

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, NY 10025 ♦ (212) 866-6378

Website: ThreeParksDems.org ♦ Email: ThreeParksDems@aol.com

President

Theresa Canter

Editor

Judy Wood
judyw123@verizon.net

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

City Council

Gale Brewer – 6th District

Newsletter Production

Barbara Lee

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

June 2006 Meeting

MEETING: Pizza, Petitioning *and* Liz Holtzman!

DATE: Wednesday, June 14, 2006

TIME: 8:00PM

PLACE: Hostelling International New York (HINY)
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel Room

AGENDA

7:45PM Sign-in

8PM Call to Order

PIZZA PARTY

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Endorsement vote - NYS Comptroller (ballot box open from 8:15- 9:30)
4. Rezoning Update
5. Guest Speakers:
Former Congresswoman, Liz Holtzman
Topic: Impeachment
6. Petitioning Kick Off
7. State Committee Reports
8. New business
9. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wed, June 7 5:30 to 7:30PM Evening Concert

PLACE: Straus Park at 106th and Broadway (Rain date: 6/8)

Thurs, June 8 5:30 to 8:00PM NYCHA Public Hearing

PLACE: Manhattan Center, Hammerstein Ballroom, 311 West 34th St.

Sat, June 10 at 11AM Tenant Housing March and Rally

PLACE: West 133 St. and Broadway in the Plaza of 3333 Broadway

Wed, June 14 7:00 to 9:00PM Town Hall Meeting for Fair Rent Laws

PLACE: St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Ave. @ 51st St.

Wed, June 14 at 8:00PM Three Parks Meeting

PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room

Thurs, June 22 10:00AM to 6:00PM Rent Guidelines Board Hearing

PLACE: The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 E. 7th St

Tues, June 27 5:30 to 9:30PM Rent Guidelines Board Hearing

Final vote by the Board

PLACE: The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 E. 7th St

Wed, June 28 at 8:00-9:00PM Three Parks Board Meeting

PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

Wed, Aug 23 at 8:00-9:00PM Three Parks Board Meeting

PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

Wed, Sep 6 at 8:00PM Three Parks Meeting

PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room

June 6th Petitioning Begins!

President's Column

Theresa Canter

May certainly was a busy month with not one, but two meetings. Thanks to State Senator Eric Schneiderman for updating us on Albany and his campaign for re-election at our May 10th meeting. As always, his presentation was well received by the membership. At our endorsement meeting on May 24th, our club members spoke on behalf of their preferred candidates, which made for an interesting and energetic meeting! We endorsed the following incumbents: Congressman Charlie Rangel, Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, State Senator (31st SD) Eric Schneiderman, State Committee members, Lynn Thomas and Bob Ginsberg, and Civil Court Judge, Jane Solomon. In the competitive races, we endorsed Eliot Spitzer for Governor, our former City Council member, Bill Perkins, for State Senate (30th SD), and Denise O'Donnell, for NYS Attorney General. We also voted to endorse David Paterson, the un-opposed primary candidate for Lt. Governor. The club also elected Alan Flacks, Milivoy Samurovich, Ernestine Gallagher, and Corine Pettey as our Judicial delegates, and David Kogelman, Josh Pepper, and Maryann Marks as alternates. Corine and David tied for fourth place, so a flip of the coin declared the winner! We have one more endorsement to vote on at the June meeting - NYS Comptroller - Alan Hevesi is the unopposed incumbent. Please check out the final vote tallies elsewhere in the newsletter.

The one race where we voted No Endorsement was for US Senate. Our no endorsement votes were of sufficient political interest that David Saltonstall of the Daily News made mention of it in an article on Monday, May 29th. If you want to read the article, go to <http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/422082p-356248c.html> on the web. A No Endorsement vote is the best way to send a message that we do not approve of Senator Clinton's move to the center... and that we did!

At the June 14th meeting we will have our annual petitioning kick off with Pizza for everyone! Petitioning is a very important part of our club's work. It is not enough to endorse the best candidate for the job, we need to go out and get the signatures for our club endorsed slate. Our presence on the streets and in the lobby of our buildings will serve to remind everyone what an important year this is politically for the Democrats.

