

## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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<i>President</i>	<i>Editors</i>	<i>District Leaders</i>	<i>State Committee</i>
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## CLUB MEETING, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>The Future for Progressives</b>
<b>Speakers:</b>	<b>Ruth Messinger</b> , former Manhattan Borough President <b>Jim Dean</b> , Executive Director, Democracy for America <b>Darius Gordon</b> , Organizer, Citizen Action New York <b>Jessica Frisco</b> , Organizer, Grassroots Alliance; Bernie Sanders Delegate at the DNC
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, September 14, 2016
<b>Time:</b>	8:00 pm
<b>Place:</b>	The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street
<b>Room:</b>	Ballroom

### AGENDA

7:45 PM Sign-in  
8:00 PM Call to Order  
District Leader Reports  
Speakers:  
Ruth Messinger, former Manhattan Borough President  
Jim Dean, Exec. Director, Democracy for America  
Darius Gordon, Organizer, Citizen Action New York  
Jessica Frisco, Organizer for Grassroots Alliance;  
Bernie Sanders Delegate at the DNC  
Resolution on GENDA  
Clinton/Kaine Storefront  
Adjourn

### CALENDAR

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016**  
**6:00 am–9:00 pm**  
State Primary Election  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue  
**Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue  
**Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue  
**Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting,  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

## **President's Report**

By Lauren Williams

Welcome back to Three Parks for what promises to be an exciting fall for local and national politics. Our members have been very busy since hearing from Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President, at our June meeting and gathering in July for our annual summer picnic in Central Park. Whether campaigning for their presidential candidate choices, seeking petition signatures for state senate and assembly candidates, getting out the vote for the June Congressional Primary, selling campaign buttons or registering voters, our members have been actively engaged.

The Democratic National Convention provided a dramatic climax to a year of healthy debate and spirited campaigning by presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton and their supporters. Since then, national attention has shifted to the sometimes erratic ups and downs of the performances by the Democratic and Republican tickets. Clearly, voters are divided and there's plenty of work to do to ensure that the Clinton/Kaine ticket is victorious and that Democratic candidates win in congressional races.

However, we also have the locally important NY State Democratic Primary on Tuesday, September 13 where several of our endorsed candidates face challengers. We need to support and vote for our endorsed candidates: Micah Lasher for the 31st ED State Senate seat, Danny O'Donnell for the 69th ED State Assembly seat, and Daniel Marks Cohen for the 69th ED State Democratic Committeeman seat. Be sure you vote on September 13 and take your voting neighbors and family members to the polls with you!

This month we also open our Clinton/Kaine Storefront at 2697 Broadway (next door to our 2012 storefront location between W. 102 St. and W. 103 St.). Having a storefront in presidential election years is a Three Parks Democrats tradition. Once again, Broadway Democrats will partner with Three Parks in this endeavor. See other details on how to volunteer for storefront activities elsewhere in the newsletter and at our website: [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org). I look forward to seeing you and working with you on storefront campaign activities.

Fall is also the time to renew your Three Parks membership. We welcome new members to our club and encourage you to become involved. Please complete the membership form on page 7 or online. Your membership adds your voice to the club's progressive agenda and campaign work.

Appropriately, our September Membership Meeting will feature a panel on "The Future for Progressives." Board member Merle McElDowney will moderate. Speakers will be Ruth Messinger, former Manhattan Borough President;

Jim Dean, Executive Director of Democracy for America; Darius Gordon, Organizer for Citizen Action New York; and Jessica Frisco, Organizer for Grassroots Alliance and a Bernie Sanders Delegate at the DNC. See you there!

## **District Leader Report**

By Bob Botfeld

### **Lasher, O'Donnell and Cohen**

We in Three Parks have a crucial role to play in determining the control of the New York State Senate. Our support for Micha Lasher for the 31<sup>st</sup> State Senate seat, is so important because the leading candidate, Marisol Alcantara, will not caucus or support the Democratic majority if she is elected, but instead support the IDC. (See Betsy Malcolm's article later in this newsletter for further explanation of the IDC.)

Every indication is that this will be an extremely close election. Last week, Lasher received the New York Times endorsement. Therefore, he not only is the club's endorsed candidate and the best qualified, but he now has the best chance to defeat the Republican look-a-like, Alcantara. Please tell your friends to vote for Micah Lasher on September 13.

Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell has been a staunch and effective advocate for this neighborhood for years, especially for low- and moderate-income residents. In particular, O'Donnell and his staff have helped many of our neighbors in trying to reduce rent overcharges by landlords who have evaded their obligations under the J-51 program and others. O'Donnell also has an opponent this year. Let's make sure Danny has strong support from Three Parks.

Democratic State Committeemember and Three Parks' club member, Dan Cohen, also has an opponent. The state committee members are unpaid volunteers, yet Dan has to now run an assembly-wide race. His opponent has run an openly racial-baiting and anti-Semitic campaign again. A very small number of political activists even understand what a state committee member does, so it is very important for Three Parks' members to help Dan prevail strongly in this race.

You can help by distributing building letters supporting Lasher, O'Donnell, and Cohen. If you are willing to sign or distribute a building letter, please call me at 212-865-1450 or email me at [bobbotfeld@aol.com](mailto:bobbotfeld@aol.com).

### **Chasing Out Long-time Westsiders and Neighbors**

Living in Manhattan was never easy—unless you are rich, very rich. In particular, in the Three Parks' area of the Upper West Side, many of the middle income residents moved in years ago when rents were affordable and buying a co-op was possible for under a million dollars. The apartments were large enough to start and raise a family. It

was possible for the middle class to live here and enjoy city life. We still have many educators, non-profit employees, government workers, health care professionals, and middle level professionals.

Middle class workers need to work to support themselves and their family. But today, jobs can not always be found in the City; it often is necessary to seek employment opportunities in New Jersey, Connecticut, Westchester, and Long Island. In the past, our neighbors did not have to uproot their families because it was possible, although at great difficulty, to maintain a car here. We had just enough street parking spaces and garage spaces.

Unfortunately, a thoughtless City program will eliminate this critical element of transportation and destroy the lives as they exist today for hundreds of Westsiders. The City currently plans to tear down three garages on West 108 Street and build senior housing.

If these garages are eliminated, the long-time West Siders will have no other option to get to work. Although I do not have a car, I have watched friends search in vain to find a paid-garage spot at night in our neighborhood. The ability to keep a car here is not a luxury for some, but a necessity to allow them to get to work, to visit their home-bound or institutionalized parents, or simply provide an inexpensive get-away for their families.

The City will be uprooting hundreds of current residents who have built their lives on the West Side for people who do not yet live here.

Please help stop this thoughtless destruction and show your support for our neighbors by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/savemanhattanvalley/>  
or let me know that you want to help at the September club meeting.

### **A Message from Daniel Marks Cohen**

I have served as State Committeeman for the 69th AD since I was elected in 2010. Since then I have been re-elected twice without opposition. This year I have a primary opponent, Thomas Lopez-Pierre, who has a history of saying offensive things that would make Donald Trump blush. My opponent has made comments that are indisputably homophobic, racist, sexist and anti-Semitic. Rather than reprint some of his more egregious comments here I direct you to Google him if you want to satisfy your curiosity, or you can take it on faith that comments like his have no place in civil discourse. We cannot let people with such repugnant views like this into the leadership of the Democratic Party.

During my time in the State Committee, I have fought against gas fracking to protect New York's water supply, worked with the Progressive Caucus to compel the State

Party to support renewal of tenant protection laws, and have successfully passed a resolution in support of badly needed ethics reform in Albany.

It will send a message to Mr. Lopez-Pierre that his hateful comments are rejected if I win decisively at the polls (the Primary is Tuesday, September 13th), and to do that I need your help. Please vote for me. Tell your friends to vote for me. If you want to get more involved, for the social-media inclined I encourage you to visit my Facebook page, "Daniel Marks Cohen for State Committeeman" and tell your friends to learn more about my campaign on Facebook and social media. Lastly, if you want to contribute to my campaign you can go to my brand new website: [www.CohenForNewYork.org](http://www.CohenForNewYork.org) and donate online.

I am proud to have the support of Congressman Jerry Nadler, Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, Councilman Mark Levine and Councilwoman Inez Dickens, and I have been endorsed by all three clubs in the district. I am optimistic my campaign will prevail. Thank you for your support.

### **Continuing the Revolution**

By Merle McEldowney

The Upper West Side has a proud history of political activism, certainly since we got "clean for Gene" and campaigned for Eugene McCarthy in the late 1960s. A few years after McCarthy dropped out of the campaign, the reform clubs, including CFD and Three Parks, were born. Not long afterwards, some in that group ran for office and got elected, including Jerry Nadler and Richard Gottfried, who are still representing the Upper West Side.

