

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

OCTOBER 10, 2012

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: CONGRESSMAN JERRY NADLER: The Campaign for President and Taking Back the House

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: *Note different location*

Victory for Obama Campaign Center

2689 Broadway between 102nd and 103rd Streets

AGENDA

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. The Campaign for President and Taking Back the House
4. New Business
5. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 24, 2012
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

TUESDAY, November 6, 2012
ELECTION DAY

Wednesday, November 14, 2012
Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, November 28, 2012
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

SUNDAY, December 2, 2012
HOLIDAY PARTY, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Now it's all Obama, all the time! Volunteers are streaming into the Victory for Obama Campaign Center to register voters, canvass in Pennsylvania, phone bank, sell buttons, and do lots more as we pull out all the stops to re-elect the President next month. And on the way, we'll help take back the House and keep the Senate, too!

The juggernaut at the this year's election storefront (2689 Broadway at 102nd/103rd Streets, managed by Three Parks and Broadway Democrats, has registered nearly 3,000 voters, arranged for buses, vans, and cars to canvass for Obama-Biden in Pennsylvania, and conducts daily phone banking on behalf of the President, Elizabeth Warren for Senate in Massachusetts, and congressional candidates Mark Murphy in Staten Island and Sean Patrick Maloney in Westchester.

Many thanks to our storefront manager Lynn Max, Steve Max, organizer extraordinaire, District Leaders Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty, and State Committee Member Lynn Thomas for their tireless efforts, and to all the TPID board members and other volunteers who have been putting in the long hours it takes to win an election by a decisive margin. Drop by, get involved, and see how the grassroots is putting democracy to work for all of us. We are open weekdays from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., weekends from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and closed Mondays, although we have plans to open soon on Mondays, too.

The club's September meeting speakers, Geoffrey Eaton of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch and David Kogelman and Robert Gordon of the Democratic Lawyers Council, gave highly informative presentations on voter suppression. On behalf of the membership, I would like to express our gratitude for their remarks and thoughtful answers to our many questions.

We are fortunate to have **Congressman Jerry Nadler** as the speaker at the October club meeting to update us on the presidential campaign and possibilities for taking back the House of Representatives for the Democrats.

We look forward to seeing you at the Victory for Obama Campaign Center for our Grand Opening on October 6 at Noon and at debate watch parties on Wednesday, October 3; Thursday, October 11; Tuesday, October 16; and Monday, October 22.

**GET INVOLVED TODAY!
HELP RE-ELECT BARACK OBAMA!
LET'S TAKE BACK THE HOUSE!**

District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

Every day more and more Westsiders and Democrats from all over Manhattan are coming in to our Obama Biden Campaign Center at 2689 Broadway young and old, black and white, Hispanic, Asian, and even corporate types who work in midtown and downtown. These neighbors, who we pass anonymously day after day, now come to our Obama Biden storefront (center, office, headquarters - we are still debating what to call something that reminds one of the state headquarters of a national campaign more than a local endeavor). With their willingness to volunteer and their encouraging words, they enable us to rediscover how much our neighbors deeply care about who will govern our country and what policies our leaders will choose.

In addition to donating their time and their money for our buttons and bumper stickers, our community residents have loaned and given us computers, printers, tables, chairs, step ladders, shelving, desks, and tools. For the first time in Three Parks' presidential storefront history, our wonderful campaign center did not need major reconstruction. It is beautiful! (The only drawback is scaffolding that shrouds its front.)

In the 15 days since signing the lease, we have schlepped in enough tables, chairs, computers, etc., to create a phone bank with 35 land lines and a computer databank for predictive dialing; recruited hundreds of volunteers; sent vans and cars loaded with volunteers to Philadelphia every weekend to combat voter suppression; made several thousand phone calls for Obama and Mark Murphy; and registered over a 1,500 voters. We have signed up so many new voters that we need a car and driver just to bring back boxes of voter registration cards and absentee ballots from the Board of Election warehouse.

We need you to staff and volunteer for the phone banks, the recruiting tables, and trips. The Victory for Obama Campaign Center is a work space to help re-elect Barack Obama and take back the House for the Democrats as well as elect Elizabeth Warren to the Senate.

Everyone needs to help! Our country needs your help! This year, nothing is more important!

