



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
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SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: VOTER SUPPRESSION and CAMPAIGN POLITICS;
DEMOCRATIC VICTORY STOREFRONT 2012

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Voter Suppression & Campaign Politics
4. Campaign Storefront
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, September 13, 2012
PRIMARY DAY

Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

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

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Welcome back, members and friends – the conventions are over, the presidential tickets official, and we are off and running!

The Grand Opening of the Three Parks/Broadway Democrats "Democratic Victory 2012" storefront will take place soon at a location to be determined on Broadway between 100th Street and 104th Street. Again, we will have the opportunity to work together to support the Obama-Biden ticket and candidates in other critical races, build enthusiasm, and unite with our neighbors and community for progressive causes.

Look for an upcoming Club email with all the details about re-electing President Obama and Vice President Biden. We will be making calls, tabling, and going door to door in the City, New York State, and neighboring states on behalf of the national ticket and Democrats running for various Congressional, state and local offices. You can also check the Club Web site for updates at <http://threeparksdems.org> In 2008, Three Parks made 35,000 calls on behalf of the presidential and other races, arranged bus trips to take more than 1,000 volunteers to canvass in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and registered 6,400 voters. Be sure to stop in and volunteer over the next several weeks!

The Club's September meeting will cover the Republican-led voter suppression movement and campaign politics in general; the speaker will soon be announced.

Three Parks has had a successful summer – we got hundreds of signatures on letters to ban fracking in New York State, held our annual picnic, and sold buttons to fund the storefront and transportation for campaigning out of state.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting and at the storefront – remember to check the Club Web site for updates!

District Leader Report

By Bob Boffled

Summer 2012

What a busy political spring and summer which began with our first June primary in many decades. A nonstop procession of events was triggered by the 2010 census and subsequent redistricting: New York State Assembly redistricting, petitioning for the U.S. Congressional candidates, election district numbering assignments (unfortunately including election districts that floated in the Hudson and entire apartment buildings of voters omitted from the list of registered voters), numerous poll site changes, the

June Congressional election, charges (nearly all erroneous) and countercharges of Board of Elections malfeasance, lobbying for and passage of the UWS Retail Zoning bill in the New York City council, petitioning for state and local offices, NYC council redistricting, the weird gerrymandered 31st state senate district and the drop out/drop in contestants, raising money for the Obama storefront, more Board of Elections charges and attacks on the role of the Democratic Party in the elections, the volatile local Broadway store real estate market and the search for the 2012 campaign storefront, and new policies at the Board of Elections

And yes, if we do not reelect President Obama we may be on a short road to a country run by multinational corporations, environmental policy based upon corporate greed instead of science, and social policy set by the religious right.

NYC Board of Elections

I would like to share a few thoughts about the recent controversy about the Board of Elections (BOE). In my experience over the last 16 years, the BOE has slowly and gradually improved year by year. The recent attacks are largely unwarranted and, in some cases, flagrantly untrue. The BOE is not a model of efficiency; however, it has a small staff that must deploy and manage 30,000 workers twice a year. The recent focus on replacing the New York State constitutionally mandated system of Democratic- and Republican- Party appointed workers (the constitution specifies that the two parties that receive the most votes in a recent election appoint the poll workers) by a nonpartisan mayoral-directed board would be worse. Mayors are also partisans with personal and political agendas. Under the current system, the pairing of Democratic and Republican workers provides for a check and balance that is the basis of our government. The recent attacks upon the BOE are potentially highly destructive of both the current system and, more importantly, the role of the Democratic Party (and all parties). Without political parties, all of politics would be even more dominated by moneyed interests than they are today.

Preserving the Businesses and on Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway

On June 28, I watched the NYC Council pass the UWS Retail Zoning bill created to preserve the small local retail, service, and restaurant businesses on Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway. Many thanks to Councilmember Gale Brewer who spearheaded this bill along with former CB7 chair Mel Wymore, the strong support of Councilmembers Melissa Mark-Viverito and Inez Dickens, and the final push from current CB7 chair Mark Diller.

