



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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District Leaders
Bob Botfeld
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CLUB MEETING

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 8:00 pm
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street

On All Things Impeachment & Winning the Senate in 2020

Speaker: Martin Brennan,
State Director for Sen. Charles Schumer

November Ballot Proposals

Speakers: City Council Members
Ben Kallos, 5th District & Mark Levine, 7th District

AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign In
8:00 pm Call to Order
District Leader
Speakers:
Martin Brennan, Ben Kallos & Mark Levine
Questions & Answers
Adjourn

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President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

As the fall season begins, two events last month showed me how deeply our members care about current events, and how eager they are to ramp up their activism as we get closer to the 2020 elections.

The first of these events was our September 11 club meeting, which was interrupted by an unexpected occurrence. The focus of the meeting was a panel discussion on the climate crisis and the practical steps we can take to combat it. Our three speakers were Alex Beauchamp from Food & Water Watch, Ling Tsao from United for Action, and Didi Pershouse from the Soil Carbon Coalition. The three experts shared their ideas on the science of climate change, the campaign in New York State against the use of fossil fuels, and opportunities for grassroots climate activism. All was going well until a loud, recurring beep came over the sound system. Shortly thereafter, a hostel staff member told us that a fire had been reported and the building had to be evacuated.

Slowly, and somewhat reluctantly, we did as we were told and joined the crowd of hostel guests out on the sidewalk. It was 9:00 pm. I wondered whether I should tell everyone to go home. I looked around. Some people were leaving, but the three panelists were standing nearby, talking to club members. I decided to wait.

Twenty minutes later, we were allowed to reenter the hostel. Back in the ballroom, the panelists took their seats. How many club members would come back, I wondered. To my amazement, more than half returned. The panelists promptly took up from where they had left off and graciously answered questions from the audience. At 10:00 pm, I felt it was time to adjourn, but I could see a flicker of disappointment on many faces. Our club members were not concerned about the late hour; they cared more deeply about hearing from the experts. They were there to hear what they could do about the climate crisis, and they would not be deterred.

The second event this month that showed club members' eagerness for activism was the phone



bank and postcard writing party that we held on September 18. Even though summer was barely over and the 2020 elections are still relatively far away, 20 volunteers showed up; many more who could not attend that night promised to be there next time. Many said they had been waiting all summer for the chance to get back involved in political action. Knowing how important every campaign event is going to be from now through next fall, they are determined to make a difference.

Many thanks to our dedicated and committed club members who participated in these events. I'm eagerly looking forward to all that we can accomplish together this coming year!

District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

Manhattan Democratic County Committee Meeting 2019

About one thousand Manhattan Democratic County Committee members attended a raucous and contentious biennial organizational convention in the gymnasium in Riverbank State Park, a venue chosen to accommodate the 2,800+ county committee membership, but better suited for cheering for your favorite basketball team. Most of the seating was high school gym-style bleachers.

The primary agenda for the meeting was to elect officers to administer the party for the next two years. Before the meeting, there was controversy about which county committee members would be allowed to vote. In June, the NYS legislature amended the election law, using poorly drafted language. It left unclear who could vote at the Convention—members elected in 2017 or those elected members chosen in the June 2019 primary. Two days before the convention, State Supreme Court Justice Alan Marin clarified the issue in an unopposed special proceeding brought by Vittorio Fariello, a district leader and attorney from Downtown Independent Democrats, and aided by Arthur Schwartz, the county committee's current co-law chair. Marin ruled that the members elected in 2019 could vote.

Three candidates had announced interest in running for county committee chairperson: the current chairperson, Nico Minerva; the current county secretary, Ben Yee; and Theo Chino. (The position of county leader, currently held by Keith Wright, is not chosen at the biennial convention.)

The vote for chairperson was preceded by nominations and two-minute presentations for each candidate. Concern about the fairness of the process was raised during the nominations. Minerva was nominated by Louise Dankberg. At first the other candidates' nominators weren't allowed to announce their candidates. Instead, those candidates were announced by the temporary chairperson. This perceived unfairness likely helped Yee and brought the loudest shouts from supporters of Yee and Chino. At one point, the state police entered to restore order.

After order was restored, a fourth candidate used his time to attack Ben Yee. Chino presented in Spanish, English, and a bit of French.

Yee described his work as improving county-committee transparency, urged more effective and earlier notification for meetings, and promised to use the committee to train members in organizing. Minerva emphasized that Manhattan had an intentionally decentralized county committee structure that differed from those of the other boroughs, and that the primary purpose of the county committee was to support the local district clubs in their efforts.

Votes for Minerva totalled about 520. Votes for Yee totalled about 250. Chino received 15 votes. The other officers—first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and sergeant-at-arms—were uncontested and elected by voice vote.

Join Our Fall Campaign: Help Take Back Congress!

By Chuck Wall

Now that the 2020 elections are just thirteen months away, the Three Parks "Take Back Congress" volunteers have re-launched the phone banking and postcard writing campaign that proved so successful in 2018. We invite all interested club members to join us in our ongoing efforts.