Three Parks Independent Democrats, along with Broadway Democrats, has lucked into a remarkable space to help make every volunteer's moment count. Please come by the Victory for Obama Campaign Center to help take back the House and re-elect Barack Obama. Together, we can!

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

CELEBRATE OUR GRAND OPENING

VICTORY FOR OBAMA
CAMPAIGN CENTER

2689 BROADWAY
(between 102nd & 103rd Streets)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 at NOON

INVITED SPEAKERS

US Senator Charles Schumer
US Congressman Jerrold Nadler
US Congressman Charles Rangel
US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Manhattan BP Scott Stringer
NYC Public Advocate Bill DiBlasio
NYC Controllor John Liu
NY State Senator Adriano Espaillat
NY State Senator Bill Perkins

NY Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell
NY Democratic State Chair
Assemblymember Keith Wright
NYC Councilmember Gale Brewer
NYC Councilmember Inez Dickens
NYC Councilmember Robert Jackson
NYC Councilmember
Melissa Mark-Viverito

A Win on Fracking – A Delay

By Merle McEldowney

Governor Cuomo has actually taken action that will delay the introduction of fracked wells in New York State. We cannot help but take some credit for this. Three Parks, along with all the other groups, has made calls, marched, and written letters to the Governor to let him know we love New York State and do not want him to let anyone frack in it.

One of the major problems with the regulations set out in the last environmental statement was the lack of any analysis of the public health effects of fracking. The Governor

appears to have heard our calls. The following is from the *NY Times*:

After four years of study by the state, the Cuomo administration now says its decision on whether to allow high-volume hydraulic fracturing in New York will have to wait until it conducts a review of the potential public health effects of the controversial natural gas drilling process.

On Thursday, Joseph Martens, commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, announced that he had asked the health commissioner, Dr. Nirav Shah, to assess his department's analysis of the health effects closely.

Mr. Martens said he was responding to widespread concerns that the state had not adequately addressed potential health

consequences in its environmental assessments as it moved toward a decision on whether to permit the drilling process and what rules would govern it.

We should all feel good: Already, Three Parks Independent Democrats has sent more than 2,500 letters to the Governor advocating for a statewide ban on fracking. Activists all over the state have told the Governor not to frack New York. So, keep up your weekly phone calls to Cuomo at 212-681-4580. This time, thank him for putting the health of New Yorkers over the profits of the gas industry!

Neighborhood Assemblies Underway As Participatory Budgeting Process Begins

By Cynthia Doty

Melissa Mark-Viverito of the 8th Council District is among the City Council members using Participatory Budgeting to give local residents the power to decide how at least \$1 million gets allocated in our community. It is a way to make your voice and those in local community groups heard.

The next Neighborhood Assembly on the West Side will be held on Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Oak Apartments, 135 West 106th Street and Columbus. Bring your ideas for capital projects that you believe will improve our neighborhood. Committees will then be established to work out the necessary details for the proposed projects, which will be voted on by the community early next year.

Contact Andrew King in Melissa Mark-Viverito's office at aking@council.nyc.gov or call 212-788-6960 for more information. Food and Spanish translation will be provided.

Results of the 2012 Democratic Party Judicial Convention

By Alan Flacks

The 2012 Democratic Party's judicial nominating convention for the First Judicial District (New York County) held on September 24 brought few surprises. The winning Supreme Court Candidates for the four First District vacancies on the State trial bench are Saliann Scarpulla, Shlomo Hagler, George Silver, and Manny Mendez, who are all Civil Court Judges and "acting" Supremes.

There were 17 applicants to the screening panel. The 10 reported out by the panel are marked with a double asterisk: Nancy Marie Bannon,** Debra James,** James d'Auguste, Arlene Bluth,** Margaret Chan, Shlomo Hagler,** Lori Satler,** Tanya Kennedy, Andrea Masley,** Peter Moulton,** Kathryn Freed,** Frank Nervo, Ruth Pickholz,** Barbara Jaffe,** Victoria Kummer, Raymond Bruce, and Lynn Kotler. The 10 reported out from the screening panel were joined as candidates by five who were reported previously twice in the

past four consecutive years: Anil Singh, George Silver, Saliann Scarpulla, Manuel Mendez, and Arthur Engoron.

VICTORY FOR OBAMA CAMPAIGN CENTER

2689 BROADWAY
(between 102nd & 103rd Streets)

Hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 2:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Mondays, closed (for now – stay tuned!)