In addition, we are privileged to have former US Congresswoman, Elizabeth Holtzman, as our keynote speaker for our June meeting. She will be discussing the case for impeachment of George W. Bush. Having drafted the impeachment papers for President Nixon during the Watergate Hearings, she is no stranger to impeachment proceedings. After twenty years in government, including serving as Brooklyn District

Attorney and Comptroller of New York City, she joined the law firm of Herrick Feinstein, concentrating her practice in government relations at the federal, state and local levels, and in litigation. This should be a very interesting presentation, and Liz will be taking questions from the audience.

Our 31st Anniversary at Turkuaz on April 30th was a very special event, honoring State Senator, Liz Krueger, the Riverside Park Fund, and our former City Council Member and District leader, Philip Reed. Well over 100 club members, candidates and elected officials came out to celebrate 31 years of political activism on the Upper West Side! The proceeds from the fundraiser will help us to continue our political and social justice efforts and community outreach in the upcoming months. Many thanks to the hard work of the fundraising committee and other members of Three Parks, whose efforts were outstanding in pulling the event together.

It takes a lot of hands ...from stuffing the envelopes to greeting the guests at the door. Without their time and energy it would not have been a success. A special mention to our District Leaders Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty, and Dan Berger, Kathy Egmont, Ellen Flax, Ernestine Gallagher, Daniel Gerard, Barbara Lee, Marie Lunn, Andy Manshel, Lynn Max, Brenda Morgan, Randy Morgan, Josh Pepper, Ray Schwartz, Steve Strauss, George Voorhis, David Weiman, Rosetta Williams, and Judy Wood. And, thanks to all those who attended in support of Three Parks and our political activities!

Summer is coming and our monthly meetings will go on hiatus in July and August. But, the political and community activities will continue in full force! I will keep everyone posted with email updates. If I don't have your email please send it to me at ThreeParksDems@aol.com. ***Also, we hope to have our third annual Three Parks Picnic this summer! We are looking for volunteers to make this a special and continuing tradition.*** And, don't forget to check the website at www.ThreeParksDems.org; we will try to keep it updated so it will be a source for club information and events during the summer.

Come To The Rent Guidelines Board Hearings And Make Your Voice Heard!

Thursday, June 22: Public Hearing; Sign up to speak! 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 E. 7th St., NY, NY. **Call to sign up: 212-385-2934**

Tuesday, June 27: Final vote by the Board. 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 E. 7th St., NY, NY.

How much can you and your neighbors afford? What will happen if your rent goes up?

District Leader Report

Bob Botfeld

YES!!! REZONING HAS STARTED:

FIRST STEP PASSED BY CB7 TASK FORCE

On Wednesday, May 17, 2006, the CB7 Rezoning 96th-110th Street Task Force passed a landmark set of zoning resolutions, which, if and when adopted by Mayor Bloomberg's City Planning Commission and the City Council, will help preserve the historical and unique character of our neighborhood. The resolutions are what we have requested. They limit the height of the buildings on the side streets (mid-blocks) to a tall brownstone (75 feet). Manhattan Avenue, the narrow avenue with its historic 1890's brownstones and row houses, was also included in this side street limitation. For those of you who are now familiar with the zoning codes, the zoning for the side streets and Manhattan Avenue will be 8B (equivalent to 7A).

Over this past year, the primary battleground was Broadway. After a lengthy discussion, we succeeded in setting the Broadway to zoning code 8A, which limits the buildings to 120 feet or twelve stories. Under the resolution, the height may be extended to 9A (14-15 stories) where inclusionary housing (low to moderate income) is incorporated. While this may extend the height of a few new buildings, it gives little or no additional incentive for developers to knock down the existing five to eight story older buildings in order to build new apartment houses.

Additionally, a bit surprisingly, most of the buildings along Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue between 97th and 109th streets were also included in the 8B designation. Their inclusion was due both to a growing appreciation of the historic facades and other late 19th century architectural features that mark these French flat type three to seven story apartment houses and to the strong community interest in protecting the predominantly lower income and ethnically diverse tenants living in them.

How did we get this far?

At the task force meeting, one by one the resolutions were passed by the task force by overwhelming margins that range from 11-3 to unanimity. But these votes occurred only after hours of discussion and debate both within the task force and with the City Planning department staffers present.

There are so many people who have helped get us just this far – even though it is only a first step. Without the community support demonstrated by 800 people at the April CB7 Rezoning meeting held at Anshe Chesed and the 350 people at the full CB7 board in May voicing their support, none of the resolutions would have happened. So, thank yourself and your neighbor for getting us started.

Where do we go from here?

