

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

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President

Theresa Canter

Editor

Judy Wood
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District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

City Council

Gale Brewer – 6th District

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

NOVEMBER 08, 2006

MEETING: **Speakers: Congressman Jerrold Nadler**
Borough President Scott Stringer

DATE: Wednesday, November 08, 2006

TIME: 8:00PM

PLACE: Hostelling International New York (HI-NY)
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel Room

AGENDA

7:45PM Sign-in
8PM Call to Order

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. **SPEAKER: BP Scott STRINGER**
4. **SPEAKER: Congressman Jerry NADLER**
5. State Committee Reports
6. New business
7. Adjournment

Election Day, November 7!

CALENDAR

Tues, Nov 7 ELECTION DAY!

Wed, Nov 8 at 8:00PM Three Parks Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room

Wed, Nov 15 at 8:00-9:00PM Three Parks Board Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

Sun, Dec 3 from 5:00-8:00PM Three Parks Holiday Party!
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room

Wed, Jan 10 at 8:00PM Three Parks Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room

Wed, Jan 24 at 8:00PM Three Parks Board Meeting
PLACE: HINY 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St., Chapel Room

President's Column

Theresa Canter

By the time you receive this newsletter, **Election Day** will be right around the corner. I can't emphasize enough how important it is as a Democratic Club to do our part to put Democrats in office. Please don't forget to vote and to urge your friends and neighbors to vote, and to vote on the **Democratic line**. If the polls are to be believed, we are headed for a major victory in November!

Our November meeting will be the day after the election and I am expecting a full house in a celebratory mood. Three Parks is privileged to have Congressman Jerry Nadler as our keynote speaker. He will offer an analysis of the election and share his thoughts on the important issues facing us in the next couple of years. In addition, we are pleased to feature our new Manhattan Borough President, Scott Stringer, and he will elaborate on all the exciting activities his office has been involved in this year. **This is a not to be missed meeting!**

Despite the rainy night we had a great turnout for our **"Take Back Congress"** October meeting! We were honored to have our own Congressman Charles Rangel as our keynote speaker. Many thanks to Charlie for being so generous with his time in what is a very busy schedule for him as member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Caucus. We hope he will come back soon to the club and speak to us as the new Chair of Ways and Means! We also thank State Senator Eric Schneiderman, and Deputy Minority leader, who gave us an update on the critical New York State Senate races. Eric is one of our club favorites and we always look forward to his informative and articulate talks.

The Three Parks Annual Holiday Party is just around the corner! Please put Sunday, December the 3rd on your calendar. We ask that you bring a potluck dish for all to enjoy and/or non-perishable food items that will be donated to a local food pantry. If possible please let us know if you are coming, we will have a sign-up sheet at the Nov meeting to help us with the food planning. I look forward to the party, as it is quite the fun political event of the season! So, be sure to come and enjoy the fun, festivities, and food with other club members and their families, and our elected representatives.

If you haven't renewed your dues yet for 2007 now is the time! It has been several years since we had a dues increase, and in 2007 we will raise the dues to \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for couples and family. If you renew by the end of the year you can still pay the 2006 rate. Our membership dues are necessary to help to defray the costs of putting out the newsletter. As a member

in good standing, you will have the added benefit of being able to participate in one of the club's most important functions - endorsing candidates. There is strength in numbers. If you have not joined or renewed yet I encourage you to do so. If we are to have a Democratic Congress, we as a club will need to participate in constructing a Democratic agenda that will bring positive change to our lives and the larger community, and we will need to work together on the many political and social justice issues in front of us.

As always, please continue to send questions, feedback and suggestions to ThreeparksDems@aol.com. See you all November the 8th!

District Leader Report

Cynthia Doty

In these last few days of the campaign season, the momentum seems to all be in the Democrats' favor! The excitement is building! Every day more and more races for the House seem to be leaning Democratic. Pollsters and pundits talk of Democrats winning 30-40 House seats. We may even win the Senate, since Dems are ahead in 4 and tied in 2 others and Menendez is now a few points ahead in NJ.

But the Republicans are known for having a much better Get Out the Vote operation than the Democrats (mostly because they have invested in very good computer data bases and pay lots of people to knock on doors and call base voters with "motivating messages"), and they have lots of money to air nasty TV ads at the last minute.