The support and eloquence of Three Parks members were critical to passing this bill during the mounting opposition from the banks and large real estate interests. Three Parks members gathered the petitions documenting overwhelming

community interest, collected letters from local businesses, and spoke persuasively at community board, city planning, and city council committee meetings. Without the help of Elizabeth Kellner, Lynn Thomas, Corinne Pettey, Lynn Max, Cynthia Doty, Merle McEldowney, Shoshanna Benmosche, Jock Davenport, Steve Max, Lauren Williams, Mary Ann Marks, Brenda Morgan, Milivoy Samurovich, and many others this bill would certainly not have included our neighborhood and may not have passed.

2012 Fall Campaign

We are optimistic we will soon have a storefront for on Broadway for the fall campaign. The storefront will again be a center for phone banking and trips to Pennsylvania for President Obama. In addition, there are four ~~nearby~~ New York Congressional races in districts currently held by Republicans that are keys to retaking the House. In a political report to local activists last month, Congressman Nadler discussed the potential for the races in Staten Island (Democratic candidate is Mark Murphy: NY-11), the Hudson Valley (Julian Schreiber: NY-19 – the former Gillibrand seat), the Westchester/Rockland County race for the former John Hall seat (Sean Patrick Maloney: NY-18), and Dan Maffei's effort to retake his former Syracuse-area House seat (NY-24). Congressman Nadler has been selected to help oversee the effort to take back the Staten Island seat.

Watch Party for Obama Acceptance Speech

Watch President Obama accept the Democratic nomination with Three Parks Independent Democrats on Thursday, September 6 from 8:00 to 11:00 P.M. at Five Lamps Tavern (the former Meridiana), 2756 Broadway between 105th Street and 106th Street. Also invite your friends to join us.

Three Parks & Broadway Democrats Obama Campaign Storefront News

By Bob Boffeld

There is rapidly increasing interest in our neighborhood to defeat the awful Romney/Ryan ticket. Many neighbors and former Obama and Kerrey storefront volunteers have inquired about when we will open the 2012 storefront.

We are in negotiations currently and hoping to close soon on a lease for campaign storefront located on Broadway between 100th Street and 106th Street.

As usual, the success of our storefront depends entirely on the generosity on our club members, volunteers, and neighbors in giving both their time and money (donations for campaign buttons). After we open, please tell all your friends and neighbors about our storefront.

We also need of any of the following items either loaned or donated:

- Computers, computer monitors, or laptops;
- Good chairs; and
- Folding tables

Until the storefront opens, reply to Bob at rjbwteg@aol.com or ThreeParksDems@aol.com if you can contribute or loan any of these items.

PRIMARY DAY

Thursday, September 13

**NOTE: New election district numbers
and poll sites**

CHECK YOUR BOE POSTCARD

Three Parks Independent Democrats

ENDORSEMENTS:

**MANHATTAN SURROGATE
COURT**

Judge Barbara Jaffe

(No other endorsed contests)

Judicial Candidates Announced

The judicial convention will be held the evening of September 25 at 333 West 23rd Street.

Supreme Court Candidates are as follows:

Manuel J. Mendez
Saliann Scarpulla
George Silver
Anil Singh

Those reported out by the County Screening Panel are the following:

Nancy Bannon
Arlene Bluth
Arthur Engoron
Kathryn Freed
Shlomo Hagler
Barbara Jaffe
Debra James
Andrea Masley
Peter Moulton
Ruth Pickholz
Lori Susan Sattler

The 2012 Three Parks Picnic

By Theresa Canter

It was a glorious evening for a picnic in Central Park! We had a great turnout, over 125 folks throughout the evening. In addition to our club members and neighborhood friends, we were joined by many judicial candidates and our Assembly member, Daniel O'Donnell, and City Council member from the 6th CD, Gale Brewer.