On the week after the task force met, the CB7 Steering Committee completed the second step by unanimously (with one abstention) passing the task force resolutions. **The resolutions will next be presented at the full CB7 board meeting on Tuesday, June 6 at 7pm at the Jewish Home & Hospital, 120 West 106th Street. We need everyone present to support the resolutions as the board votes on them.**

If the full CB7 board approves the resolutions as expected, then the resolutions will move to the Manhattan City Planning Department for its certification to begin the ULURP process. City Planning will then return a certified proposal to CB7 for its re-approval as a certified plan. The next step is the Manhattan Borough Board, then review by City Planning and finally being presented for approval by the city council. This is a general description of the ULURP process that indicates we still have far to go – but we are on our way.

Ps: On May 31, there was a meeting of the CB7 Rezoning Task Force and Amanda Burden, head of the City Planning Department. Some progress was made in reaching an understanding on some of the elements of the CB7 Task Force proposal - but not all. It is very important that the community continue to demand support for the resolutions as passed. I will give a complete update at the club meeting on June 14.

To help keep the process on track, please write, email, and call Mayor Bloomberg at 212-788-3000 to let him know that you strongly support the resolutions as passed by the Manhattan CB7 Rezoning Task Force.

Tenant Housing March and Rally June 10th

On June 10 at 11 AM tenants from Harlem, the Upper West Side, and Upper Manhattan will march and rally to **Save Affordable Housing!**

The protest is called **Project Remain / Nos Quedamos** and is spearheaded by Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat.

The March will start at West 133 St. and Broadway in the Plaza of 3333 Broadway and proceed up Broadway ending at Post Avenue (204th St) between Academy and Dyckman Ave. There will be a **Rally at 3:00 PM.**

A feeder march organized by the Harlem Tenants Council will march from Marcus Garvey Park at 124 Street starting at 10:00AM and march to Broadway and 133rd St.

Please come, bring your neighbors, and march to save our homes!

CONGRESS MEMBER JERRY NADLER'S SPEECH TO THE NYS DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Good Morning Fellow Democrats!

We are nominating a great ticket to lead our state forward for the next 4 years: Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson, a great leadership team; Alan Hevesi, a wonderful steward of the state's finances; and Andrew Cuomo, who will carry on Eliot Spitzer's pioneering redefinition of the Attorney General's office as a protector of ordinary people against unconstrained corporate and financial power.

But we have another task before us. We must re-elect Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and

We must defeat incumbent Republican Members of Congress and replace them with Progressive Democrats in order to reclaim a Democratic Majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States!

With those new majorities we must confront the Bush administration and

stop in their tracks the policies that now shame our nation, threaten our liberties, destroy the basis of our prosperity, and waste our substance in a cruel and stupid and deceitful war!

Al Smith used to say, "Let's look at the record." OK, let's look at the record:

We have a President who claims the power to point his finger at any American citizen- at anyone in this room- and say, "You are an enemy combatant because I say so, and because I say so, we are going to throw you in jail forever—with no hearing, no evidence, no confrontation with witnesses, no charges, no due process of any kind."

No executive in an English speaking country—not even the apartheid authorities in South Africa—has claimed such tyrannical power since the Magna Carta 800 years ago! Magna Carta established the right to Habeas Corpus. Habeas Corpus means "Bring the body, Sir King"—bring the suspect before a neutral magistrate and show probable cause why this person should be deprived of liberty, and if you can't, you must let him go. **But not now! No more Habeas Corpus! No more Due Process!**

The founding fathers and mothers rebelled against George III for less egregious tyrannical practices than this!

We have a President who claims the power—despite a spe-

cific law to the contrary—to wiretap Americans without a warrant. We have an Attorney General who claims the power to punish the press for revealing the President's illegal actions. We have a President who in 5 years has converted a projected \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$4.5 trillion deficit. And then they tell us we can't afford Social Security and Medicare and student loans and decent housing and a good education for our people.

And the war in Iraq: Every reason we were given for invading Iraq has been shown to be false. Weapons of mass destruction? Not there. Saddam Hussein working hand in glove with Al Qaeda? Not true. And the more information that leaks out, the more apparent it becomes that **these were not mistakes, but deliberate lies!**

But does Congress investigate this to get to the bottom of it? Not this Republican Congress. This Republican Congress sees no evil, hears no evil, and speaks no evil when it comes to a war that has already killed 2500 of our young men and women and promises to kill thousands more. This Republican Congress asks no questions about what we can possibly achieve that can justify the continuing slaughter.