Above, volunteers gather before trip to Philadelphia to work against voter suppression. We also are selling buttons to pay for phone banks and campaign materials.

Volunteer Today!

Help Register Voters, Recruit Volunteers,
Go on a Campaign Trip, or Make Calls to
Voters from Our Phone Bank

Be Part of the 2012 Campaign!
Come to the center!

Access Voter Information at New Online Site

The Board of Elections has launched its new Web site at www.vote.nyc.ny.us On the site, you can check your registration status (<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/>) and download your poll site location and a sample ballot (<http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>) If you have a smartphone, you can download the sample ballot/poll site locator app at <http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/apps.shtml>

Republicans and the Coming Extremist Takeover of American Politics

By David C. Kaplan

The American political system is under attack from a group of corporate-dominated political extremists that make up the Republican Party. Should Romney win the presidency, it would mark an important milestone in their capture of American politics.

American politics for the last century has been dominated by the Democrats and the Republicans. These political parties represented a diverse set of interests – ethnic, regional, and economic. They were decentralized due to the federal nature of American government and the division of power of the three branches of the federal government. The Democrats were slightly to the left and the Republicans were slightly to the right; but, both parties were basically at the center. This started to change with the rise of the Goldwater movement in the 1960s, continued with the Reagan presidency, and reached its full flower with Mitt Romney. This was an extremist movement that did not believe even in a minimal welfare state, civil rights for minorities, and equal rights for women and gays.

This group of extremists was made of rightwing Republicans who had never accepted the reforms of the New Deal and the Progressive Era. They were especially strong in Western and Southern states like Arizona and Georgia, which had used defense industries and where liberalism was traditionally weak. These states became known as the Sunbelt.

At the University of Chicago, Milton Friedman and his cohort revived so-called free market economics. They called for lower government spending, lower taxes, and less regulation. This struck a responsive chord in many Americans who traditionally viewed government, especially the federal government, with contempt. The antigovernment rhetoric of 1960s radicals was turned from objection to the drug laws to environmental regulations. Free market economics had a great and baneful effect on American intellectual and political life.

Joining the rightwing extremists were many white Southerners still traumatized by the Civil War and Reconstruction and angry about the federal government's dismantling of Jim Crow. Many of the Republican gains in office holding occurred when the South went from conservative Democrat to conservative Republican.

In addition, the rightwing was joined by many social conservatives, mainly fundamentalist Christians, powerful in the South and in the Plain states. They objected to the legalization of abortion, birth control, and equal rights for

gays. These conservatives wanted more government in the bedroom but not in the boardroom. These fundamentalist Christians were joined to a certain extent by rightwing Catholics and Orthodox Jews, who also objected to equal rights for women and gays.

Finally, the extremists were joined by neocons, former liberals or even socialists, who were aghast at the 1960s student movement and black liberation struggle. The neocons were especially active in foreign policy, pushing an imperial agenda such as the Iraq War.

The rightwing is well financed and beholden to the corporate elite. Meanwhile, progressives have a hard time competing in fundraising. The Republicans are disciplined as witnessed by the events in Congress and tow a consistent line on most issues.

Progressives and their allies – labor, women, gays, minorities, and environmentalists – must struggle against a powerful rightwing for a progressive America. Progressives must fight against them while at the same time try to restore a degree of compromise and civility to the political system, without which no democracy can flourish.

NYS State Committee Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

In the September newsletter, I mentioned I testified in August before the NYC Redistricting Commission about the plans to redraw the City Council district lines. A draft of the new lines has been proposed and there is a modest improvement (www.nyc.gov/districting). Manhattan Valley and the northern part of the Upper West Side are no longer in the 8th Council District represented by Melissa Mark-Viverito, which was an inconvenience at best and an impossibility at worst for residents with limited means and mobility to get to the district office on 116th Street and Lexington Avenue. However, the area is now split down a crooked line of Amsterdam and Manhattan Avenues between the 7th and the 9th, currently represented by Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. This only serves to fracture the voting power of our community, and we must speak with one voice at the next redistricting hearing on Thursday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Schomberg Center, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard at 135th Street. Anyone may speak, and you can sign up at the Web site (www.nyc.gov/districting). Below is my proposed testimony:

"My name is Daniel Marks Cohen, and I am the New York State Democratic Committeeman representing the 69th Assembly District of Manhattan's Upper West Side in the New York State Democratic Committee. The Assemblymember for the 69th is Daniel O'Donnell. I am a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, my parents live in the district, my wife and I live in the district, and we are raising our newborn son – a third generation West Sider – in it as well.