The feminist movement in the early 1970s propelled a number of Upper West Side women into office: Bella Abzug to Congress, Ruth Messinger and Ronnie Eldridge to City Council, then Ruth to Borough President.

In 2004, the Howard Dean campaign motivated young people, brought some new people into local political clubs (this writer included), and revolutionized the use of the Internet in politics.

Last year, Bernie Sanders entered the presidential race to start what he called a "political revolution." This included many issues we at Three Parks have been campaigning for during much of our lives and continue to advocate for, including:

- A single payer health system—Medicare for all,
- A ban on fracking, and a swift transition away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy,
- A much more progressive tax structure that makes the wealthy pay their fair share,
- Reinstatement of Glass Steagall and meaningful bank regulation,

- Public funding of elections, and
- Fully funding Social Security.

This political revolution has powerful enemies that do not want to be regulated and whose campaign contributions and lobbyists perpetuate the status quo: the fossil fuel industry, the health insurance industry, the banking industry, and the one percent.

Bernie seems to have known what no one else knew—that his political revolution would resonate with millions and that droves of Americans, including young people, would join him. He became a Pied Piper—tens of thousands of people appeared at his rallies, hit the streets with petitions and homemade flyers, and waited in line for hours to hear him speak.

When Hillary Clinton secured the nomination, she promised much of Sanders’ platform, including free public college tuition for families making less than \$125,000, Medicare for people beginning at 50 years of age, and opposing the TPP, which Three Parks has been against for years. Bernie regularly said he could not do it alone, and neither can Hillary. We on the Upper West Side need to remain true to our activist history and mobilize people to force government to make the changes necessary to take back democracy for all of us.

At September’s Three Parks meeting, we will talk about how to achieve these goals, and will review the history of recent progressive movements to seriously examine how we can harness energy for real progressive change.

Our speakers:

**Hon. Ruth Messinger**, former Manhattan Borough President.

**Jim Dean**, Director of Democracy for America, the PAC that grew out of the Howard Dean campaign.

**Jessica Frisco**, Upper West Side organizer of Sanders for President, Bernie delegate, and co-founder of the “Grass Roots Alliance,” a group that intends to continue campaigning for real change in this country.

**Darius Gordon**, organizer for Citizen Action, which has developed the five-point program “Demand Democracy” to continue to campaign for progressive change.

This promises to be a really exciting evening—an evening to motivate all of us to take part in efforts for true progressive change in this country. An evening not to be missed!

## **GENDA Resolution**

By Betsy Malcolm

Transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers do

not have the statewide statutory rights necessary to avoid discrimination in education, employment, housing, public accommodations, health, and other areas of daily life, and are subject to frequent bias, discrimination, and abuse. They are among our most marginalized and vulnerable citizens, and are denied opportunities for economic and social empowerment that are available to other New Yorkers.

The Democratic-led Assembly has passed GENDA for eight consecutive years. In contrast, the Republican-led Senate has never brought the bill to a floor vote. This November we have an opportunity to change the leadership in the state Senate and provide the Democratic majority to vote GENDA into law. Three Parks needs to be part of the process of making New York a fairer state for all New Yorkers. We will not rest in demanding equality for all, especially when fundamental rights are involved.

The following resolution will be voted on at the September 14 club meeting:

WHEREAS transgender and gender nonconforming New Yorkers do not have statutory rights protecting them from discrimination in education, employment, housing, public accommodations, health care and other areas of daily life, and

WHEREAS the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA, currently A4558 Gottfried/S61 Squadron) would remedy these inequities, and

WHEREAS crimes committed against transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers because of their status are not prosecuted as hate crimes, and

WHEREAS the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA, currently A4558 Gottfried/S61 Squadron) would allow such crimes to be prosecuted as hate crimes,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats supports GENDA and urges its passage in the Assembly and the State Senate and further urges Governor Cuomo to support and sign this legislation.

## **Judicial Candidates for NYS Supreme Court**

By Theresa Canter

The 2016 NY County Democratic Judicial Nominating Convention will be held on Thursday, September 22, location to be determined. There are six open seats this year for the NYS Supreme Court, NY County.

The current candidates for Supreme Court include Andrea Masley, Lori Sattler, Nancy Bannon, Robert Reed, James D’Auguste, Lynn Kottler and Kelly O’Neill Levy. These judges have previously been reported out of the screening panels twice before.