I ask you—if the President had gone to the American people and said we must invade a country that poses no imminent threat to us and sacrifice thousands of lives in order to create a democratic government in Iraq, would we have assented? I don't think so.

And the President now says to us that we should continue indefinitely to expend American blood and treasure to support one side in a sectarian civil war. Should Congress continue to consent? I don't think so.

We need a Democratic Congress that will say "Enough already!" Enough with the lies and the deceit and the evasions! Enough with the useless bloodshed! We need a Democratic Congress that will set a swift timetable to bring the troops home and let the Iraqi oligarchs know they can't depend on Uncle Sam forever.

It is our sacred duty at this crucial moment in American history to redeem our country, reclaim our liberty, restore our economy, and put an end to a bloody and stupid war!

So let us finish nominating our candidates and let us return to our houses to complete the task of explaining all this to our fellow New Yorkers and fellow Americans so that we get a great Democratic victory of Spitzer, Paterson, Hevesi, Cuomo, Clinton, and a **Democratic Congress—and begin this work of sacred renewal!**

Indian Point Update and Upcoming Volunteer Activity

By Daniele Gerard

Thanks to several days of successful tabling and the help of many volunteers, Three Parks has gathered almost 800 signatures on our petition to oppose the relicensing of Indian Point. Our next step is to petition at various festivals and events over the summer. We have already set two dates, so please mark your calendars: Philharmonic in Central Park--Wednesday, July 12 and Tuesday, July 18. We will petition at one or two entrances to the Park from approximately 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Our efforts are now more urgent than ever. In late March, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Entergy, the owner/operator of Indian Point, announced that dangerous radioactive waste from a spent fuel leak had been discovered in wells near the Hudson River. All indications show that these radioactive isotopes are now polluting the River itself. To date, neither the NRC nor Entergy has identified the leak source, knows how long it has been leaking or knows how to fix the problem. <http://riverkeeper.org>

The good news is that federal and state officials have also been active on Indian Point. In March 2006, legislation was introduced in Congress that would (1) require the NRC to perform a comprehensive safety assessment of Indian Point and (2) require the NRC and FEMA to provide detailed information on how they have approved Indian Point's emergency evacuation plans three years running, despite the Witt Report's conclusion that the plans are inadequate to protect people from an "unacceptable dose of radiation." (In 2003, James Lee Witt Associates, headed by the Clinton era FEMA director, released a report raising serious concerns about emergency planning and preparedness at Indian Point.)

In April 2006, Comptroller Alan Hevesi issued a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Entergy requesting that Entergy submit to the safety assessment described in the House and Senate bills. (The New York State Common Retirement Fund holds approximately \$58 million in Entergy shares.) Hevesi also wrote to the NRC urging that it conduct the Independent Safety Assessment called for in the federal legislation. So things are moving right along in preparation for Entergy's application for relicensing in January 2007. Please come out this summer and help us achieve our goal of 4,000 signatures on Three Parks's petition to Senators Schumer and Clinton to tell the NRC not to extend IP's licenses and to make a public statement opposing relicensing.

Thank you for your support!

Manhattan Judicial Screening Panels Report

By Alan Flacks

The political process to put judges on the bench has recently come under scrutiny and has been severely criticized; however, our Party's use of independent screening panels in New York County to assess the merits of candidates has been seen as a positive example wherein merit evaluation of those seeking judicial office lessens the political influence. Indeed, the use of these impartial merit screening panels has arguably improved the course of the selection of the judiciary with nearly every elected Civil and Supreme Court judge we've placed on the bench in this county.

\This year, the County-wide screening panel, which only had incumbents to review for re-designation, found Supreme Court Justices Angela Mazzerelli and Joan Lobis and Civil Court Judges Jane Solomon, Paul Feinman, Michael Stallman, and Eileen Rakower as meriting re-designation for another term.

The Ninth Civil Court District (East Midtown and the Upper East Side west of Lexington Avenue) local panel found incumbent Civil Court Judge Arthur Birnbaum meriting reelection, and William Ramos (law clerk to Bronx Supreme Court Justice Diane Renwick), Robert Reed (a Manhattan attorney formerly with Bryan Cave LLP), and Lori Sattler (clerk to Justice Phyllis Gangel-Jacob) as the "most highly qualified" of the nineteen lawyer applicants for a vacant Civil Court seat.

