

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

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Elizabeth Kellner

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Judy Wood (judyw123@verizon.net)
Divya Anantharaman

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

October 9, 2013

FEATURED TOPIC &

SPEAKERS: ARE YOU READY FOR THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT?

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

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 and Welcome

1. DISTRICT LEADER REPORTS
2. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES FOR THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
3. PANEL: ARE YOU READY FOR THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT? SPEAKERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXCHANGE IN NYS, IMPLICATIONS FOR LABOR AND SINGLE PAYOR ADVOCACY

CALENDAR

Wednesday October 9th, 2013

Three Parks Meeting, 8pm

Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103d St.

Thursday October 3rd, 2013

County Committee Meeting

Goddard Riverside, 6PM

Wednesday, October 9th, 2013

Three Parks Meeting, 8PM

Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave @ 103rd Street

Friday, October 11th, 2013

Deadline to register to vote for the November General Election

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2013

Three Parks Board Meeting, 8pm

Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave @ 103rd Street

Tuesday, November 5th, 2013

Election Day

Polls open 6am to 9pm

President's Column

By Elizabeth Kellner

Our September meeting started less than 24 hours after the primary polls closed, but with the help of our guest speaker, Ken Sherrill, Prof. Emeritus of History at Hunter College CUNY, we were able to reflect upon the big picture and note some important themes and trends even as returns were still coming in and uncertainty about winners and losers remained. As one club member put it, Prof. Sherrill was a breath of fresh air after all the hot air of an intense campaign summer.

For the most part, our endorsed candidates won or made strong showings in crowded fields. However, the top of our ticket, John Liu, really never gained any traction. It was often an uphill struggle to engage voters on the street to even consider his candidacy. de Blasio's late surge and polls suggesting he could clear 40% no doubt encouraged some wavering progressives to go with him in the hopes of avoiding a run-off once it was clear Liu's candidacy was doomed. What happened to Liu demonstrates the power of media and sound bites to bias even a reasonably politically aware and informed audience such as our community. With so many candidates and so many races, voters were fatigued, overwhelmed and reluctant to dig down to examine the facts. Sadly, that's not going to change any time soon, if ever, making it that much harder for grass roots activism to prevail in races which generate a lot of media attention.

While turnout this Primary Day was double that of four years ago when a beaten down and discouraged electorate seemed resigned to having been forced to accept a circumvention of term limits, it was still only a pitiful 20% of eligible voters. This is worse than anemic -- it's democracy on life support. Sadly, we will spend five times the total budget of the Public Advocate's office for a run-off which some predict will draw only 100,000 voters. The November General Election gives us one more chance to try to energize the public.

Bill de Blasio has a huge lead in the early polls. That's great, but the numbers are so good, there's really only one direction in which they can move. Hopefully, we can send a message that we don't want the Koch Brothers money in our politics in NYC, even as they succeed in "buying" some of our great cultural institutions. Hopefully, we can send a strong message that we reject fear mongering appeals based on race and class divisions and campaign rhetoric and smears which only demonstrate the ignorance of the speaker and insult all those who have ever cared about social justice and economic inequality. Hopefully, we will elect a progressive Democrat -- Bill de Blasio!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

District Leader's Report

By Cynthia Doty

Thank you to the voters of the 69th Assembly District Part A for re-electing me to another term as your Democratic Female District Leader... and special thanks to all the Three Parks members for your support.

This campaign was truly a TEAM effort...from petitioning, to tabling, to writing Dear Neighbor letters, to campaigning at polling sites on Primary Day. I am very grateful for all your volunteer efforts and your many hours of help. I am proud to be a member of Three Parks and look forward to continuing to serve such a dedicated group of New Yorkers!

We have much to be optimistic about as we come to the end of the Bloomberg/Giuliani era and move into the new era of **Democratic leadership in City Hall**. Our next mayor, Bill de Blasio, will start to turn this city around and help middle and low income New Yorkers achieve a better, fairer standard of living with higher wage jobs, decent affordable housing, and safe streets. Our new City Council will be more progressive than its predecessor and should work well with Mayor de Blasio to solve the city's problems, from public education, to housing, to the delivery of our municipal services. I am also confident that they will improve the civic discourse in New York and help bring us together to fight the various forms of discrimination exacerbated over the last decade by the huge income gap and growing poverty rate....serious consequences of the policies of the Bloomberg era that favored development of luxury housing and big tax breaks for big business.

