

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

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Theresa Canter

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Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

City Council

Gale Brewer – 6th District

Newsletter Production

Barbara Lee

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

May 2006 Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, May 10, 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

1. President's Report
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Guest Speakers:
Gubernatorial Candidates
Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi
Spitzer Campaign Surrogate, Dr Jon Cohen
Lt Governor Candidate
State Senator David Paterson (invited)
NYS Senate, 31st District
Eric Schneiderman
State Committee
Lynn Thomas
Bob Ginsberg
City-wide Civil Court Candidate (re-election)
Jane Solomon
Verified Voting Update
Doug Kellner, Co-Chair of NYS Board of Elections
4. New business
5. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wed, May 10 at 8:00PM Three Parks Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room
Wed, May 24 at 8:00-9:00PM
Three Parks Endorsement Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.
May 30 - 31
NYS Democratic Comm. Nominating Convention
Tue, June 6
Petitioning Kick-Off!
Wed, June 14 at 8:00PM Three Parks Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room
Guest Speaker: Liz Holtzman
Petitioning kick-off, PIZZA PARTY
Wed, June 28 at 8:00-9:00PM Three Parks Board Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

PLEASE NOTE

**There two club meetings in May
on the 10th and 24th**

President's Column

Theresa Canter

We have a very busy month in May! We have not one, but two meetings coming up for May. The first one is a continuation of our Candidates meetings, and the second one will be our Endorsement meeting on the 24th, the fourth Wednesday of the month. By then, we will have had an opportunity to meet and assess most of the candidates for office on his or her merits and on the issues that most concern Three Parkers. As stated in our club constitution, one of the most important functions of Three Parks is to endorse candidates who demonstrate ability, integrity and progressive convictions for each office. Keep in mind, that in the recent past we as a club have passed resolutions against the War in Iraq and against the death penalty. It would be consistent with our views to endorse candidates who share those convictions.

We continued our focus on the state elections at our April meeting, with our featured speaker, NY State Comptroller Alan Hevesi, who came down from Albany to update us on his latest activities and accomplishments. We also had the candidates for State Senate, 30th District...in alphabetical order: C. Virginia Fields, Bill Perkins and Ruben Vargas. Assembly Member, Daniel O'Donnell, and US Senate candidate, Jonathan Tasini, rounded out the bill. Many thanks to all above for presenting and taking questions from the audience.

At our May 10th meeting we will hear from our Gubernatorial candidates...Nassau County Executive, Tom Suozzi will be speaking, and Dr. Jon Cohen, who is the Senior Healthcare Advisor to the Spitzer campaign, will speak on behalf of the candidacy of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Also on the agenda is State Senator, Eric Schneiderman who is up for re-election this year. Hopefully, our State Senator, David Paterson, who is running for Lt Governor will be at the meeting... he is trying to clear his schedule to do so. In addition, we will have an update on the voting machines debate from club member Doug Kellner, Co-Chair of the State Board of Elections. And...there is more! Our State Committee members, Lynn Thomas and Bob Ginsberg will make their pitch, as well as Jane Solomon (former Three Parker) who is up for re-election on the Civil Court.

On May 24th we will have our endorsement meeting for candidates for all NY State offices, Civil Court and for US Senate. In addition, we will hear from the nominated club candidates for Judicial delegate and alternate. We will not have any scheduled speakers for this meeting. This meeting is for our club members to speak on behalf of individual candidates... please limit your pitch to no more than 1-2 minutes... we have a lot of candidates! The ballot box will open at 8:15 PM and will close at 9:00 PM. This will allow us time for a second ballot, if needed.

The candidate must get a majority of all ballots cast to be declared the winner. Since no endorsement is always an option, we can expect to have a run-off for some offices.

Therefore, it is imperative for members eligible to vote to stay for the second round of balloting... We should not have our endorsements based on the votes of only a handful of club members. So, put it on your calendar now! I am expecting to see a full house at both meetings!

Please remember, you must be a member in good standing, and current in your dues, to vote in our endorsements. The club will then carry petitions for our endorsed slate starting June 6th.