As club members know, much depends on Democrats regaining control of the Senate. So for starters, we are targeting a race that is absolutely crucial to this effort: the fight to unseat Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell in Kentucky. For now, we are focusing on issues



as a way to influence voters. On September 18, twenty hard-working volunteers phoned and wrote postcards to Republican senior citizens in three selected Kentucky counties. Our aim was to alert these seniors that McConnell cannot be trusted to protect their benefits; in fact, he has publicly called for cuts to Social Security and Medicare. In all, we called several hundred phone numbers and wrote nearly 200 cards. Callers logged a number of significant conversations with Republican voters, Many were unaware of the benefits cuts issue, but they were friendly and willing to listen. Several requested follow-up information sheets.

Our next Phone Bank and Postcard-Writing Event is Monday, Oct. 28. For details, watch for email blasts or check the Three Parks website.

We plan to expand our focus to include not just important Senate races, but also Congressional and other local races in New York State. Once the campaigning season starts, we expect to work with campaign organizations in each district to support the eventual Democratic nominee.

So join your fellow TPID club members for upcoming phone banks and postcard-writing events, and help take back Congress! Watch for details in future email blasts, or check the TPID website. We invite all interested club members to join us, but once you get the email invitation, remember to respond promptly as space may be limited. No computers are needed, but please bring a cellphone. Scripts and training are provided.

In Memoriam Marie Lunn

Three Parks Independent Democrats mourns the loss of our esteemed board member Marie Lunn, who passed away suddenly on September



5. Marie had been a member of Three Parks since the late '90s and a board member since 2005. She participated actively in our political campaigns, was integrally involved in our presidential campaign storefronts, and was a warm and welcoming

presence at our holiday parties, summer picnics, annual fundraising benefits, and mailing parties. In addition, she was a longtime volunteer at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Harlem landmark on 135th Street. Marie will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her. Our deepest condolences to her brother Julius and to other members of her family. A memorial service is being planned for this fall.

Mark Your Calendar

Debate Watch Party

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 8:00am-1:00 pm

Amity Hall Uptown

982 Amsterdam Avenue (between 108 & 109 Sts)

Join Three Parks Independent Democrats and Broadway Democrats at our joint watch party for the upcoming Democratic Presidential Candidate debate! This event is Free and Open to the Public.

Take Back the Senate: Phone Bank & Postcard Writing

Monday, October 28, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

West 110th St. Location

For details, watch for email announcements or the Three Parks website.

Climate in Crisis

By Daniel Tsadok



The club's September 11 meeting featured a panel discussion titled "Climate in Crisis: What Can We Do About it?" The speakers were three experienced climate activists (*left to right*): Alex Beauchamp from Food & Water Watch, Ling Tsao from United for Action, and Didi Pershouse from the Soil Carbon Coalition.

Beauchamp described the ongoing fight to halt construction of pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure, and the need to keep pressuring the New York State legislature to meet its stated climate commitments.

Tsao gave a lesson in grassroots activism, describing how she co-founded United for Action when there was no meaningful opposition to fracking in New York State and when the inevitability of fracking in the state seemed to be largely taken for granted.

Pershouse, visiting from Vermont, explained the many benefits of healthy, living soil, including capturing atmospheric carbon, cooling the surrounding area, capturing water, and providing opportunities to work with individuals who may see climate change as a partisan issue but who are nevertheless dealing with its effects.

The three speakers provided valuable perspectives that will help club members think strategically and effectively on the issues of climate change.

Don't Forget to Vote on Tuesday, November 5

On the ballot:

- **Public Advocate**
- **Civil Court Judges**
- **Supreme Court Judges**
- **Five Ballot Proposals**

Early Voting Starts Oct. 26

This fall, New Yorkers will have an additional option to cast their vote in the 2019 General Election. From Saturday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 3, select sites across all five boroughs will offer early voting in advance of Election Day on Nov. 5. Voters will continue to have the option to cast an absentee ballot if they choose to do so.

Voting hours will vary from day to day during the early voting period. For more information and a list of early voting locations, click here: <https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/home/home.shtml>



Street Naming Honors Corine Pettey

The corner of 101 Street and Central Park West has been renamed in honor of Corine Pettey, past Three Parks board and club member. At a ceremony on September 19, a street sign was installed designating the corner "Corine Pettey Way."

Pettey spent 25 years as an educator, administrator, and ultimately principal of Public School 208, located at 21 West 111 Street. She was dedicated to providing educational and cultural opportunities to children, particularly those in under-served areas.

Pettey, the former district leader of Riverside Democrats, was a longtime member of Three Parks Independent Democrats. She served on its board until 2015. In that capacity, she supported a wide

range of progressive initiatives from "green" jobs creation to the fight against fracking. She also took an active role in Presidential campaigns and volunteered regularly at the 2012 Obama/Biden storefront. She is remembered as a friend and mentor to many.

Three Parks Independent Democrats 2020 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) _____ (Cell) _____

Email _____

Check here _____ if you prefer to receive the newsletter **solely** by email.

Please pay your dues with a check, money order or via PayPal.

Please make out all checks to

Three Parks Independent Democrats—Dues 2020.

Mail to: Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station, P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025

Attn: Treasurer

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 17, 2019

*On All Things Impeachment
& Winning the Senate in 2020*

Martin Brennan,
State Director for Sen. Charles Schumer

November Ballot Proposals

City Council Members
Ben Kallos & Mark Levine

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 23, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Club Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Board Meeting

Sunday, December 8, 5:30–8:00 pm
Three Parks Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 18, 8:00 pm
Three Parks Board Meeting