

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

Lauren Williams
(laurenwilliams1@cs.com)

District Leaders

Bob Boffeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Dan Cohen

OCTOBER 13, 2010

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: LABOR & THE ECONOMY—Arthur Cheliotas, President, Local 1180, CWA, AFL-CIO; DOWNTOWN MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER—Julie Menin, Chair, Community Board 1

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13th

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. District Leaders' Reports
3. Labor & the Economy
4. Proposed Muslim Community Center
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 27, 2010
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

ELECTION DAY, Tuesday, November 2nd

Wednesday, November 10, 2010
Three Parks Club Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

President's Column – Voting in November

By Daniele Gerard

Our thanks go out to last month's speakers: Congressman Jerry Nadler, whose presentations to Three Parks are always edifying, provided an insightful and informative overview of environmental legislation in Congress, and Senator Tom Duane, who gave us a thorough update on sustainability issues. This month's meeting will feature Arthur Cheliotis, President of Local 1180, Communications Workers of America, speaking about labor and the economy in these troubled times. Julie Menin, Chair of Community Board 1, will provide an update on the proposed downtown Muslim community center.

In November, once again, Americans are faced with a stark contrast. The upcoming election will show which areas of the country have been utterly hijacked by those who have few concerns beyond serving their own economic interests. Faced with the 30+ year old "government bad, tax cuts good" refrain (that, among other nefarious goals, has purposefully lulled Americans into staying home on Election Day) and the emergence of the inexperienced or crackpots or both as Republican Party favorites, much that remains kind and gracious about our country is at stake. More than ever, all of us must go to the polls and encourage our friends and neighbors to get out and vote.

Our choices are crystal clear in New York State, where Three Parkers will rally the vote for Eric Schneiderman for Attorney General in his tough race against a well-financed opponent and, of course, for Andrew Cuomo for Governor. We will also campaign on behalf of Westchester Congressman John Hall. Please check the TPID Web site and be on the lookout for e-mails with specifics about these activities.

As you all know, voting is the great equalizer, the only thing that makes each of us as powerful as the moneyed interests bankrolling the Tea Party, buying candidates and the media, and denying those who need it most the same opportunity from which the parents and grandparents of today's wealthy so greatly benefitted: a quality public education, a more progressive tax system, and a

chance to participate in the American Dream. Although many believe our current government should have approved a much larger stimulus package, concentrated more on helping homeowners remain in their homes, and passed single payer healthcare, there is little hope that Congress and the President will be able to work harder for true social and economic justice if the Republicans win in November. If progressives think we are struggling now

Imagine the obstructionism if Republicans return to the majority. They have been running a multi-faceted program for decades to replace "one person, one vote" with "one dollar, one vote." We could be subject to, once again, the full ramifications of that strategy. Here is but one example: at a time of massive funding for war and the richest two percent among us—with almost two billion of our taxpayer dollars spent on the Pentagon each day (headed by a Secretary of Defense who gives every indication of a willingness to trim that budget) and with Congress poised to extend tax cuts for the wealthy—the Republican-obstructed Senate recently sent to the House a bill to pay for child nutrition programs by cutting millions of dollars in food stamps. Talk about robbing Peter to pay Paul! Again, please vote to stop these so-called conservatives who want to conserve only what's theirs—and to hell with everybody else.

The peddling of fear, hatred, and lies will continue only as long as it works for the people who are funding it. So tell your friends and neighbors to get out and VOTE! If you know people who won't be home on Election Day, please remind them to arrange for an absentee ballot now.

New York County Democratic Party Judicial Convention Results

By Elizabeth Kellner

On Tuesday evening, September 21, the New York County Democratic Party Judicial Convention convened at Harlem Hospital's auditorium to nominate the party's candidates for the three Supreme Court vacancies open this year (last year there was only one vacancy).