The part of the Upper West Side I live in – between 96th Street and 125th Street, is the poorest portion of the 69th Assembly District (<http://zipskinny.com/zipcompare.php>), is the least served in terms of services and transportation (<http://www.straphangers.org/pokeyaward/10/>), and has more crime (http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/crime_prevention/crime_statisti.cs.shtml).

I believe at least one reason for its consistent and uneven status is that fact that the 69th is cut up into multiple pieces of nine different districts. This was somewhat improved recently by the passage of federal redistricting legislation which redrew the TWO Congressional districts: the 8th served by Representative Jerry Nadler and the 15th served by Representative Charlie Rangel; but it was made worse by the THREE State Senate districts: Tom Duane of the 29th, Bill Perkins of the 30th and Adriano Espaillat of the 31st. The latter, the 31st, is particularly egregious, stretching from 184th to 24th Streets along the west coast of Manhattan island. It it looks more like the Latin American country of Chile than a proper State Senate district. But sadly, that it not your purview today, and we are stuck with this absurd district for the next 10 years.

The recent proposed draft of the City Council lines is a modest improvement – the northern part of the area I represent is no longer in the 8th district. Current Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito has served us as well as any person could with a district stretching over such a large geographic area with limited resources. But the area is now split between the 7th and the 9th, Councilmembers Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, respectively. The line to divide the two districts deliberately fractures the community in a way I can only assume was to limit the voting power of the residents in the district to not have too much sway in either the 7th, largely seen as a “Washington Heights” seat and the 9th, which is viewed as a “West Harlem” seat.

Plainly put: the northern-most district lines proposed are nonsensical. While I am grateful that residents in my community who lived in the 8th district no longer have to go to 116th Street and Lexington Avenue for help from their councilmember, it is absurd and blatantly disrespectful to divide the area between the 7th and 9th districts along such a random line. The easiest solution is to move the border so that everything west of Central Park and Morningside Park is in the 7th. If this causes the 7th to exceed its capacity, move the line of the 6th district north to pick up some additional voters. I propose that the Commission redraw the lines more naturally, to keep Manhattan Valley’s representation on the West Side, where it belongs, rather than as an appendage to another district for incumbency or demographic reasons.”

Assemblymember Daniel O’Donnell’s

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

at the

**Children’s Aid Society’s Frederick Douglass Center
885 Columbus Avenue @ West 104th Street**

Saturday, November 3

11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Organizations that provide FREE Health Services, Screenings, and Information about CPR, nutrition, diabetes, cancer, foot health, eye health, and organ donation have been invited.

Cosponsor: Jane Wisdom, President,
Frederick Douglass Tenants’ Association

VICTORY FOR OBAMA CAMPAIGN CENTER

2689 Broadway at 102nd/103rd Streets

Debate Watch Party

Wednesday, October 3 at 8:15 p.m.

Better than any sports bar!

Campaign Trips

Saturday, October. 6

Bus to Bristol, PA:

Canvass for Obama

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. To reserve a seat, buy

a ticket at the Center (\$25.00) or at

<http://www.threeparksdems.org>

Sunday, October 7

Car or Metro North to Beacon, NY:

Canvass for Obama

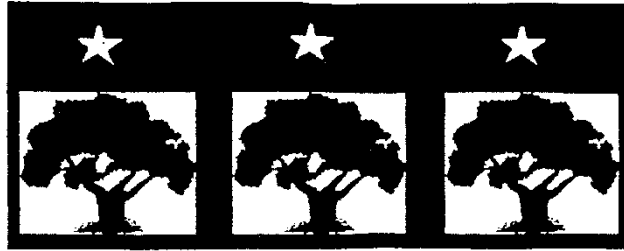
Take back a House seat for Democrat Sean

Patrick Maloney against teapartier Nan

Hayworth

For information on this trip, come to the

Center or call 212-665-0050.



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***

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
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

VICTORY FOR OBAMA CAMPAIGN CENTER

2689 Broadway at 102nd/103rd Streets

**REP. JERRY NADLER: The Campaign
for President and Taking Back the House**