. In this wonderful neighborhood, you and your Westside friends and neighbors are very generous.

Many Three Park members are already participating. If you haven't, then join in. It's a good time to donate, it's a good cause to donate to, and you get a very good feeling from donating your time, your money, and your spirit to this important election. Do not miss it.



Have you been to the Campaign Storefront at Broadway and 105th St.?

Mr. Paulson, Please Repeat That

By Steve Max

Deep in *The NY Times* coverage of the astonishing taxpayer Wall Street bailout was a very strange statement by Treasury Secretary Paulson. Congress member Barney Frank had called for provisions that would allow companies to recover payments to the executives who caused the mess.

But Mr. Paulson said that he was concerned that imposing limits on the compensation of executives could discourage companies from participating in the program

'If we design it so it's punitive and so institutions aren't going to participate, this won't work the way we need it to work,' Mr. Paulson said on Fox News Sunday. 'Let's talk about executive salaries. There have been excesses there. I agree with the American people. Pay should be for performance, not for failure.'

But he quickly added: 'But we need this system to work, and so we — the reforms need to come afterwards.'

The New York Times, 9/22/08, Pg. A 19

Now what could this mean? It sounds strangely out of context given the supposed urgency of the situation. Weren't we told that major financial institutions face imminent bankruptcy and will pull the whole economy down with them if they are not bailed out? Then how can they refuse to participate in being bailed out? Are they bankrupt or aren't they? Perhaps Mr. Paulson knows of CEOs who will let their companies disappear rather than take the pay cut that Barney Frank proposes. If so, he should quickly name them so that their boards can remove them. But the question remains, are banks begging to be bailed out or not? You would think that the fewer companies that applied for a bailout, the happier the Administration would be, but apparently this is not so. What is it that "won't work" unless everyone gets bailed out and why is the Administration now proposing to bail out any kind of asset held by any corporation in any country?

Think back to the New Hampshire comment that George Bush made during the 2000 campaign. "It is the President's job to see to it that Congress doesn't have the money to spend in the first place." Since then he has relentlessly pursued just that policy by cutting taxes while increasing war spending and

taking on enormous debt. Now consider Paul Krugman's excellent insight that for the Bush Administration a problem isn't an opportunity to find a solution, it is an opportunity to do something they wanted to do all along. Is it too paranoid to think that the Administration would take advantage of the very real mortgage banking crisis to insert a poison pill of debt into the federal budget that will prevent any future administration from functioning? This would not trouble McCain in the slightest; like Bush he doesn't believe in government anyway. But it could seriously cripple an Obama Administration. Let us hope that our Washington delegation asks Mr. Paulson to clarify his remarks.

Our condolences to Pat and Bill Riley on the death of Bill's younger brother.

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

By Judy Wood

As it is a Presidential year the quadrennial fund-raising yard sale was held once again in the driveway of my country house on Aug. 9th. With contributions from many friends and choice items selected from discards at the town transfer station many boxes of fine treasures were offered for sale.

Lynn Max, the doyenne of yard sales, worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition by making fliers which we posted around town. She also priced hundreds of items which were stored in my shed for weeks. Club member Bobbie Beck made large readable signs which we posted on the road to attract shoppers.

We started officially at 9am but some early birds got a jump on the treasures. And we also sold Obama buttons and bumper stickers delivered with the help of Cynthia Doty. By noon when it was officially over, the take was

\$490. We gleefully counted our earnings and sorrowfully gazed at the unsold merchandise. The money was then allocated by giving \$350 to Obama, \$40 to the club for the Obama merchandise and \$100 to a local candidate whom we were supporting in a race for Barnstable county commissioner.

Her name is Sheila Lyons and on Tuesday, Sept. 16th, the day of the Mass. Primary she was the big winner in a field of five candidates. Great to back a winner!

Judicial Convention Picks Gische

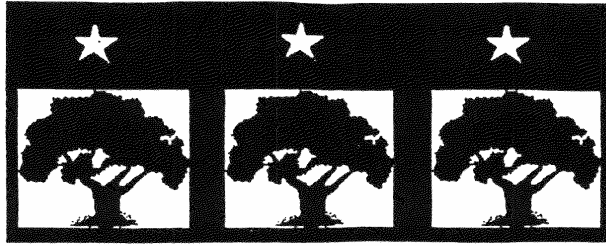
By Alan Flacks

In what was seen as an unexpected upset, N.Y.C. Civil Court Judge **Judith Gische** was chosen at the Democratic Party's First Judicial District (Manhattan) nominating convention on Sept. 18th to be one of the four Party nominees for Justice of the State Supreme Court on the November 2008 General Election ballot. The Democratic nomination is tantamount to election in Manhattan.

Gische defeated Civil Court Judge **Lucy Billings** by a **65-to-61** vote. Billings was considered the likely winner going into the convention. There was also one vote cast for **Saliann Scarpulla**. Scarpulla, along with Laura Drager, Debra James, Ellen Gesmer, and Cynthia Kern – all lower court judges – were also nominated for the vacancy created by Justice Louis York's reaching the mandatory retirement age, but then, lacking sufficient delegate support, they withdrew, leaving the contest to Billings and Gische.

Incumbent Justices **Marcy Kahn**, **Shirley Werner Kornreich**, and **Martin Schoenfeld** were unopposed in seeking the Party's designation, and will also appear on the November ballot.

Submissions for the next newsletter are due October 29, 2008.



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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

2008/09 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 (Note Special Time)

Wednesday, October 15th, 2008 at 7 PM

**Congressman Jerrold Nadler:
Financial Crisis, Election Update and more!**