Jeffrey Oing, Matthew Cooper and Cynthia Kern (all currently Acting Supreme Court Justices) were nominated without dissent after the other nine candidates had withdrawn. Shortly in advance of the convention it became certain that each of the three winners had received commitments from a majority of delegates thus ensuring their nomination. Because of the huge registration edge Democrats enjoy in New York County, the three are certain to win election in November to a full 14-year term.

Convention delegates (TPID was represented by Corine Pettey, Theresa Canter, Elizabeth Kellner, Alan Flacks, and alternate Milivoy Samurovich) were faced with the difficult task of choosing only three people from among the twelve who had this year, or during the previous two years, been reported out as highly qualified by the County's independent judicial screening panel. The screening panel reviewed written applications, researched and interviewed each potential candidate. The diversity and breadth of ethnic, educational, legal and judicial experience reflected by these twelve individuals is certainly something about which New York County Democrats can be proud. We are fortunate that there is no dearth of highly qualified people who want to serve despite the State Legislature's failure to raise judicial salaries for 11 years. Each of the nine candidates who withdrew pledged to seek the party's nomination in years to come as vacancies become available. They include TPID's own Anil Singh, and in no particular order, George Silver, Ellen Gesmer, Saliann Scarpulla, Analisa Torres, Manuel Mendez, Deborah Kaplan, Debra James, and Arthur Engoron.

Call a Cop: We're About to Be Robbed – Again!

By Martin Morand

The last time Social Security (SS) was "saved" was under Ronald Reagan's "caring" regime. It cost us three ways, by: a. Raised retirement age to 67, thus cutting, by 20 percent, the value of SS for manual/minority workers who have a 10-year life expectancy at age 65; b. Lowered "orphans protection" from age 24 to 18, thus denying a college education to poorer kids; and c. Increased payroll taxes on workers.

We are losing the battle for the hearts and minds of many good and decent working class folks in this struggle to preserve and protect our SS

legacy. Many have been convinced by the constant reiteration (promoted by the insurance/investment industry) that, because we are living longer, there is insufficient income to keep the SS Trust Fund solvent.

We need a new strategy. We need to remind ourselves and others that SS was never intended to be forever just a payroll tax, a regressive tax on workers and jobs. Even the employer "match" is a labor cost and is offset by paying the workers that much less.

Wilbur Cohen, the "Father of Social Security," was chosen by FDR to design the 1935 Old Age and Survivors Insurance Act. He and FDR anticipated adding a "third stream" of income to the Social Security Trust Fund that would be generated by the money that SS recipients contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and thus to federal and state tax revenues. In our consumption-based economy SS recipients spend every penny – with the landlord, grocer and utility companies.

Additional sources of SS Income could include:

(1) Part of the gross income on which taxes are calculated includes SS. That income tax revenue should go back to the SS Trust.

(2) Warren Buffet points out that he is taxed at a lower rate than his secretary, since she pays taxes on all her income, while his unearned income is taxed at a lower rate. All income should be taxed for SS.

(3) Because of the cap on annual income taxed for Social Security (\$106,800), Bill Gates pays his full year's tax by about 11:30 AM on the first day of the year.

With this "third leg" of SS income contemplated by Wilbur Cohen and FDR, Social Security benefits could be raised to partially compensate for the cuts in employer-provided pensions, which are fast disappearing.

2011 MEMBERSHIPS

Due to rising costs, we can no longer offer the senior/student discounts for membership starting with 2011. Low-income memberships will continue to be available. Please see the Membership Form (enclosed) for additional details. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Free Housing Clinics Announced

From Council Member Gale A. Brewer

Council Member Gale A. Brewer, the Urban Justice Center, and Goddard Riverside's SRO Law Project will hold housing clinics throughout 2010 and 2011 at Godard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Avenue (between 88th and 89th Streets). The next clinic topic is "HPS Repairs, Bedbugs, and Cockroaches" and will be held on November 3, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 PM.

For more information, contact the Office of Council Member Brewer at 212-873-0282 or the Urban Justice Center at 646-459-3017.