So we Democrats cannot celebrate yet. By the time you receive this newsletter there will only be a few days left until Election Day, November 7th. Please do whatever you can to help us win. Even an hour or two of your time could make a really big difference.

Many Three Parkers have been working very hard over this past month. Thanks to Lynn Max and Dan Berger we have organized field trips to help candidates running for Congress in both NJ (Linda Stender) and Upstate NY (John Hall). Daniele Gerard has been spearheading our phone banking for those same candidates. We also have joined with Danny O'Donnell and our fellow 69thAD clubs to call for Kirsten Gillibrand and John Hall. And we have been campaigning for Andrea Stewart-Cousins in her effort to win the State Senate seat in Yonkers with coordinating help from Steve Strauss. Many club members are calling from home for various candidates throughout the country and others have been tabling in our area to get out the vote for our local Democratic ticket.

Finally, many are giving financial contributions and hosting fundraisers, a very important part of our victory effort.

So get involved in these last few days. Imagine how you will feel on Wednesday the 8th if we do *not Take Back the House*, especially if we lose just one House seat by only a few votes! Now is the time to do your part. Be sure everyone you know around the country is voting Democratic-- and be sure to vote straight Democratic. Then come to our Wednesday night meeting ready to celebrate.

Saving the Democrats

by Steve Max

As the prospects for Democratic control of the House improve, we in the progressive wing of the Party should consider how such a victory might change our role. If the Democrats are to be successful in the long run, then progressives are required to move from being enablers of the center to being its loyal opposition.

There are serious economic developments on the horizon to which the Democratic leadership will not respond correctly without outside pressure. It is continually lost upon the leadership that the point is not just to win elections but to govern, and by governing well to get reelected. We have helped elect Democrats only to see them fail at governing and be ousted by the voters after a term or two. Every time the Right returns to power it comes back stronger and more extreme than before while many Democrats become disillusioned and inactive. This pattern must not be repeated.

There are five developments that could combine into the "perfect economic storm" in the next two to four years. These are: 1) the recession cycle, 2) the jobs crunch, 3) the housing bubble, 4) the credit catastrophe and 5) the mounting federal debt.

The Recession cycle:

As you all know, the economy goes into a recession, (the GNP growth rate actually starts shrinking) roughly every eight years give or take a few. The current economic expansion started in 2001 which means that it is due to run out of steam any time after 2007.

The Jobs Crunch:

As the Economic Policy Institute and many other analysts have said, since 2001 this has been a jobless recovery in the sense that job creation has lagged behind that in other periods of economic expansion. Recently, job growth has slowed further. What concerns us in the short run is that the economy failed to build up a substantial cushion of jobs during the years of expansion which is

likely to cause unemployment to be even higher in the event that a recession occurs. This, in turn, can make the credit crunch all the worse. Before looking at credit we need to take into account the closely related housing market situation.

The Housing Bubble:

As Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Bernanke said on October 4th, the housing market is in a "substantial correction." It is wonderful how these people have learned to call any bad news a "correction" because, of course, the public thinks that corrections are good things.

What should concern us the most about the housing market "correction" is that literally millions of working class and middle class people bought property through unconventional mortgages and adjustable rate mortgages. They thought that their low monthly payments would continue for decades or that if the payments became unaffordable, the property could be sold quickly at a substantial profit. This is proving to be untrue. Rising interest rates and the structure of optional adjustable rate mortgages is starting to create an unmanageable debt situation. Many people are desperately trying to borrow even more money to meet these payments. This in turn fuels the impending credit catastrophe.

The Credit Catastrophe:

"It's not just that we're borrowing more money and paying it back more slowly; it's that we're spending money we used to consider off-limits. Home equity loans are more popular than ever as people borrow against their home to feed their spending binge. Today, average homeowners owe nearly 50% of their home's value. Twenty years ago that figure stood at 30%."

By Dayana Yochim (TMF School)
<http://www.fool.com/ccs/secrets/secrets01.htm>

In a normal situation, government, business and individuals would use a period of economic expansion to pay down debt in order to be able to borrow again when the economy slows. This has not happened. Because of the speculative nature of the recent expansion and the Bush deficit budgets, massive borrowing took place at every level that will be difficult to carry in a period of slower growth combined with higher unemployment.