The Seventh Civil Court District (Morningside Heights, Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, and Inwood) reported as the "most highly qualified" Louis Nock (former law clerk to Justice Herman Cahn and now with Kucker & Bruh), Robert Reed and William Ramos [same two as described above] for the one "open" seat from among the eleven applicants.

And finally in the Second Civil Court District (Lower East Side), where the party's district leaders did not set up a panel, there is a free-for-all for the vacancy created by the election last year of Martin Shulman to the Supreme Court among David Cohen (a Housing Court judge), Margaret Chan (a solo practitioner), and Andrea Masley (law clerk to Justice Charles Ramos).

Important Dates for Housing Meetings and Hearings:

NYCHA PUBLIC HEARING: Thurs, June 8: 5:30 to 8:00PM Manhattan Center, Hammerstein Ballroom, 311 West 34th St.

Town Hall Meeting for Fair Rent Laws: Wed, June 14th: 7:00-9:00PM St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Ave. @ 51st St. (6 train to 51st St. or E/V trains to 53rd St. & Lex. Ave.)

Sponsored by **Housing Here and Now.**

Endorsement Results

117 ballots were distributed. And the winners are...

US STATE SENATE:		(Second ballot)
Hillary Clinton	37	13
Jonathan Tasini	23	
NO ENDORSEMENT	45	38

US CONGRESS

CHARLES RANGEL	90
No Endorsement	16

GOVERNOR:

ELIOT SPITZER	65
Tom Suozzi	8
No Endorsement	7

LT. GOVERNOR

DAVID PATERSON	85
No endorsement	13

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Andrew Cuomo	9
Mark Green	21
Charlie King	6
Sean Patrick Maloney	6
DENISE O'DONNELL	64
No Endorsement	3

NYS ASSEMBLY

DANIEL O'DONNELL	90
No Endorsement	24

NYS SENATE, 31st SD

ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN	80
No Endorsement	1

NYS SENATE, 30th SD

Eugene Daniels	0
C. Virginia Fields	9
BILL PERKINS	83
Ruben Vargas	11

NYS COMMITTEE, 69th Female

LYNN THOMAS	89
No Endorsement	12

NYS COMMITTEE, 69th Male

BOB GINSBERG	81
No Endorsement	20

CIVIL COURT, COUNTY-WIDE

JANE SOLOMON	79
No Endorsement	16

JUDICIAL DELEGATES

Alan Flacks	96
Milivoy Samurovich	49
Ernestine Gallagher	36
Corine Pettey	30
David Kogelman	30
Josh Pepper	23
Maryann Marks	18



The coin flip between Corine Pettey and David Kogelman for the judicial delegate slot. Both candidates graciously agreed to this very efficient method to settle the fourth slot in this year's judicial delegate race. Corine expertly called heads - and won. She will be a delegate; David will be an alternate this year.

Ceremony to Rename 103rd St as Bogart Place

Please come to the special ceremony to rename 103rd Street from Broadway to West End Ave as Humphrey Bogart Place. Gary Dennis of The Movie Place is managing the ceremony. It will be at noon, Saturday, June 24th. There will be champagne and speakers from the City who helped make the street naming possible. Please come and honor our former neighbor, Humphrey Bogart.

THREE PARKS CLUB MEMBERS

News and Announcements

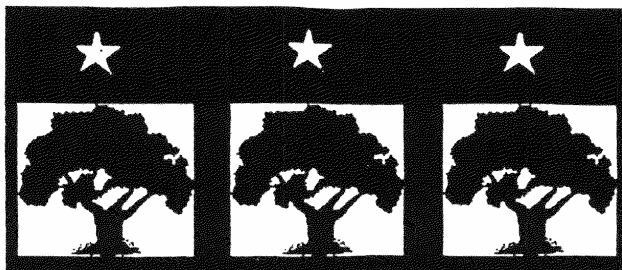
CONDOLENCES

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Mrs. Antoinette Lamy who was a loyal campaign worker and Club Member. Our sympathies to her family.

Our sincerest sympathies to club member Linda Schoener on the recent death of her mother



Three Parks club members greet riders at the Staten Island Ferry with Congressional candidate Steve Harrison.



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Please pay your 2006 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

2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member ___ *Renewal* ___

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$15) _____

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$20) _____

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$8) _____

Sponsor (\$30) _____ Patron (\$100) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

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