State Committee Report

Bob Ginsberg

I wish to thank not only my three clubs but also all of the wonderful members who were nice enough to attend Annette's funeral, call, visit at our Shiva or send cards. While nothing, of course, could stop the tears or the depression – the warm feelings of so many of you certainly helped begin the recovery process, which of course is still in progress. What was extremely important to me emotionally was to realize – through your kindness – where the priorities in life are – and how much politics must take second place to important personal events.

To turn to State Committee business: The State Convention has been called for May 30th & 31st in Buffalo. This is the convention where we nominate statewide officers.

With 100% certainty I will be voting for David Patterson, Mark Green and Alan Hevisi. With 90% certainty I will be voting for Eliot Spitzer – although as many of you know I was greatly disturbed by his going out of his way to endorse the war in Iraq. Concerning Hillary Clinton – most of you know my negative feelings about her because of the war, the Patriot Act, the death penalty, and burning flag amendment, etc. There are other candidates running against her – but at this point I do not feel any of them are strong enough to support. Should a strong candidate emerge – I would probably vote for her. I think it is crucial that Hillary's opponent be female.

Many of you also are aware of my activities – which I am about to return to – concerning setting up a progressive caucus within the Democratic Party. We have met a number of times – haven't really gotten too far – and will be meeting again within the next couple of weeks.

MUSICAL NOTES

The New York City Labor Chorus
Mini-concert

Sat. May 13 Peoples' Voice Café
45 E. 33d St. Doors open at 7:30pm
Tickets \$12 - 212-663-7797

Last month's newsletter contained, through my error, two old articles which had been published about 12 months ago. I hope you still enjoyed reading them, but here is what I meant to have published. Steve Strauss

Don't Be Nice to Friends of Extel

By Steve Strauss

Last December at an event for the 24th Precinct I had the opportunity to speak with one of the ministers at St. Michaels Church about their sale of air rights to the Extel Corporation. The conversation was polite but rather heated. In short, my position was that the Church could have negotiated the deal in such a way as to have gotten funds for their church without such a negative impact on our community. As a result of their real estate actions I won't be supporting activities of St. Michaels for a while. Similarly I have made known my strong feelings about Extel to two other community groups which have accepted contributions from this company. Both Landmark West! and the Broadway Mall Association have received large checks to, in my opinion, attempt to buy goodwill. Extel is not just working to destroy our neighborhood. Over the last four months there have been at least two NY Times newspaper stories on Extel development activities that have shown their greed and insensitivity to NYC's well being. When you receive requests from these organizations for money or run into Board members of these organizations I hope you will join me in asking them to return their Extel contribution and help make this company a pariah.

Medicaid Hospital Reform in NY State

By Steve Strauss

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to hear Stephen Berger speak about the Hospital Reform Task Force which Governor Pataki and the State Legislature appointed him to head. In December they will issue a report which will implement significant hospital changes unless rejected by the Governor and both houses of the State legislature. The State Commission is very similar in structure to the federal military base closing commission.

Mr. Berger's primary point is that the current financial health of NY hospitals is so poor that they are unable to invest in the technological enhancements necessary for a 21st century health care system here. He proposes to use savings from hospital restructuring to fund new technology investments in health care. He also noted that the reimbursement rates for many Medicaid programs in the state are not determined by good public policy decisions, such as emphasizing prevention and good health programs, but by the power of the health care lobby.

Most interesting was Mr. Berger's belief that labor is open to hospital restructuring because so many of its health

care workers have pensions at risk at these basically bankrupt hospitals. Keep in mind that 40% of NYS's budget is devoted to Medicaid funding! New York, number one in Medicaid spending, spends more than the next two states combined and yet provides inefficient care at exceptionally high costs.

Grannie Brigade Wins at Court

Congratulations to the Granny Brigade and to their lawyers, especially Norman Siegel. We at Three Parks are proud to have several Grannies as Club Members. Their actions and the court proceedings have received international press coverage and helped keep the anti-war movement in the public eye. And just as importantly, they have won another victory for freedom of speech and freedom to protest. Many thanks to all!

Mad Rush For New Voting Machines Is Mad Indeed

By John Nonna And David Kogelman

John Nonna, left, is co-chairman of the steering committee and David Kogelman is chairman of the Help America Vote Act committee of the New York Democratic Lawyers Council, dedicated to ensuring

The following appeared in Newsday
March 28, 2006

On March 1, just as New York State was on the brink of finalizing the implementation regulations needed to buy the voting machines that will be used by New Yorkers for the foreseeable future, the Department of Justice sued the state. Its suit seeks to force New York to comply with the Help America Vote Act's timetable, even though it had been clear for more than a year that New York would not have the new voting machines in place in time for the 2006 elections.