Progress At Last for Local Historic Districts

By District Leader Cynthia Doty

Good News! The two Historic Districts proposed for our area are finally moving forward. The Landmarks Preservation Commission recently held community meetings about The Morningside Heights Historic District, first proposed by community members in 1996, and The West End Avenue Historic District, first discussed and conceived in 2007.

Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell has been leading the fight for the Morningside Historic District, which covers 63 buildings from 110th Street to 125th Street. The latest plan is smaller than the original, but hopefully it will be expanded as the process moves forward.

The West End Preservation Society (WEPS) has been the chief organizer for the West End Avenue District. The proposal under review is actually much larger than just West End Avenue, covering almost 800 buildings from 72nd Street to 107th Street, Broadway to Riverside Drive. Boundary details are available at <www.westendpreservation.org>

Both proposals will do much to protect and preserve not only the architectural beauty of the neighborhood, but also its affordability and unique character. Stay tuned for next steps...we will all be needed at the many landmarking hearings once they are calendared.

Gas Drilling Update: The Good, the Bad, and the Really Ugly

By Merle McEldowney

The Good: Governor David Paterson has said that hydraulic fracturing of natural gas wells in New York's part of the four-state Marcellus Shale region will not be allowed without "overwhelming evidence that nothing will happen" to harm clean water supplies. To see reporting on the entire interview, go to

http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/southern_tier/governor-paterson-nixes-hydrofracking

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has said that an environmental impact statement would have to be submitted for each well before a permit would be granted in the watersheds of New York City and Syracuse. This requirement makes drilling in our watershed as well as in the Syracuse virtually impossible.

It is remarkable that the New York State Senate has voted for a moratorium on all permits for hydraulic fracturing until May 2011. To have a legislative body pass something like this that is so much against the oil and gas industry interests is really miraculous, and a tribute to the organization of groups like ours. It is particularly surprising because State Senate Sheldon Silver is said to be supporting a companion law in the Assembly, and the Governor is expected to sign it.

The Bad: The Delaware River Basin Commission has been considering a halt on permits for gas drilling in the basin. The halt would be until the EPA study is finished and it can be assured that drilling would be safe. The basin supplies much of the water for New York City as well as parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Really Ugly: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has written plans for hydraulic fracturing in our state forests. They give two reasons: It will help the state budget, and gas burns cleaner than oil. The state forest preserves are not there to solve our budget problems. Most of the land has been bought or struggled for and given to the DEP to protect. The hearings were scheduled with very short and very little notice. The Sierra Club did not even know about them. Like last year, the DEP is giving only one month for public comment. This may seem at odds with the comments of Governor Patterson.

Condolences

Three Parks Independent Democrats expresses condolences to the family of Marjorie Erdman Roesch. Marjorie was active in the Morningside Retirement and Health Services and an active Three Parks member. She was a stalwart volunteer who, in even the most bitterly cold weather, petitioned on myriad club issues, including Social Security and Indian Point.

District Leader's Report

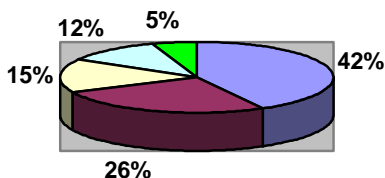
By Bob Botfeld

Below are the raw totals for about 88 percent of the Three Parks election districts. The results below were gathered by the wonderful group of Three Parks primary day campaigners and poll closers. The results are unofficial. They do not include absentee or affidavit ballots. Also included are probably some minor errors of transposition after an 18-hour campaign day.

In the Attorney General race, Eric Schneiderman took 67 percent of the vote in our area. In the state committee race, Dan Cohen beat Robert Ginsberg here with over 60 percent. Mark Levine beat Adriano Espaillat easily and overall gathered over 50 percent in the Three Parks area.

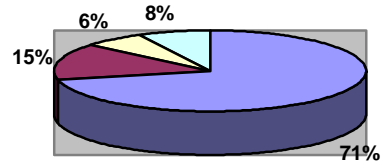
Bill Perkins swamped Basil Smikle with over 76 percent of the vote. Charles Rangel was the leader in our area with 43 percent. Joyce Johnson did twice as well here than she did in the entire Congressional district. Also, her workers plastered over the Three Parks public service hall cards with her name – not good politics.