At the NY County Summer Fundraiser on Tuesday, August 30, the following judges were also reported out of the County Screening Panel for the second time: Shawn Kelly, Tony Cannataro, Erika Edwards, Gerard Lebowitz, Verna Saunders and Jennifer Schecter

In addition, David Cohen, Melissa Crane, Paul Goetz, Adam Silvera, Lisa Sokolow, Machel Sweeting, and Alex Tisch reported out of the panel for the first time this year.

**Volunteer for Clinton/Kaine Storefront**  
**2697 Broadway (between 102 and 103 Streets**  
**Tuesday–Sunday, 2:00 pm-9:00 pm)**

Three Parks Independent Democrats has rented a storefront—from now thru Election Day on Nov. 8—to support the Clinton Kaine Campaign and the local candidates for the New York State Senate and Assembly and State Democratic Committee. Broadway Democrats will partner with Three Parks in this endeavor.

We hope to see again many of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who helped out at the storefront in 2012. Please complete the form below and bring it with you to the club’s meeting on Wednesday night, September 14, or fill out the form on our web site and return it electronically: [threeparksdems@aol.com](mailto:threeparksdems@aol.com)

**How the IDC Subverts Democratic Control of the State Senate and Progressive Legislation**

By Betsy Malcolm

One of the Democratic candidates for the 31st State Senate

seat, Marisol Alcantara, has pledged to join the IDC (Independent Democratic Conference Caucus), instead of working with the Democrats in the State Senate.

The IDC consists of five state Senators who were elected as Democrats but caucus with the Republicans, and who have kept the Senate under Republican control. On paper, it appears as if the Senate has 32 Democrats and 31 Republicans. In fact, the Republicans maintain control because of the IDC (and a sixth Democrat who has said he will go with whichever party has majority control). Since only the Senate majority can bring a proposed law to the floor for a vote, the IDC, by caucusing with the Republicans, has blocked legislation such as the Dream Act, GENDA, a bill that would have required all new semiautomatic handguns sold in NYS to be microstamped with a unique code which is transferred to shell casings when the gun is fired, and campaign finance and ethics reform from even getting an up or down vote!

By giving the Republicans majority control, the IDC members are blocking legislation that they claim to support in exchange for advantages for themselves.

In the September 13 legislative primaries, Micah Lasher is Three Parks’ choice to succeed Adriano Espaillat in the state Senate. He was Chief of Staff to Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Director of State Legislative Affairs for the City of New York under Mayor Bloomberg, and began his career as an aide to Congress Member Jerry Nadler. At 34, Micah has the experience, professionalism, and zest for progressive causes to serve us well in the Senate.

**Volunteer Form for 2016 Storefront Activities**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check those tasks you’d like to do:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Register Voters/Tabling | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Bank             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sell Buttons/Tabling    | <input type="checkbox"/> Data Entry             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome/Sign-in Desk    | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Trip Captain       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manage a task           | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Set Up Storefront |

The storefront will be open from 2:00 pm to 9 pm on Tuesday through Sunday. (Closed on Monday.)

Dates & Times when you can volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

A third candidate, Robert Jackson, a former City Council Member who has long been active in Harlem politics and is supported by Assembly Member Keith Wright, is also running. A vote for Jackson is perfectly reasonable; a vote for Alcantara is not.

Let's make sure we have a real Democratic majority in the state Senate.

### **Voter Registration Information**

The General Election is on November 8, 2016, and the last day to register for this election is October 14, 2016.

You can register, re-register, and make address and name changes at many state and local offices, including the departments of Labor, Social Services, Motor Vehicles, and state and city universities. Voter registration applications are available at:

[www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html](http://www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html).

*Please note:*

- 17-year-olds can register if they will reach their 18th birthday by the end of the calendar year.
- If you need to change your name/address, use the voter registration form to submit these changes.
- If you need an absentee ballot, go to your county Board of Elections or download the online form here:  
[www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html](http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html).
- You can also register as an organ and tissue donor on the form.

If you have any questions or concerns about your polling site location, voter registration, or general inquiries on voting, contact Assemblyman O'Donnell's Community Office at (212) 866-3970. You can also call the NYC Board of Elections' Manhattan office at (212) 866-2100, or visit their website at [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us).

### **Poll Workers Needed**

New York City needs poll-workers to fill all the jobs at its approximately 1,250 polling sites for the Presidential election on November 8, 2016.