As always, it takes a whole lot of Three Parkers to plan and pull off a successful picnic. Many thanks to all the members who brought lots of good food and drink to share, and those who volunteered to coordinate, set-up and clean-up the event – including Bob Botfeld, Wendy Dannett, Jock

Davenport, Cynthia Doty, Ernestine Gallagher, Daniele Gerard, Brian Jordan, Elizabeth Kellner, Erl Kimmich, Ken Laufer, David Lazarus, Bruce Markens, Merle McEldowney, Batya Miller, Rose Robinson, Clara Taylor, Deborah Thomas, Ken Tulloch, Lauren Williams, Rosetta Williams and others who pitched in to help as needed. And, thanks to Alan Cary who again sang and played the banjo for the crowd.

Special thanks to Barbara Lee and Bob Botfeld for photographing the event. (A few pictures follow.) Many more pictures are posted on our Web site, www.ThreeParksDems.org, with a link to both our Facebook page and to Flickr. They are great so please check them out!



Vote for Judge Barbara Jaffe

By Theresa Canter

The Democratic primary is September 13, and I urge you to join me in voting for the Three Parks endorsed candidate **Judge Barbara Jaffe for Surrogate's Court**. The Surrogate's Court presides over the distribution of the assets of persons who die either with or without a will, and also oversees guardianships. With 10 years of experience in New York's Criminal, Civil, and Supreme Courts and almost two decades as a State Supreme Court clerk and Legal Aid attorney, **Barbara Jaffe** is a seasoned jurist and will be the Surrogate who will serve the interest of all New Yorkers.

Judge Jaffe is a highly respected and dedicated Acting Supreme Court Justice, handling pre-trial litigation with the City of New York and matrimonial trials. In both capacities, she is lauded for her efficient calendar management and well-reasoned opinions which are often published. And she decides issues like those arising in Surrogate's Court involving trusts, fiduciary duties, accountings, attorney fees, family disputes, real estate, and taxes. Prior to her law career, she spent almost a decade in the in the wholesale art and antiques business.

Join us and volunteer to Get Out The Vote! Volunteers are needed for Primary Day and for Dear Neighbor letters. Please contact the campaign at Campaign@judgebarbarajaffe.com if you want to help elect **Judge Barbara Jaffe** as our next Surrogate.

Participatory Budgeting Begins Again for the City Budget

By Cynthia Doty

Six City Council members will be using Participatory Budgeting this year, including Melissa Mark-Viverito of the 8th Council District.

Residents and community members will have a chance to propose various projects for \$1 million of capital expenses in the 8th District. The first Neighborhood Assemblies on the West Side will be held on September 25 at 6:30 P.M. at the Douglass Children's Aid Society at Columbus Avenue and West 104th Street and on October 10 (this date may change to October 11) at Red Oak on West 106th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue.

Please come and bring your ideas for any capital projects that you believe will improve our neighborhood. We will then establish committees to work out all the necessary details for the proposals which will be voted on by the community early next year.

Help Democrats Win in The Senate and House

By Bruce Markens

Once the Three Parks storefront is in full operation, we will be gearing up to assist Democratic candidates to keep the Senate in Democratic hands and to take back the House from the Republicans. Toward this end, we will be phone banking in support of various candidates and assisting neighboring campaigns in canvassing and GOTV (Get Out The Vote) activities. As of this writing, we expect to be helping Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts who is in a tight race with Republican incumbent Scott Brown and possibly with Chris Murphy in Connecticut who is being outspent by Linda McMahon. We also will assist Sean Patrick Maloney in trying to take back John Hall's seat in Westchester and Mark Murphy, who is challenging the Republican incumbent in Staten Island. Races in upstate New York State that we may get involved in include those involving Julian Schreiber, Louise Slaughter and Kathy Hochul. Any member interested in helping these fellow Democrats, can send email to ThreeParksDems@aol.com or phone 212-539-7602.