US CONGRESS 13th CD



Rangel	1,698	Tasini	459
Johnson	1,050	Morgan	86
Powell	615		

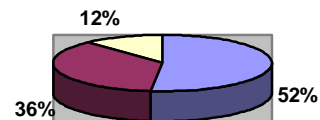
NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL



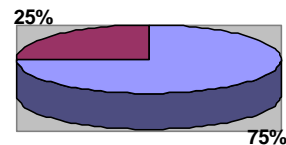
Schneiderman	2,742	Coffey	247
Rice	570	Brodsky	183
Dinallo	291		

STATE SENATE

31st Senate



30th Senate



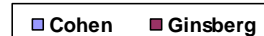
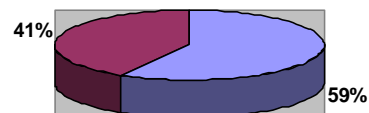
31st District

Levine	1,113
Espaillat	791
Lewis	261
Munoz	19

30th District

Perkins	1,074
Smikle	349

MALE STATE COMMITTEE PERSON 69th AD



Cohen	1,686
Ginsberg	1,195

Following are the ED by ED results collected by the Three Parks closers. Again, they are about 88 percent complete.

	Con- gress						NYS Attorney General				
ED	Rangel	Johnson	Morgan	Powell	Tasini	Vargas	Schneider -man	Rice	Brodsky	Coffey	Dinallo
23	30	37	4	18	24	1	103	18	1	4	5
30	51	29	4	13	12	3	84	19	0	5	4
32	73	54	4	26	27	8	137	27	10	7	12
33	65	50	5	18	36	1	102	20	5	10	5
34	52	56	6	16	16	12	98	10	7	7	0
35	32	38	1	11	26	7	91	15	4	5	5
37	49	17	2	18	6	2	49	17	6	8	14
38	79	37	3	24	13	15	94	31	14	12	15
39	34	4	0	22	5	13	28	14	5	10	17
40	54	14	4	20	14	9	46	25	11	14	16
41	59	6	4	26	1	4	35	12	11	12	13
42	57	17	2	16	26	7	80	34	3	7	6
43	31	21	2	11	7	3	76	2	3	4	4
44	78	51	0	17	24		137	12	6	9	9
45	51	30	1	15	8		85	9	6	4	7
46	71	81	2	32	23		186	21	11	5	4
47	62	43	6	22	15		121	0	9	6	10
48	52	29	3	26	17		69	28	10	10	15
49	100	67	3	27	13		179	14	6	15	23
50	75	54	0	18	14	9	110	23	12	6	12
51	21	3	1	25	5	6	22	16	3	8	6
52	53	43	1	20	11	2	84	19	6	9	9
53	46	13	4	12	7		42	20	2	9	11
54	30	8	0	14	11	8	29	25	0	9	7
55	47	38	2	21	20	1	106	14	3	5	5
56	90	71	6	18	19		164	23	3	9	12
57	26	26	1	10	14		64	12	2	1	0
58	52	36	9	24	11		79	17	2	6	19
59	21	10	1	11	4		29	13	2	2	4
60											
61	40	10	3	22	9		50	18	9	8	6
62	71	42	0	24	20	0	117	20	8	17	4
66	21	6	2	9	1	5	21	11	1	1	6
78											
79											
108	25	9	0	9	0	8	25	11	2	3	6
109											
Totals	1698	1050	86	615	459	124	2742	570	183	247	291

