



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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District Leaders

Bob Boffeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

SEPTEMBER MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

FEATURED TOPIC: **NYC COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER (invited)**
SPEAKERS: 8 Months In, What We Found & Where We Are Going

THE PEOPLES CLIMATE MARCH: September 21, 2014

Speaker: Alex Beauchamp:
Director, Food & Water Watch's Northeast Region

PRIMARY ELECTION WRAP UP

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

AGENDA

8:00 pm Announcements and Updates

**District Leader Reports:
Primary Election Wrap Up**

**NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
(Invited)**

8 Months In, What We Found &
Where We Are Going

The People's Climate March: September 21, 2014

Alex Beauchamp: Director, Food & Water
Watch's Northeast Region

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
Primary Election - Polls open 6am-10pm

Wednesday, September 10, 2014
TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

Wednesday, September 16, 2014
NY County Judicial Nomination Convention

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
TPID Board Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Board Room

Wednesday, October 8, 2014
TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

Wednesday, October 10, 2014
Last Day Voter Registration for November General
Election

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
TPID Board Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Board Room

Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Election Day – Federal and State Offices

Wednesday, November 12, 2014
TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Elizabeth Kellner

As New York City summers go, especially for locally active Democrats, 2014 was unseasonably pleasant and relatively quiet, especially in contrast to high profile national and international tragedies and confrontations (e.g. the flood of unaccompanied child immigrants, the Supreme Court's decision in the Hobby Lobby case upholding private religious objections to mandates of the Affordable Care Act, Russia's intervention and escalation in Ukraine, the downing of the Malaysian jet, the Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa, Ferguson, Missouri, and in no particular order, Libya, Syria, Iraq, ISIS, Hamas, Israel, Gaza.

Closer to home, TPID's June meeting turned out to be our own version of a five borough tour. We welcomed Oliver Koppell from the Bronx who is challenging Jeff Klein, leader of the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC). The IDC alliance with Senate Republicans, helped by a passive aggressive Governor, thwarted many progressive measures in Albany. John Liu of Queens was there to promote his primary challenge to the most recent IDC turncoat, Tony Avella. Brooklyn was also in the house, represented by activist Jamie Kemmerer who is running against long time Republican State Senator Marty Golden in November. Staten Island took the podium when we heard from a representative speaking on behalf of former City Councilman Dominic Recchia who is challenging indicted incumbent Republican Congressman Michael Grimm for this Staten Island/Brooklyn seat. Of course, Manhattan was represented by our endorsed State Senate candidate, former City Councilman Robert Jackson, who is hoping to unseat incumbent Adriano Espaillat who lost his federal congressional primary challenge to Rangel in late June.

Last but not least, TPID heard from Zephyr Teachout well before what is proving to be more than just her mere 15 minutes of fame. Teachout had recently failed to win the endorsement of the Working Families Party which went to Cuomo notwithstanding a good deal of vocal and passionate opposition. When Teachout addressed TPID, she was still undecided as to whether she would even attempt to get on the ballot

as a Democrat to challenge Cuomo in the September 10 primary. We all know how that turned out - she and her Lieutenant Governor running mate Tim Wu collected the signatures needed statewide and survived petition and residency challenges filed by Cuomo's election lawyers.

Looking ahead to the November election, here in NYC, Jamie Kemmerer (Brooklyn State Senate seat) and Dominic Recchia (Staten Island/Brooklyn Congressional seat) still have races to win and need our help. The battle to maintain Democratic control of the U.S. Senate will be very, very tough indeed, and several Democratic House seats are also at risk.

Meanwhile, it's back to school for Mayor de Blasio with a hopefully successful launch of universal pre-K, the completed negotiation of several important public union contracts, and incremental progress on achieving the goal of 200,000 units of affordable housing. Let's hope this momentum continues as the administration grapples with the enormous challenge of reforming our broken, if not cruel, criminal justice system for both youths and adults and finding more effective ways to improve police community relations and prevent the use of excessive force. If NYPD's Sargeants Benevolent Association's fear mongering open letter to the Democratic National Committee seeking to scare them away from choosing Brooklyn as the site for the 2016 convention is any indication, it won't be easy. Shame on them!