I am committed to working with all of you to protect and improve our neighborhood and to help elect more Progressive Democrats throughout the state and nation. Together we will carry on the Three Parks traditions of grass roots organizing.

Again, many thanks to you all!

District Leader's Report

By Bob Botfeld

Thank you Three Parks' club members and friends. Cynthia and I won our District Leader races by a wide margin thanks to your efforts and support. We truly appreciate all the building letters distributed; campaign hours on the street, and the calls and emails to your friends and neighbors. In the few weeks of our very short District Leader campaign every bit of support helped immensely and it all worked. Congratulations to our winning endorsed candidates, Scott Stringer for Comptroller; Gale Brewer for Manhattan Borough President; Mark Levine for the 7th City Council Seat,

Elizabeth Kellner, Wilhelmina Perry, Deborah Thomas, and Donna Tapper for the contested 69th Election District (69th AD) County Committee seats; Milivoy Samurovich, Bruce Markens, Corine Pettey, Theresa Canter and Alan Flacks for Judicial Delegates in the 69th AD; and Tish James for Public Advocate who led in the primary vote and made the October 1st run-off.

Three Parks had an important role in each of these well-deserved victories. Gale's spacious campaign office was well populated with Three Parks' members making calls and other campaign activities. Tish James was joined by our club members even when she campaigned in the outer boroughs. Tish found sufficient support here in the Three Parks' area to return here time after time. Scott and Gale enjoyed overwhelming support in the Three Parks area with margins of greater than three to one in some of our ED's. Mark Levine, surrounded by Three Parks club members, was a rush hour morning regular at our local 96th and 103rd street subway stations.

Our judicial delegates and those of our neighboring clubs were able to run and prevail only because we organized a successful lawsuit to restore the judicial delegates to the ballot after the Board of Elections erroneously eliminated them. The lawsuit to restore our judicial delegates to the ballot was initially denied in State Supreme Court. However, we immediately appealed this decision to the next level court, the Appellate Division, and the Appellate Division panel of five judges reversed the lower court in a unanimous 5-0 decision in favor of restoring the delegates to the ballot. This reversal (our win) was upheld a few days later by the Court of Appeals in Albany.

Regarding my own election, while I have been District Leader for a number of years it was my first experience campaigning for my own election. The support I received from friends, neighbors and people that I thought I barely knew was heartwarming. I also appreciated the local stores and restaurants that allowed us to place our campaign signs in their windows and helped give us visibility. Finally, encouragement, advice, prodding and support from all my neighboring District Leaders and from all our elected officials current and past made the run so much easier with special thanks to District Leaders Curtis Arluck, Keith Lilly and Mark Levine; State Senator Bill Perkins; Borough President Scott Stringer; Councilmember Gale Brewer; Congressman Jerrold Nadler and former Assembly Member Ed Sullivan.

The November Election Ballot Measures

By Elizabeth Kellner

On November 5 there will be six New York State ballot measures put before the voters. Such measures are usually arcane, technical and generate little public interest, but this year there is one measure that has provoked some

controversy.

Proposition 1 authorizes Las Vegas style casino gambling in New York State. If the measure passes, up to seven such casinos could be opened. Leaving aside how you feel about gambling, that it can be addictive, and wreak financial ruin on individuals and families, or that the industry cynically fuels the hopes and dreams for a better life of those struggling to make it in an increasingly unequal economy, the rationale for allowing casino gambling in New York State is being presented in what many believe is a biased and misleading manner.

The ballot proposal states that it is being offered for the purpose of "promoting job growth, increasing aid to schools, and permitting governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated . . ." In other words, the ballot measure language is actually an advertisement making unproven claims as to its benefits. If this were a poll site, you would definitely be within the 100 foot restriction on electioneering! Such rosy and prejudicial statements are not the norm. Indeed, the language originally proposed by the Attorney General's office was the typical plain vanilla legalese wording. Apparently the Governor insisted the wording be changed.