Justice's complaint that the state has failed to comply with the act comes at the worst possible time. Albany is finally on the right path to adopting regulations that will provide a reliable, trustworthy and secure voting system. Now is not the time to derail the substantial progress that the state has made and start over.

After the electoral disaster in Florida in 2000, Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act in 2002. It provides for funding for every state to modernize its voting system and requires them to acquire new machines that make it easier for the disabled to vote. These new systems were to be in place for the 2006 federal elections.

Last July, New York passed the Election Reform Act of 2005 with bipartisan support. Since then, the State Board of Elections has published two drafts of implementing regulations. These regulations are crucial to protect the

accuracy, trustworthiness and security of voting in any system that might be adopted by county boards of election.

The timing of this lawsuit was suspicious. It came just two days after the review of the second draft by the state board and receipt of the final suggestions for changes to the regulations. It also came just as the board was preparing to seek suitable voting systems to comply with both federal and New York law. Why is Justice suddenly in such a big hurry? Where is the fire?

Justice also has been overly aggressive in its response to a motion to intervene in this lawsuit by individuals and voter-rights advocacy groups, including the League of Women Voters and New Yorkers for Verified Voting. Unfortunately, last Thursday, a federal district court in Albany sided with Justice and ruled against intervention by these representatives of the public and local boards of election. This Thursday, the court will hear arguments on a motion by Justice seeking a preliminary injunction to obtain the ultimate relief in the case. This is an outrageous attempt to force the court to decide the case before it has all the facts and before the public can be heard.

With barely five months to go to primary day, it is nothing short of fantasy for Justice to contend that an orderly process could be successfully completed by then. Thousands of voting machines would have to be purchased. Training materials and seminars would be needed for tens of thousands of election workers. Political parties and the general public would need to be educated in using a new system. These involve staggering logistics. No responsible person would advocate doing all of this in such a short time.

If successful, Justice's action would force New York to recklessly purchase voting systems that have inadequate security standards. The state would quickly have to buy machines, some of which do not even exist as working prototypes, and not test for flaws until later. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission's testing and security standards were enacted only three months ago, and no lab is yet set up to certify machines according to them.

New York legislators on both sides of the aisle recognize that it is in voters' best interests to have a trustworthy election system, not one vulnerable to computer hackers and corrupt insiders. The state has wisely adopted laws requiring a permanent verifiable paper record of every vote cast. The state should never surrender the protections afforded by this law to an arbitrary calendar set in Washington. The press is full of reports of disastrous results in other states including, as recently as this month, Texas and Illinois.

Litigation is not the proper means to choose a voting system. Too much is at stake to allow Washington attorneys to substitute their judgment for ours. New York is

being careful and responsible in making its choices. It is in position to set the example and lead the nation in requiring secure, reliable and trustworthy voting systems.

Essential to any democracy is the knowledge that each vote counts and will be counted accurately. In defending or settling the precipitous Justice lawsuit, New York State should not compromise this hard-won right. It is unworthy of a great democracy.

Judicial Screening Panel Up-Date

By Alan Flacks

Our Party's screening panel is now reviewing incumbent State Supreme Court and City Civil Court judges running un-opposed for re-election in New York County. In addition, there are local panels set up in the Seventh district (principally Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, & Inwood) and the Ninth district (principally Midtown & the Upper East Side, west of Lexington Ave.).

Those serving on the County independent, merit screening panel are: Loren Gesinsky, NY City Bar; Janet Brown, Metro. Black Bar; Howard Shafer, Jewish Lawyers Guild; Eliezer Rodriguez, Dominican Bar; Emilio Grillo, Columbian Lawyers; Anthony Brown, LeGaL; Phoung Tran, Community Healthcare Network; Michael Bachrach, NY Criminal Bar; Maro Constantinou, MFY Legal Services; Michael Taglieri, CUNY Law School; Donald Leo, Asian Americans for Equality; David Burrows, Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; Ariel Chesler, NYC Women's Bar; Geoffrey Eaton, Mid-Manh. NAACP; Harvey Weinig, Fortune Society. [Important note: Organizations listed for informational purposes only; panelists designated by the heads of the organizations acting in their individual capacity.] Perry Galler, managing partner at Phillips Nizer, is the panel administrator.