TPID overwhelmingly voted "No Endorsement" for Governor Cuomo nearly four months ago--long before the recent New York Times editorial and before Zephyr Teachout entered the race. Please see our letter published in the June 12th Spirit (on the back of this month's meeting poster) explaining the reasons for the membership's vote and calling on all New Yorkers to deny the Governor the mandate he seeks in the elections on September 9th and November 4th

DISTRICT LEADERS REPORT

by Bob Botfeld

Primary Day: September 9th

Compared to last summer this was a quiet campaign season. This year only three offices are on the ballot: - 31st State Senate, New York Governor, and New York Lieutenant Governor. However, for Three Parks' it's an important election because we have a key role in the 31st State Senate race. In May Three Parks overwhelmingly endorsed former councilmember Robert Jackson for the 31st State Senate race. As NYC Councilmember, Jackson ably represented the 7th Council District extending north from Morningside Heights. Since the Three Parks endorsement, Jackson has also been endorsed by Broadway Democrats which he previously represented, Citizen's Union, League of Conservation Voters, Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, State Senator Bill Perkins, and former NYC Councilmember Ronnie Eldridge among others. Jackson has been an energetic presence at Three Parks' petitioning tables and campaigning at our local subway entrances.

In this primary election all poll sites will be open because the statewide offices, Governor and Lieutenant Governor are on the ballot. Three Parks' voted No Endorsement in the Governor's race in May. Last Sunday, the New York Times followed Three Parks' lead in an unusual editorial chose not to endorse in the Governor's race, too. The *NY Times* cited Cuomo's failure to follow up on his campaign promise to enact effective campaign finance laws among other issues. The club did not have a vote for the Lieutenant Governor's race since there was no announced candidate at the time of our May endorsement vote.

Because this has been such a quiet campaign season, there is likely to again be a low turnout. Every vote will be very important and we need your help in turning out our local vote. We will be handing out literature, helping voters find their poll site (a few have shifted again), and helping our endorsed candidate. If you can help on Primary Day even if just for an hour or two let us know. Call 212-865-1450 or email to rjbwtg@aol.com. There will also be a campaign table at 103rd Street and Broadway.

For more information about Robert Jackson see <http://www.voterobertjackson.com/about-robert>

NOTE: While all the poll sites will be open, the following poll sites and ED's will have the 31st State Senate Race, i.e. Robert Jackson, on the ballot. State Senator Bill Perkins and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell are unopposed and will not be on the ballot.

Three Parks' Area 31ST State Senate PRIMARY POLLING SITES (All in 69th Assembly District)

Columbia Housing: ED: **58**.

Marseille LLC: ED: **62, 63, 64**.

PS 75: ED: **22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49**.

West Side High School: ED: **50, 51, 60, 61**.

Masters Apartment: ED: **64**.

Red Oak: ED: **66**.

PS 163: ED: **36**.

2014 Petitioning Report

By Bob Botfeld

Three Parks' members again rose to the double petitioning challenge created by the state legislature's inability to agree on a single primary date and petitioning period for both federal and state candidates. In March and April we petitioned for Congressmembers Nadler and Rangel. From the end of May through the beginning of July we collected signatures for State Senate candidates, incumbent Bill Perkins and former council member Robert Jackson; Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell, State Committee members Lynn Thomas and Dan Cohen, and the judicial candidates and delegates. .

Over fifty members and friends of Three Parks participated this year, collecting over 2200 signatures. In the eastern part of our district bordering Central Park we were led by new rising star Audrey Isaacs who collected an amazing 422 signatures. In the western part of our area we were led by our traditional phenom Mary Ann Marks who scooped 314 signatures. District leader Bob Botfeld was next with 167 signatures followed by our new board member and newsletter co-editor Gerald Schultz with 87 sigs. State

Committee member Dan Cohen supplemented weekend child care duties with nailing down 83 signatures. Abigail McGloster somehow surfaced from overtime work to collect 75 solid names for our candidates. District Leader Cynthia Doty added 69 while managing a number of weekend petitioning tables. Lynn Max (68) and Daniele Gerard (63) both also chaired our weekday and weekend tables. Deborah Thomas added 58 after travelling from her job in the depths of Brooklyn and Joan Ogden added her cheer and 55 more signatures. Robert Jackson showed that candidates really know how to petition and quickly gathered 45 signatures for all the candidates on the Three Parks' omnibus petition. Betty Jean Dixon was her usual steady self and finished with 45.

Doris Schreiber, Wendy Dannett and Susan Andrews contributed strongly with over thirty signatures each.

These Three Parks' stalwarts also collected twenty or more signatures, Marie Lunn, Merle McEldowney, Elizabeth Kellner, Milivoy Samurovich, Lynn Thomas, Harriet Rodvien, Russell Jenkins, Steve Max, and Chris Scott.

Rounding out the qualifying petitioners were these spirited contributors Josh Pepper, George McGuinness, Jock Davenport, Judith Ackerman, Jerry Cordova, Marnie Hall, Corine Pettey, Carole Lapidus, Betsy Malcolm, Judy Wood, Sam Bartos, Isabel Calisi-Wgner, Christopher Mooney, Ellen Flax, David Kaplan, Erl Kimmich, and Mary Ann Thompson.

A great job and congratulations to all!

KOPPELL FOR STATE SENATE
ENDORSED by the NY TIMES

Help elect a true Democrat to the State Senate. Volunteer to help Oliver Koppell defeat Jeff Klein, head of the IDC and a Republican masquerading as a Democrat.

Koppell for State Senate
5911 Riverdale Ave.
Bronx, NY 10471
Oliverkoppel.com ***718 543-2200***

State Committee Report

by Daniel Marks Cohen

Welcome back! Looking forward to getting into Primary season this fall - the so-called "Independent Democratic Caucus" appears to have fractured due to pressure from progressives, and while some challengers have withdrawn two still remain – State Senator Jeff Klein in the Bronx, the leader of the IDC, is getting a strong challenge from former City Councilman Oliver Koppell. And former City Comptroller John Liu is putting up an even stronger challenge to State Senator Tony Avella in Queens. Clubs have already been sending volunteers north and east to help out the challengers, and with the exception of the spirited race between State Senate between incumbent Adriano Espaillat and former City Councilman Robert Jackson, the rest of our elected officials are otherwise running unopposed (although there is a Gubernatorial primary, see below), so I encourage you to get involved where there is some political action and the need for volunteers is great. Now, this is the city's SECOND primary day on September 9th, after the federal primary in June – the fact that we now have two primary days is absurd, and it is another sign of the intransigence in Albany that we cannot come to some sort of agreement of a unified primary date.

I cannot say I was surprised by the Times decision this week not to support anyone for Governor in the Primary – Cuomo's anticorruption Moreland Commission had real promise when he announced it over a year ago, but when it was unceremoniously decommissioned he caught the attention of the US Attorney Preet Bharara, and that brought former Dean Presidential campaign staffer Zephyr Teachout into the primary race. She is underfunded and totally unknown, and has little chance of scoring an upset.

But there is something interesting brewing in the Lieutenant Governor primary. The LG position is a stand-alone race (after the primary the winning Governor and LG candidates run as team in the general election), with Cuomo pick former Congresswoman Kathy Hochul being denied the Times' endorsement over Columbia Law professor Tim Wu.

The thing about the LG race is that even if Cuomo wins his primary, Wu could win the LG race and then it could be the final nail in the coffin for the noxious Independence Party (the IP, which like its similar predecessor, is neither Independent or a party), which endorsed the Cuomo/Hochul ticket but now would be faced with a dilemma – the IP cannot remove Hochul from their ballot line, and votes for Cuomo on the IP line in November would not count towards the Cuomo/Wu ticket on the Democratic line, and if the IP ballot line does not receive 50,000 votes it would cease to exist.

If Hochul wins the Democratic primary for LG, then the Cuomo campaign could direct supporters to vote for the ticket on either the Democratic ballot line or the IP ballot line, since they would both count towards the same ticket. But if they have different tickets on the two ballot lines – Cuomo/Wu on the Democratic ticket and Cuomo/Hochul on the IP, then they are viewed in NYS election law as two totally different tickets, and the Cuomo campaign would be adverse to any votes going towards the IP line since it could damage his chances of getting reelected (say in a hypothetical November election Cuomo/Wu gets 45% of the vote on the Democratic line, and Cuomo/Hochul gets 6% of the vote on the IP line, and Astorino/Moss gets 49% of the vote on the Republican line – who becomes Governor? Answer: Astorino). Progressives have been talking – quietly – about whether to publicly support Wu as a way of punishing Cuomo for continuing to support the corrupt Independence Party, and as a way of making a progressive statement without preventing Cuomo from being re-elected. As of this writing the Primary is only 10 days away. Gonna be a nailbiter! See you at the September club meeting.

Massachusetts Dems

by Judy Wood

September. 9 is Primary Day in Massachusetts as well as New York. After spending the summer here, here is an update from the field. The Mass. Dems. have three decent candidates for Governor, slight difference from our choices. Steve Grossman, currently the state treasurer Martha Coakley, currently the state Atty.