As you consider how you will vote on this measure, you may also want to reflect upon New York and other states' history of corruption and mismanagement with race track and other gambling operations. We know the casinos ultimately win, and the patrons ultimately lose. This time the residents of New York State could be losing as well. Here is a summary of the other five Propositions that will be on the ballot

#2 - permits additional civil service credit to veterans who are disabled.

#3 - permits local governments to continue to exclude indebtedness for sewage facilities from their constitutional debt limits

#4 - permits settlement of a land title dispute with private landowners in a forest preserve.

#5 - permits a land exchange with a mining company seeking to expand its existing mine adjacent to a preserve.

#6 - permits Supreme Court Justices to serve until age 80.

For more information and to read the full text of these proposals see

www.elections.ny.gov/ProposedConsAmendments.

LGBT Rights in Russia during the 2014 Olympic Games

By Congressman Jerrold Nadler

Usually heralded as a time of peaceful and friendly competition, the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, are being overshadowed by the

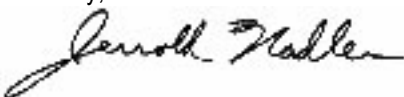
growing climate of intolerance against LGBT individuals in Russia. Homophobic attacks have risen sharply. The Russian government recently enacted a number of anti-gay laws: criminalizing "propaganda" deemed to promote "non-traditional sexual relations," allowing for arrest and detention for up to 14 days of tourists and foreign nationals suspected of being LGBT or supportive of LGBT rights, and banning the adoption of Russian-born children to gay couples or to persons living in countries where marriage equality exists. These laws have resulted in the arrest of Russian LGBT activists and have fueled anti-gay violence. Russia's leaders must repeal these laws and take steps to ensure the safety, dignity, and basic human rights of Russia's LGBT citizens.

With more than 100,000 attendees, including many Americans, predicted to be traveling to the 2014 Winter Olympics, I am very concerned about the safety of our LGBT and LGBT-supporting citizens. The Russian Interior Ministry has stated that the anti-LGBT laws will be applied to guests and athletes during the Games. The International Olympic Committee has admitted that they are unable to guarantee the safety of our athletes.

This is an untenable situation. Along with 87 of my fellow Members of Congress, I sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry asking what measures the U.S. State Department will be taking to ensure American athletes, staff, and their supporters are not arrested or harassed during the Sochi Games.

We must do everything we can to protect those Americans who are traveling to Russia this winter. Russia's anti-LGBT laws defy basic human rights that should be guaranteed to everyone at all times and in all places. These laws are completely contrary to the unifying spirit of the Olympics, which brings diverse nations together in a spirit of international unity.

Sincerely,



State Committee Report
By Daniel Marks Cohen

After much hemming and hawing the New York State Democratic Committee has called a meeting for October in Westchester, at last, not having to schlep up to Albany for a meeting – like the last three times – will also mean that downstate will be better represented at the gathering. Upstate meetings are expensive and time-consuming to attend, and it means that some Committee Members without the means, and time, do not show up. That has an impact on progressive causes, and now, it will affect our Progressive Caucus, which had its inaugural meeting in May and is eager to go this fall. After battling with the leadership of the largely defunct Reform Caucus, a new group has been born, with a

new and liberal agenda, and we are excited to begin.

Election results – pleased that Mark Levine won in the 7th district on Primary Day, he easily beat the other NINE candidates running, garnering more than twice as many votes as his closest opponent, Joyce Johnson. The Times declined to endorse in the race, which was curious, but it did not matter. Mark will energetically represent the new district (finally, a district that makes geographical SENSE!) and we look forward to working with him.

I am disappointed that the club's candidate Marc Landis lost in the 6th district (full disclosure, I volunteered as Marc's campaign treasurer). Perhaps Marc was pushing against history: the Upper West Side has been represented by women independent of the political clubs for almost forty years – beginning with Ruth Messinger in 1978, then Ronnie Eldridge, followed by Gale Brewer, who was successfully elected to Manhattan Borough President last month opening a seat that Helen Rosenthal just won in the Primary. None of those women, Helen included, were supported by many, or in some cases any, of the political clubs – but all of them were known, and respected, political figures. They operated outside of the political network on the West Side, and were successfully elected to City Council despite, and possibly because, they were outsiders.