	31st State Senate				30th State Senate		Male 69th State Cmte	
ED	Levine	Espaillet	Lewis	Munoz	Perkins	Smikle	Cohen	Ginsberg
23	67	37	23				60	55
30	64	33	11	1			60	26
32	81	63	23	1			23	50
33	63	39	20	0				
34	48	52	20	0			60	46
35					76	33	68	26
37					68	24	33	36
38					119	33	54	58
39					62	16	33	38
40					76	30	65	41
41					67	26	49	26
42					21	5	52	37
43							37	29
44	87	70	10	0			58	38
45	56	26	18	1			47	30
46	125	72	17	1			119	48
47	69	72	13	2			68	40
48					91	31	43	45
49	121	71	28	7			107	53
50	71	68	21	1			83	54
51					30	6	32	20
52					101	21	41	50
53					58	23	35	28
54					57	12	29	28
55	29	38	9	1			75	28
56	119	64	21	0			98	54
57	38	25	8	0			25	32
58					77	48	54	55
59					38	6	22	16
60								
61					68	20	50	25
62	75	61	19	4			64	61
66					26	10	16	14
78								
79								
108					39	5	26	8
109								
Totals	1113	791	261	19	1074	349	1686	1195

**Message from Daniel Marks Cohen
Democratic State Committeeman
September 30, 2010**

Thank you for your support and encouragement for my campaign for State Committeeman. I am pleased to report that I won! With final results in, I prevailed by an even larger margin over my opponent than I initially reported: 5,173 votes to 3,954 votes, or 57 percent to 43 percent. A solid victory; and I am very happy with the results.

My position on the State Committee began work immediately, with a meeting in Syracuse on September 21. More of a pep rally than a working session, we re-elected the State Chairman, Jay Jacobs, to a new term, and officially endorsed the entire post-Primary Democratic slate. Also, it was good to meet my colleagues from across the state, and I am excited to get to work.

Speaking of work, I am also delighted to announce that as of last month I have accepted a new position at the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) as a Mortgage Officer. CPC offers construction and permanent financing for both the preservation of existing affordable housing and the creation of new homes. It has been in existence since 1974 as a not-for-profit mortgage lender. You can learn more about CPC at www.communityp.com

Thank you for your support and encouragement in my campaign. I look forward to seeing you at the club meetings and to working with you to elect Democrats this November.

Thanks again!

Dan

**Sign Up to Campaign for
John Hall on October 23**

By Merle McEldowney

Three Parks is going to Westchester to help John Hall get reelected!

We were there to get him elected in 06. John is the kind of Progressive Congressperson we want. He represents the district where the Indian Point Power Plant is and he is a reliable opponent of relicensing the plant.

John's opponent and her husband are physicians; they are self-funding her campaign. She is the kind of tea party person we do not want in Congress.

So, on October 23 we will be there to help. It is an important time, and it is the "dry run" for GOTV on Election Day. The campaign wants us to make as many contacts as possible.

About 14,000 new people registered to vote in the 2008 election. We need to make certain they vote this November, and make certain they know they should be voting Democratic

We will take a train from Grand Central Station at 9:20 AM and meet local campaign workers in Westchester.

RSVP to Merle McEldowney by e-mail at Merle2166@gmail.com or call 212-933-0290. If you are willing to drive and have a car, let me know. The number of people responding will determine if we travel by train or car pool.

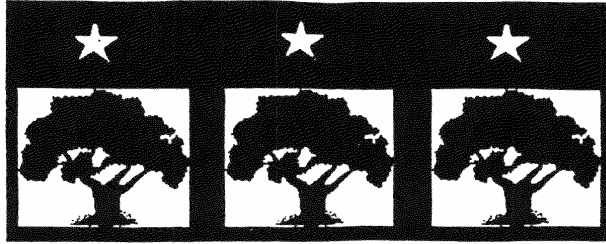
You Are Invited!

TPID board member Deborah Thomas will sing in a concert of operatic arias, duets, and scenes.

October 17, 2010 at 2:30 PM

at Bruno Walter Auditorium in the Lincoln Center Library, 111 Amsterdam Avenue (at W. 65th St.).

Admission is free.



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

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***

2011 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 2011"******

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

NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13
LABOR & THE ECONOMY
PROPOSED MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER
VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2ND!**