Three Parks Endorsement Meeting

Wed, May 24 at 8:00PM

PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Room 111

AGENDA: Speakers: Club members on behalf of Candidates for office

Endorsement Vote for all State-wide races, Judiciary and Jud Del's

ENDORSEMENT VOTE:

Ballot Box Opens – 8:15 PM

Ballot Box Closes - 9:00 PM

Runoff Ballot?

Key Telephone Numbers

Sen. Charles Schumer

212-486-4430

Sen. Hillary Clinton

212-688-6262

Congressman Charles Rangel

212-663-3900

State Sen. David Paterson

212-222-7315

State Sen. Eric Schneiderman

212-928-5578

State Assembly Rep. Daniel O'Donnell

212-866-3970

Comptroller William Thompson, Jr.

212-669-3500

Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum

212-669-7200

Borough Pres. Scott Stringer

212-669-8300

Councilmember Gale Brewer

212-873-0282

Councilmember Melissa Viverito

212-828-9800

Councilmember Inez Dickens

212-788-7397

NYPD 24th Precinct

212-678-1811

Three Parks Ind. Dems.

212-866-6378

2006 Nominated Judicial Delegates

Alan Flacks is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is committed to the merit screening process, which he helped to establish. A long-time Club member, a Democratic County Committeemember, and an active petitioner in many campaigns, Alan has also served as the Club's Corresponding Secretary and Membership Secretary.

Ernestine Gallagher, a longtime member of Three Parks and member of the board. Ernestine has worked on many campaigns over the years and in organizing the annual holiday party every year. She was also active in Frederick Douglas Houses.

David Kogelman is an arbitrator and general practice attorney, and father of a 14-year-old son. Since joining Three Parks, he has been a very active board member - assisting at meetings, petitioning, registering voters, volunteering at our storefront and organizing our Pennsylvania bus trips. He welcomes this opportunity to continue serving our Club and our community.

Maryann Marks My name is Maryann Marks. I am the proud mother of three adult college students and have five wonderful grandchildren. I have a fantastic career doing what I love, working in the healthcare field, assisting the elderly. In the past I have worked as a teacher's assistant for the Board of Education.

Josh Pepper has been on the TPID board and has served as an alternate judicial delegate for the last two years. A lawyer in his real life, Josh has been a volunteer political activist for more than 15 years.

Corine Pettey Former District Leader, Riverside Dems. Principal for 24 years in elementary school District 3. I oppose the Bush administration policies of reversing the gains we have made in voting rights, women's rights and civil liberties. I oppose his budget policy of tax cuts for the rich and lack of a comprehensive health care policy.

Milivoy Samurovich Founding member of Three Parks, served for five years a District Leader that led to recognition of the club as an official Democratic organization. Also, served on Community Board 7, co-chaired the Urban Renewal sub-committee, on the committee that opposed the Westway Highway.

THREE PARKS CLUB MEMBERS News and Announcements

CONDOLENCES

We offer our deepest and sincerest sympathy to Three Parks Bd. Member Barbara Lee and her family on the recent loss of her mother.

BON MOT

Jamin Raskin, nephew of club members Dick Bellman and Bobbie Beck is running for the State Senate in Maryland. At the end of his testimony at a recent hearing he was challenged by a Rep. Senator who said "Mr. Raskin, my Bible says marriage is only between a man and a woman. What do you have to say about that?" Raskin replied, "*Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You did not place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible.*"