Another thing working in Helen's favor was gender – the four top candidates were Helen, Mel Wymore (who had the NY Times endorsement), Marc Landis (who was supported by all three clubs and virtually every elected official on the West Side) and Noah Gotbaum. Mel is woman-to-man transgender but to his credit professionally (although possibly to his detriment politically) ran as a man and downplayed the potential groundbreaking "let's make history" candidacy potential of being the first transgender member of the city council. But by not noting that distinction, Mel was essentially one of three men of the top four candidates, and one of five men in the race overall (Ken Biberaj and Aaron Braunstein being the other two). There was another woman in the council race – my fellow State Committeewoman in the 67th, Debra Cooper, a hard working member of the State Committee, but she never seemed to catch fire in the campaign. Helen was essentially the most visible woman amongst a sea of men, and I hear that she had a good ground game leading up to, and on, Primary Day. I know Helen from my time on Community Board 7, and she will serve the district well, in the tradition of the progressives who preceded her. See you all at the October meeting!

Condolences to the family and many friends of Kathleen Martin, who passed away on Sept 8th.

Kathleen was a longtime member of Three Parks and an active resident of Douglass Houses. She always generously gave her time and spirit. Kathleen will be greatly missed.

THREE PARKS AREA PRIMARY RESULTS

September 10, 2013

The preliminary primary results below were collected by the diligent Three Parks Independent Democrats crew of poll closers. They are not official or final tallies but they are intended for the political junkies among us who want to know how their ED voted and how the different candidates fared relative to each other. Where there are blanks the closers were not able to read the machine accurately. Final totals at the ED level will be available in a few weeks when the Board of Election publishes results of the machine recanvass.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT																																					
CANDIDATE	25	26	27	35	36	37	38	42	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70?	71	
FEMALE DISTRICT LEADER																																					
Doty	75	65	24		6	46	46	86	62	89	113	187	127	151	134	83	90	23	45	77	23		54			128	218	111	193		194	30	16	41	100	28	31
Quinones	60	35	27		11	20	59	49	43	42	64	41	32	41	29	35	31	66	67	53	51		15			24	21	28	35		38	20	25	57	47	26	19
Mehia	27	28	7					28	28			18	30	12	16					34						22						7	24	23	19		10
MALE DISTRICT LEADER																																					
Botfeld	67	73	18		7	45	51	68	66	108	112	182	112	146	115	77	72	17	42	77	12		45			105	172	102	149		157	31	19	38	99	26	26
Lopez-Pierre	57	41	30		9	26	37	61	45	26	54	34	41	29	26	27	21	29	45	50	24		26			30	27	24	47		38	14	19	46	42	18	21
MAYOR																																					
Albanese	1	0	1		0	1	0		1	1	1	0	2	1	2			0	0	0	3					2	1		2			0	1	0		1	
Credico	1	2	0		0	0	0		2	0	0	3	1	3	1			5	7	6	3					1	1		0			3	0	5		0	
De Blasio	134	113	49		16	69	100	142	110	128	159	169	144	150	129	101	88	43	90	101	62					146	148	107	179			40	42	104	130	54	46
Liu	9	1	11		1	3	8	6	6	7	3	9	8	5	6			5	15	10	8	3				5	6	14	13			4	4	10	12	2	8
Quinn	81	123	24		8	42	33	71	71	11	110	132	93	98	89	54	68	14	38	65	11					80	102	61	127			23	20	32	76	14	26
Salagado	0	0	2		0	0	0		0	2	1	1			2			4	4	8	2					0	0					1	0	4		1	
Thompson	52	32	10		2	19	54	60	43	42	55	34	24	24	37	24	35	46	48	49	34					26	42	24	45			8	20	33	48	14	19
Weiner	4	2	1		?	4	?	?	6	4	5		5	5	3				9	16						7		7	2			4	4	9		?	
COMPTROLLER																																					
Stringer	184	215	55		13	99	110	199	152	218	212	262	210	178	197	129	23	57	97	127	30					170	240	148	259			47	39	87	167	46	59
Spitzer	87	50	33		12	35	78	77	70	63	106	89	59	98	66	60	58	38	74	94	61					88	57	59	101			25	42	78	98	33	33
PUBLIC ADVOCATE																																					
Guerriero	24	8	8		2	5	8	11	17	23	19	18	9		18			25	22	25	25					16	12	18	17			30	11	17	11	7	8
James	37	30	15		3	17	51	65	36	38	48	57	39		38	28	29	38	48	57	26					57	36	50	61			20	22	50	70	22	18
Suajani	33	33	21		4	20	38	37	29	37	53	54	34		27	25	22	7	14	24	5					32	44	31	47			10	8	30	35	9	14
Squadron	126	145	31		11	60	49	110	97	142	131	166	136		119	76	71	14	32	69	11					86	140	61	172			22	20	35	68	20	26