General (its true she ran a really bad campaign for Senate and gave us Scott Brown) Donald Berwick, the most progressive guy in the race, a doctor who worked in the Obama Administration on Medicare and Medicaid. As I head out to the Dems. table in downtown Wellfleet this morning I'm excited to be involved in so many races, both here and in NY. I've been fortunate to meet a lot of Dem. candidates on the Cape over the summer running for office, and for reelection. Its been a great experience and am looking forward to many Dem. Victories

JOHN LIU FOR STATE SENATE

ENDORSED by the NY TIMES

John Liu is running for State Senator in the Queens Democratic Primary on September 9th. He is running against Tony Avella, who was part of the IDC, working with Republicans to prevent progressive legislation from passing.

The campaign would love volunteers. To join his exciting grassroots organization,

Call 646 490-9818

email

volunteer@liunewyork.com

Thousands March on Staten Island

by Erl Kimmich

Thousands march on Staten Island demanding killer cops be held accountable for their actions.

Thousands filled the streets near the ferry terminal in Staten Island chanting "hands up, don't shoot!" in memory of Mike Brown. We were expressing solidarity with the people of Ferguson, MO, who have courageously stepped up for all us to demand that police honor their commitment and uphold the law especially in instances where their colleagues have betrayed the public trust. The commissioner and district attorneys need to uphold the law of the land especially when it is violated by those entrusted to enforce it.

The murder of Eric Garner was foremost on everyone's mind and the cops that killed him need to be held

accountable. Members of the police department committed multiple crimes caught on camera involving the murder of Eric Garner. The recordings I have seen are heart wrenching and difficult to watch. An eye witness I met at the march was terrorized by what she witnessed.

See <http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=video+of+Eric+Garner%27s+murder&FORM=VIRE9#view=detail&mid=0B44FDC1108669A2A0EE0B44FDC1108669A2A0EE>

Members of the police who were not involved in the assault and strangling stood by without intervening. No cop or EMT person tried to revive Garner with CPR. There was a callous disrespect and disregard for human life and apparently the whole gang of officials that was present will be facing charges, as well they should. Sworn to uphold the law of the land they did nothing to protect Eric Garner and instead allowed him to be killed. They must not be allowed to get away with impunity.

Many of the protesters in the crowd recalled other victims of brutal murders by out of control police as did former governor David Paterson who read a list of them at the end of the rally after the march. Before Paterson, leaders of religious groups and unions spoke, as did Eric Garner's family. They thanked the thousands of marchers and expressed their determination to see that justice be served.

SEIU was well represented as were some other unions. You will recall that both Sean Bell's and Ramarley Graham's mothers are members of SEIU.

Among the elected officials present were: Vanessa Gibson, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Helen Rosenthal, Ydanis Rodriguez, Ruben Diaz Jr., Adriano Espaillat, Jumaane Williams, to name a few. I think all the major networks had crews there and Democracy Now's Amy Goodman was there.

I want to thank Al Sharpton and his National Action Network for organizing the march. Three Park Independent Democrats was represented at the march

and a resolution is being drafted about which you will hear more to come.

CONDOLENCES

We express our condolences to the family of our cherished long time club member Clara Taylor.

The Upper West Side political community also lost Lew Moses in June. Lew was a wonderful person and valued member of Broadway Democrats and trusted treasurer to many of our local candidates.

Affordable Housing with Union Labor

by Elizabeth Kellner

A broad coalition of housing activists, faith-based and social justice groups and building trade unions gathered in Harlem on the afternoon of August 20 for a rally and march. The huge crowd filled First Corinthian Baptist Church, overflowed to the street and marched the ten blocks up Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. to the State Office Building. Sadly, the mainstream media coverage was non-existent.

The rally speakers included representatives of the Real Affordability for All Campaign, New York Communities for Change, Make the Road NY, Public Advocate Letitia James in person, and on behalf of labor, the President of the Building and Construction Trades Council as well as a union apprentice who is a life long resident of Harlem. The racial, ethnic, occupational and age diversity of the many hundreds who participated evidenced the broad support for the coalition's demands of both the city administration and real estate developers as a condition of any public subsidies or tax breaks: (1) a 50/50, not 80/20, split to create more affordable units; and (2) the use of trained, quality local union labor on these projects to provide good jobs. In advance of the rally, several unions had indicated their willingness to accept

a 40% discount on prevailing union wages for projects in certain neighborhoods.

I made the walk from 116th to 125th in the very good company of "S", a 77 year old retired and now disabled life long Harlem resident who fears being pushed out of her handicapped apartment at 110th and 5th Ave. As we kept our own pace and brought up the rear of the march, S, who uses a walker, refused to

move to the sidewalk as traffic backed up behind us. We were the last to cross 125th. S was going to finish the march on her terms, worried only that the Access A Ride might find out!

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2014 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.

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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, N.Y. 10025

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer (invited)

The People's Climate March

Primary Election Wrap Up