NYS State Committeeman Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

Hello all! Hope you had an excellent summer. I testified before the NYC Redistricting Commission on Thursday, August 15 about the plans to redraw the City Council district lines. Together with District Leader Curtis Arluck from Broadway Democrats, District Leader Marc Landis from CFD, and colleagues from neighboring clubs and from Three Parks who testified at the hearing, we all essentially said the same thing – that the way the Upper West Side is currently configured is not acceptable and that the districts must be redrawn. My testimony follows:

"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 Assembly member 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 – there 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_statistics.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 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 Commission's charge is the City Council lines so let us turn to look at the districts there. There are FOUR City Council districts in the 69th: Gale Brewer of the 6th, Robert Jackson of the 7th, Melissa Mark-Viverito of the 8th, and Inez Dickens of the 9th. Including Assemblymember O'Donnell, it makes TEN different elected officials representing one community at three different levels of government. It is no wonder that people get confused about whom to talk to about one issue or another. And it lets elected officials off the hook with matters that are at the fringes of their district or issues that are of uncertain origin in one district or another or overlapping district issues. What is clear is that if every one of the 10 electeds is to be responsible, **then no one is truly responsible**. This lack of clarity needs to be addressed, and we can correct one issue, the appropriate councilmanic location of Manhattan Valley – which is the area from 96th Street to 110th Street, east of Broadway to Central Park West.

Let us look more closely at the City Council districts: if you were to stand at 96th Street and Broadway, depending on what corner you are on, you could be in one of three different councilmanic districts. There will always be confusion at the edges of districts; and with the 6th district entirely south of 96th Street represented by Ms. Brewer, that demarcation line is clear. But north of there it gets confusing. Depending on which side of Broadway you stand, you could be in the 8th district represented by Ms. Mark-Viverito to the East or the 9th district represented by Ms. Dickens to the West. Both Council members are dedicated and hardworking, so this is not a criticism of their individual work ethic. However, it may be time to reconsider the lines of these two members in Manhattan Valley – particularly the 8th district – which stretches all the way over from East Harlem to Manhattan's West Side. For constituents with limited mobility or restricted incomes, travelling to 116th Street and Lexington Avenue to the council district office is a great difficulty. Ms. Mark-Viverito does her best with limited resources and extended staff, but it is hard to meet the needs of such a widely disparate 8th district, both geographically and economically.

Perhaps when Ms. Mark-Viverito's late predecessor, Philip Reed, represented the district – and full disclosure, I was Phil's treasurer in his final reelection campaign – there may have been some

justification in keeping Manhattan Valley in the 8th, since Phil lived in Manhattan Valley and to redraw the area out of the district would have drawn Phil's home out of the district as well. But, that is no longer the case – Ms. Mark-Viverito lives on the East Side of Manhattan, and the bulk of her district is there as well. 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.

I will close on this point – just shy of fifty years ago, in 1963, the community board lines were drawn to map constituencies, neighborhoods, and communities with similar needs and demands (http://www.nyc.gov/html/cau/downloads/pdf/community_board_basics.pdf). While the people within those lines have changed over time, the lines themselves are still true. If the Commission is looking for a guide to what districts should look like I urge them to compare their lines to the lines of the community boards. The closer to those community board lines the election districts are drawn, the happier their constituents will likely be. Thank you for your time and consideration.”

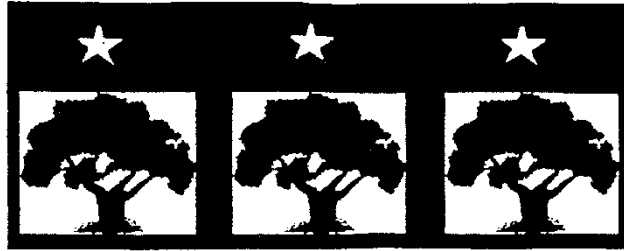
Smithsonian Magazine Hosts Museum Day Live!

**Ticket Provides FREE Admission for Two
on September 29**

In the spirit of Smithsonian Museums, Museum Day Live! is an event in which museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket...for free.

Many New York area museums are participating in the Saturday, September 29 event. Register to receive the free ticket at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday>

- Only an official Museum Day Live! ticket is eligible for free entry.
- One ticket per household is good for two people.
- A ticket will gain entry to only one of the participating museums, excluding parking and special events and exhibits.
- If museum reaches capacity, museum has the right to limit the number of guests until space becomes available.



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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.

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New York, N.Y. 10025

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

**VOTER SUPPRESSION MOVEMENT
AND CAMPAIGN POLITICS**

STOREFRONT 2012