Our system works. But it needs people on the ground so that casting a ballot is not a big burden for our fellow citizens.

To become a poll-worker sign up on line at:  
[pollworker.nyc/2016](http://pollworker.nyc/2016).

Mandatory four-hour training classes are being conducted now. You will earn \$200 per election, plus \$100 for the training class if you pass the test and work at least one election during the year. There is a \$75 bonus for working two elections during the next year

### **Three Parks Picnic!**

by Theresa Canter

In July, Three Park's annual picnic in Central Park was a tremendous success! We had a great turnout, with almost 100 folks participating in the fun. In addition to our club members and neighbor friends, we were joined by many judicial candidates and our following electeds: Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell, and City Council Member Mark Levine. Also in attendance was our club-endorsed candidate for State Senate—SD 31, Micah Lasher.

As always, it takes a whole lot of Three Parkers to plan and pull off a successful picnic! Many thanks to all the members and guests who brought lots of good food and drink to share; and those who volunteered to coordinate, set-up, serve and clean-up the event—including Bob Botfeld, Wendy Dannett, Jock Davenport, Cynthia Doty, Elizabeth Kellner, Erl Kimmich, David Lazurus, Marie Lunn, Betsy Malcolm, Mary Ann Marks, Merle McEldowney, Batya Miller, Gerald Schultz, Deborah Thomas, Lauren Williams, and all the many others who pitched in to help as needed. And, thanks to Alan Cary who again sang and played the banjo for the crowd.

### **Special Offer from Suba Pharmacy**

#### **10 Percent Off for Three Parks Members Only!**

In 2004, when Suba Pharmacy's lease was about to expire, Three Parks Independent Democrats petitioned successfully to reinstate the store's lease. The rest is history.

Today Suba Pharmacy remains one of the few independent, family-owned storefronts on the Upper West Side. Located at 2721 Broadway (at 104 Street), its prices are competitive with, and often significantly lower than, the major drug store chains in the area. The pharmacy is well-known for its personable and knowledgeable service.

Mr. Suba cares about his customers and goes out of his way to accommodate them. Effective immediately, he is offering Three Parks members a special discount.

***Whenever you go to Suba Pharmacy, bring this coupon with you; you will receive 10 percent off all your purchases (excluding prescriptions) \$20 and up!***

## Upper West Siders (UWS) Asked to Again Support Abused Restaurant Workers

In a ruling last year, the Federal Court said Phuman and Lakhvir Singh, owners of Indus Valley, Earthen Oven, and Amla on the Upper West Side, are to pay \$700,000 to workers subjected to abusive practices. (Three Parks has supported the restaurant workers efforts since 2008.) The Singhs have refused to pay. *The Justice Will Be Served!* Campaign is asking UWS residents to do the following:

- Boycott all Singh-owned businesses; and
- Urge elected state officials to support passage of the SWEAT bill (Securing Wages Earned Against Theft) to make the labor law enforceable.
- Contact the Campaign at 212-358-0295 for more information.

## Condolences to Four Special Friends

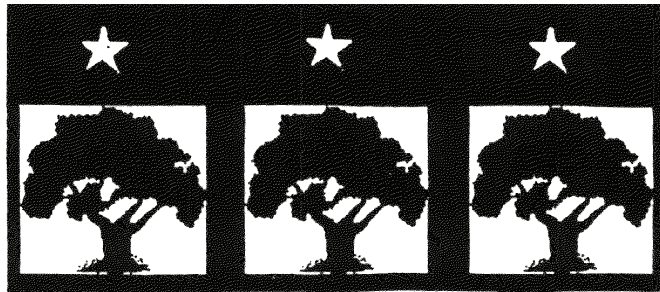
Marguerite Lavin, a longtime member and storefront volunteer of Three Parks, died on June 7.

William Brewer, father of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, died on July 25.

Leon Auerbach, founder of Friends of Strauss Park, died August 12.

Miriam Korman, former Three Parks member and grandmother of current member Jacob Sher, died in late August.

**Don't forget to vote on  
State Primary Day,  
September 13!**



### 2017 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 2017.**

*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**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**  
**The Future for Progressives**

Ruth Messinger, former Manhattan Borough President  
Jim Dean, Executive Director of Democracy for America  
Darius Gordon, Organizer for Citizen Action New York  
Jessica Frisco, Organizer for Grassroots Alliance; Bernie Sanders delegate at the DNC