The Government's Financial Situation:

The Administration's ideological drive to render govern-

ment non-functional has led to massive tax give-aways combined with deficit spending and rising debt. The time bomb that Bush will leave to the Democrats is that the government can ill afford its current level of operation and will have to massively borrow or raise taxes just to keep spending at current levels. In the event of a major recession, only still greater borrowing will enable necessary government spending on programs that substantially reduce the economic problems.

Here is what the Democrats would need to do in an economic crunch:

1. Cancel the tax breaks and raise taxes on the super rich.
2. Get out of Iraq (which should be done immediately anyway,) rather than spending even more money on the war as many Democrats are promising to do.
3. Enact a mortgage foreclosure moratorium for private primary residences.
4. Become the employer of last resort in a massive jobs program. Rebuilding homes and infrastructure in the entire Gulf Coast region would be a good focus and would earn a lot of points in Red states.
5. Protect American jobs by renegotiating NAFTA and other trade agreements.
6. Extend unemployment benefits.

Needless to say, with the exception of allowing some tax breaks to sunset, the Democratic leadership is unlikely to do any of this in the absence of strong pressure from its own base. However, if the next recession develops into the economic storm, nothing less will save it from being quickly thrown out of office (again).

PHONE BANKING TO TAKE BACK CONGRESS! SIGN UP NOW! -- -- HELP WITH THIS LAST LAP TO VICTORY!

The campaign office of Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell, 105 West 106th Street, between Columbus and Amsterdam, will have phonebanking for John Hall and Kirsten Gillibrand. All volunteers **must** call Carrie at 917-696-8631 to schedule the days and times they would like to call. There are only 5 lines, so each volunteer **must reserve a slot**.

OTHER PHONEBANKS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. Many candidates (including John Hall) <http://www.johnhallforcongress.com/node/133> are set up to allow Home Phoning. If you have Internet access and a separate telephone landline, you can make calls from your own home. Go to the candidate's website and follow the directions.
2. Go to <http://actnowny.org/> for lots of phonebanking opportunities.
3. Tenant PAC for Andrea Stewart-Cousins for State Senate (Yonkers district): Monday-Thursday 10/23-10/26; 10/30-11/2; Monday 11/6 and all day Tuesday 11/7, 11 Park Place, Suite 814 between Broadway and Church Street in lower Manhattan. Contact 212-577-7001; mmckee@tenantspac.org
4. MoveOn

Sundays-Fridays: 11:30 am- 2 pm, 5-7:30 and 6:30-9 pm. Saturday: Two shifts, 10 am and 2 pm

Contact: For more information and directions, contact MoveOn's new Manhattan field office at 212-244-2440. Due to a limited number of landlines, they are asking people to bring their cell phones. If you don't have a cell phone, call first to make sure a landline is available.

5. Citizen Action

Daytime volunteering Downtown: You can volunteer from 12-4 pm Mondays through Thursdays at the Citizen Action office at 11 Park Place, Suite 814, between Church and Broadway. This is right across the street from City Hall Park.

Evening volunteering in Midtown: You can also volunteer from 6-9 pm Mondays through Thursdays at SEIU, 520 8th Ave, Suite 1200, between 36th and 37th Streets.

Contact: Fred Wright, Volunteer Coordinator, (212) 523-0180 x 44.

6. ACT NOW

Phonebanks to Take Back Congress & the NY State Senate every Monday to Thursday. Chelsea & Midtown East: RSVP for exact location at <http://www.actnow.org/>

Tuesdays & Thursdays in Chelsea: This is traditional phone banking (no predictive dialing, no computer skills needed). On Tuesdays, the calls are to targeted voters in Pennsylvania's 6th District to help DFA-endorsed Lois Murphy dislodge House incumbent Jim Gerlach. On Thursdays, callers are targeting voters in Connecticut's 4th District to help Diane Farrell defeat Republican Chris Shays (and boost turnout for Ned Lamont at the same time).