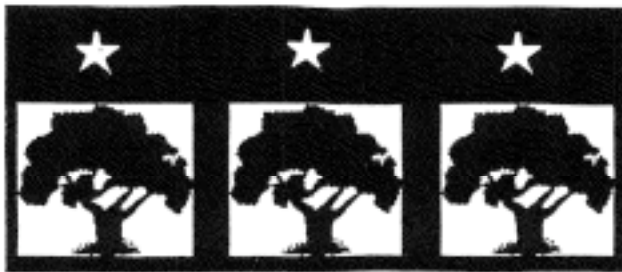
List of Eligible Voters

James Anderson	Robert Golub	Antonine Montplaisir	Marvin Sochet
Anna Avila	Pilar Gomez	Brenda Morgan	Joseph Spano
Emily Baldwin	Joan Green	Charles R. Morgan	Mildred Speiser
Susan J. Baldwin	Susannah Gross	John Newell	Anna Lee Spiro
William Baldwin	Janice Harrison	Arlene Katz Nichols	Lorraine Springer-Scott
Robert Bardin	Robert J. Healy	Jeffrey Norman Nichols	Michael Stearns
Catherine Beason	Phil Henshaw	Joan Ogden	Roschel Holland Stearns
Margret Beels	Cynthia Holden	Iretta Owens	Stephen Stearns
Dan Berger	Jacqueline Huey	Josh Pepper	Doris Stevenson
Joan Bondell	Arlene Hurley	Hank Perlin	Steve Strauss
Chaim Bronstein	John Hurley	Jacqueline Petersen	Gloria Swanson
Jennifer Brull	Evelyn Johnson	Corinne Petty	Donna Tapper
Marla Bruncker	Michael Katz	Geraldine Phillips	Stephanie Tegnazian
Theresa Canter	Jan Caryl Kaufman	Lucinda Piccus	Ruth Tepper
Jacquiline Carhart	Douglas Kellner	Rose Podrasky	Deborah Thomas
George Cavaletto	Elizabeth Kellner	Lisa Prochazka	Lynn Thomas
Kate Chamberlain	David Kogelman	Eve Remba	Jane Thompson
Roz Cherry	Iris J. Korman	Linda Roberts	Ken Tulloch
Dan Cohen	Kenneth Laufer	Marjorie Roesch	Cathy Unsino
Alex Colgan	Marguerite Lavin	Linda Rousseau	Ruben Vargas
Jill Cooper	Barbara Lee	Jonathan Rubin	George Voorhis
Barbara Cutney	Gail Leinwall	Sheila Ryan	Yvonne Vulliemoz
Cynthia Doty	Ellen Lemisch	Suzanne Samelson	David Walker
Jeff Drummond	Estelle Levy	Christine Samurovich	Tim Walsh
Kathy Egmont	Marie Lunn	Liz Samurovich	Pamela Wax
Scotty Embree	Joel Mandelbaum	Milivoy Samurovich	David Weiman
Gerry Ann Fifer	Andy Manshel	Eric Santiago	Lauren Williams
Alan Flacks	Mary Ann Marks	Eugene Sarver	Rosetta Williams
Ellen Flax	Melissa Mark-Viverito	Ernest Scher	Judy Wood
Timothy Foley	Kathleen Martin	James Scheuer, Jr.	Gloria Zeche
Elizabeth Forel	Connie Max	Doris Schreiber	Marlene Zucker
Eva Foreman	Danny Max	Ray Schwartz	Tamar Zucker
Ernestine Gallagher	Lynn Bender Max	Cathy Seidner	Ariel Zucker-Brull
Paul Gareen	Stephen Max	Abbey Shepard	
Arlene Geiger	George McGuinness	Barry N. Sher	
Daniele Gerard	Minda Meister	Ahmad Shirazi	
Louisa Gilbert	Joann Mercedes	Ann Shirazi	
Bob Ginsberg	Gail Meyers	Gladys Smith	

List of Ineligible Voters

In order to vote your dues must be current

Ralph Andrew	John Davenport	Estelle Kattelison	Elizabeth Sanders
Stephanie Andrew	Lucille Donte	David Lazarus	Alma Schieren
J. Thomas Barnard	Renna Draynel	Lois Lazarus	Irene Shrier
Thomas Becker	Elena Gardner	Judith Medina	David Sternoff
Bob Botfeld	Joseph Gianono	Alex Medwedew	Nancy Schwartz Sternoff
Evans Chan	Thomas Goggin	Batya Miller	Mary Vaughn
Wendy Dannett	Alexandra Grannis	Joan Paylo	Judith E. Williams
Russell Freedman	Janet Harvilchuck	Jim Picinich	
Ann Darby	Rita Kardemon	Penelope Pi-Sunyer	



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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) _____

Email _____

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter via email.

Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2006"