CANDIDATE	25	26	27	35	36	37	38	42	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70?	71						
BOROUGH PRESIDENT																																										
Brewer	154	151	58		11	82	90	179	145	188	184	219		184	179	128	97	21	48	93	30					151	217	137	211			39	20	52	146	30	37					
Jackson	27	17	2		4	10	33	32	15	24	19	18		25	9	7	17	28	33	27	23					23	7	17	13			4	15	31	23	12	8					
Lappin	41	27	14		4	15	16	26	22	26	38	42		16	25	15	16	6	24	28	16					22	24	25	36			7	20	32	33	14	14					
Menin	24	25	7		0	4	8	12	13	10	17	22		9	8	11	22	23	18	19	8					14	9	11	26			9	8	24	23	4	14					
6th CITY COUNCIL																																										
Biberaj	61	48	9							38	36	38	30	16	15												33	18	20	26												
Cooper	24	20	10							20	20	20	17	17	12												18	28	20	24												
Gotbaum	40	14	7							22	33	29	53	59	27												36	30	17	44												
Landis	43	58	21							53	52	50	31	31	47												49	66	52	62												
Rosenthal	51	45	21							76	?	78	63	59	62												48	86	41	89												
Wymore	33	50	12							42	49	101	51	65	68												45	49	27	66												
7th CITY COUNCIL																																										
Barksdale					3	0	3	2	2									7	3	3	4															2	0	6	3			
Johnson					0	26	93	80	29								20	15	33	37	19															7	16	41	66	18	12	
Lantigua					1	2	3		4									7	5	10	8																6		9	3		
Levine					15	73	70	140	134								106	26	53	98	22																33	32	62	119	37	51
Otto					0	5	0	13	4									5	17	6	7																3	5	11			
Ramadan					0	2	0	7	10										1	5	3	3																1	1	1	1	
Tejada					2	2	7	5	4										33	19	21	21																10	8	13	5	
Vargas					2		2		7										2	9	7	7																	3	8	5	

CAMPAIGN FOR THE DEMOCRATS!

Join with your fellow Democrats to register new voters and campaign for a Progressive New York City government led by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

=Saturday, Oct 5th, 11-2, Westside Market, Broadway & 98th St.
 =Tuesday, Oct 8th, 4:30-6:30, in front of Gristedes, Broadway & 103rd St.

Please visit threeparksdems.org for our ongoing campaign schedule. Sign up on the website for our email alerts. On to victory in November!

REMINDER: Oct 11th is the last day to register to vote for the November election.

**Responding to a call for an international Day of Solidarity
with Colombia's peace process:**

A circling picket for peace at the Colombian Consulate, 10 E.
46th St., 3:30-6:00, Oct 15th.

All friends of peace and demilitarization are welcome!

Bloomington Neighbourhood History Group's next free
program: Thursday, Oct 10th, 6:30PM @ Hostelling
International, Amsterdam Ave & 103rd St., on:

**The Tragedy of Urban Renewal: The Old Community (1900-
1960s)**

www.upperwestsidehistory.weebly.com

**Three Parks Independent Democrats
County Committee Members**

**Special Meeting, County Committee
Thursday, October 3rd, 6PM**

Goddard-Riverside Community Center
595 Columbus Avenue (88th Street)

If you agreed to serve on the County Committee listed on
the Three Parks' club petitions in June, you are now a
delegate to this meeting. At this meeting, County
Committee members will vote for a replacement candidate
for the Civil Court vacancy in the 5th Judicial District.

For more information, call Bob Botfeld (212-749-4085) or
Cynthia Doty (212-749-4085).



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

CATHEDRAL STATION P.O. BOX 1316 + NEW YORK, NY 10025 (212) 539-7602

Please pay your 2013 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*

2013 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 2013****

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

NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, October 9th
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**