More info and RSVP at <http://www.actnowny.org/>

Mondays & Wednesdays in Midtown to take back our State Senate. Volunteers at a landline phonebank do low-pressure Voter ID and/or Volunteer Recruitment calling-- not undecided voter persuasion--to dramatically increase Democratic voter turnout in the most competitive State Senate races.

7. The Democratic State Senate Campaign Committee is calling for State Senate candidates Monday to Thursday, 6-9 pm Graybar Building, 420 Lexington Avenue at 43rd Street, Suite 360. Please do not just drop in; call Keith Powell at 917-836-1745 beforehand to ensure a slot.
8. The State Democratic Committee, 60 Madison between 26th and 27th Streets, Suite 1201, will operate Monday to Thursday 6-9 p.m. only if someone is scheduled to come. They won't be open for last minute drop-ins. To volunteer, call Carter Avery 646-872-2387.

CAMPAIGN TRIPS TO TAKE BACK CONGRESS AND STATE SENATE:

1. **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4th.** Volunteer trip to Yonkers, New York to campaign for **Andrea Stewart-Cousins**. Two years ago, Andrea lost by only 18 votes. This year, we can help her win! Call **Steve Strauss** at 212-222-2796
2. **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4th.** Trip to the Hudson Valley, New York to campaign for **John Hall**. Call **Lynn Max**, (212) 666-3129.
3. **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th.** Trip to Scotch Plains, New Jersey to campaign for **Linda Stender**. Call **Dan Berger** (917) 359-7757
4. **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5th.** Tabling for our candidates and voter registration on Broadway. Call **Steve Strauss** at 212-222-2796 for location and times.

Vote on the Democratic Line

by Cynthia Doty

On November 7th be sure to vote on the Democratic Line for all our candidates and send a message to the Republicans of this state and the country. The vote on Nov 7th is significant because the number of votes that each party receives for their candidate for Governor determines the position on the ballot for that party and the number of delegates that they receive for various positions including county committee.

Help keep the Democratic Party strong and keep the 69th AD one of the highest Democratic voter turnout districts in the state. Send a message to the Dems and the Republicans that the 69th AD is strong and stands for progressive Democratic values!

VOTE the DEMOCRATIC LINE for SPITZER, PATERSON, CUOMO, PERKINS, SCHNEIDERMAN, O'DONNELL, and RANGEL!

THREE PARKS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!

Sunday, December 3, 2006
5-8 pm

Chapel Room, Hostelling International
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

Look for DJ Denise Jones!

**Pay your Three Parks dues
for 2007 by December 31st,
and get the 2006 rate!**

Take Back Congress

Three Parks Hits The Campaign Trail For Linda Stender and John Hall



Marissa Polnerow, Mary Kim, Claudia Brodsky and her two daughters, Jock Davenport, Chris Brandt, Bob Healy, Josh Pepper and Dan Berger



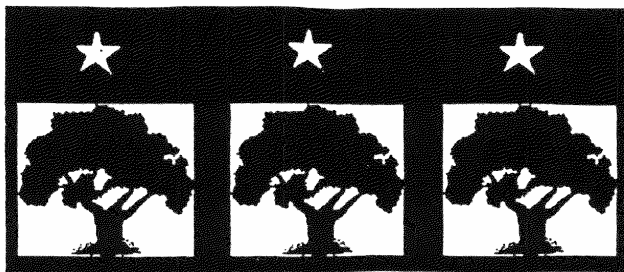
Top: David Weiman, Aaron Feinstein
Bottom: Jock Davenport, Dan Berger, Cynthia Doty, Judy Wood, Linda Stender, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Ken Tulloch and Alisa



Bob Botfeld, Lynn Max, Dan Berger, Steve Max, Lauren Williams and Cynthia Doty



Steve Max, Judy Segal, Cynthia Doty, Brian Regan, Minda Meister, Lauren Williams, Batya Miller and Judy Wood. Photographer – Lynn Max



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Please pay your 2007 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

2007 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. #_____

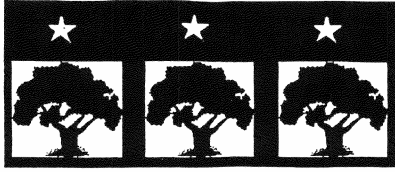
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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 2007"



Three Parks Independent Democrats
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, NY 10025

NOVEMBER MEETING

Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer