

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 Phil Reed – 8th District Gale Brewer – 6th District

Newsletter Production Barbara Lee State Committee Lynn Thomas

JANUARY 2005 MEETING

- DATE: Wednesday, January 12, 2005
- 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. Speaker: Hon. Robert Morgenthau, District Attorney
- 4. Albany Update: reforms and election results Speakers
 - Hon. Eric Schneiderman
 - Larry Norden, Brennan Center for Justice, Democracy Program
 - Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (invited)
- 5. Social Security update
- 6. New business
- 7. Adjournment

CALENDAR

THREE PARKS CLUB MEETING

- DATE: Wednesday, January 12, 2005
- TIME: Hospitality 7:30PM, Meeting 8PM
- PLACE: HINY
- Martin Luther King Day March for Peace DATE: January 17th 2005 at 2PM

THREE PARKS BOARD MEETING

- DATE: Wednesday, January 26, 2005
- TIME: 8PM
- PLACE: HINY

THREE PARKS SOCIAL SECURITY CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP

- DATE: Wednesday, February 2, 2005
- TIME: 7PM
- PLACE: HINY: Room 115

THREE PARKS CLUB MEETING

- DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2005
- TIME: Hospitality 7:30PM, Meeting 8PM
- PLACE: HINY

Hon. Tom Suozzi and Public Advocate Candidates - to be invited **TPID Elections**

President's Column Theresa Canter

Hope you all had a good holiday season and are rested and ready to work on the upcoming political events of the New Year. If you thought we had a busy political year in 2004, just wait till you see what is on the agenda for this year!

In addition to continuing our fight against the Bush agenda in the upcoming months, we will be hearing from all the candidates running for public office who represent our district, this includes Borough President, City Council (8th and 9thdistrict), Comptroller, Public Advocate, and District Attorney. One of our most important duties as a club is to endorse candidates who demonstrate ability, integrity and progressive convictions for each office. In June we carry petitions for our endorsed slate. Each candidate is required to have a certain amount of signatures to qualify for the primary ballot. This is where we as a club come in and where we have the greatest impact on the political landscape. Our endorsements can indeed make a difference in the selection of the eventual candidate. In order to vote for an endorsement. you must be a member in good standing. New members are eligible thirty days after application and the payment of dues. All members must be current with their dues and have attended at least one club meeting within the previous six months.

Three Parks will also be having its annual membership meeting in February. At that time, all officers and members of the Board of Directors for 2005 will be elected. Eligibility to vote is the same as for endorsements. Please take a look at the proposed slate printed elsewhere in the newsletter. Nominations can also be taken from the floor.

While our focus in the upcoming months will be on our local elections, we will also continue to address key issues of interest to the membership. This month we will have a speaker from the Brennan Center for Justice, Democracy Program, speaking on reform in Albany. District Leader Bob Botfeld will also be reporting on the results of the survey sheets we filled out in December. These surveys will help us to determine the formation of action committees. Our first committee workshop will be on Social Security, February 2nd.

Well, Three Parks did it again! We had another wonderful holiday party! The Chapel looked very festive, the food was plentiful, there was more than enough to drink, the turnout was great and the DJ, Denise was terrific! Many thanks to all of those who worked hard to pull it together, and thanks to all of you who brought canned goods for the food pantry. Board member George Voorhis lugged four full cartloads to West End Presbyterian's food pantry the next day!

Pleaseremembertolookatourwebsite...ThreeParksDems.org.MemberBarbaraLeehas

graciously volunteered to maintain it and update the information. It will be a handy source for club information and events. If you want to be on my (almost) weekly email updates on current happenings, please send me your email to ThreeParksDems@aol.com.

District Leader Report Cynthia Doty

Watching the incredible news footage of the Tsunami that hit last week, one is reminded just how fragile our lives are and how sometimes without warning our world can be completely shattered and changed forever. Our thoughts of care and concern go out to all the victims of this tragedy, including the many New Yorkers who have family and friends caught in the disaster. Even though this horrific event happened on the opposite side of the world, we can all help in the recovery efforts by making a donation to a reputable relief organization.

Fortunately, our government is finally doing its part. George Bush, however, showed an unforgivable lack of moral leadership by taking so long to publicly react, seeming to be more concerned with his holiday vacation than the suffering of our international neighbors. Finally, after tremendous pressure and outcry, the US is at last helping with the relief efforts.

Hopefully, this will be the start of a new American spirit of international humanitarianism, global cooperation, and UN support: a far superior foreign policy than our most recent one of war and imperialism. May this next year bring a renewed commitment by us all to work for peace and justice, both here and around the world. May we all resolve to join together to fight for decent shelter, food, safety, health care, economic security, and civil liberties for all, from Manhattan to Iraq to Sumatra. Let us all do our part in relieving the suffering and restoring communities.

A Peaceful 2005 to all!

District Leader Report Bob Botfeld

THREE PARKS ISSUES SURVEY RECAP

Following the November election, Three Parks distributed an issues survey at the December club meeting and the holiday party. The purpose of the survey was to determine the national and local issues that club members considered the most important to address *and* which they want to work on.

Over fifty surveys were returned so far and the top national issues identified listed in order of preference are:

- Preventing the privatization of Social Security.
- Enacting election protection: Investigating the results of November 2. Insuring paper verification for electronic ballots.
- Stopping unilateral United States military action in Iraq, Iran, etc.
- Preventing the confirmation of right wing Supreme Court nominees.
- Control of the media: Preventing monopolies and restoring diversity in national and local media.
- Protecting the environment.

Other national issues mentioned many times included restoring the separation of church and state; protecting abortion rights; reducing healthcare costs; tax reform; protecting judicial independence; protecting free speech; and providing affordable housing.

The two critical local issues that Three Parkers are interested in pursuing are:

- Preventing the construction of a publicly financed West Side stadium.
- Electing progressive, Democratic Congressmembers in neighboring districts, i.e. Staten Island, Westchester....

Other local issues mentioned more than once were the dysfunctional state legislature and the Brennan reforms; public funding of mass transit; reform of the public schools and school funding; and tenants' rights.

Last month, we began working on the key national issues. Steve Max and David Weiman provided an excellent and informative presentation on the false claims of the Bush administration about the need for privatization of Social Security. Our plan is to establish working groups on this and the other areas of major interest. We are circulating a petition to Senators Schumer and Clinton, asking for their outspoken and unequivocal support of our key national issues, which include protecting Social Security and opposing the confirmation of right wing Supreme Court nominees.

On the timely local issue, the West Side stadium, last month we put Three Parks on record with a resolution opposing the stadium, placed the resolution on record at the Javits hearing, and shared it with other organizations. In response to requests from other clubs and organizations, we have shared that resolution with them. Three Parkers attended the hearings in city hall and at the Javits center and spoke out against the stadium.

This month, the City Council will be voting on a rezoning bill for the Hudson Yards/stadium area. As soon as the date has been set, we will email members.

Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting.

Notes from the Ohio Campaign By Dan Berger

(Club member Dan Berger organized a multiple van trip to Ohio for the pre-election weekend and Election Day effort. This article was originally scheduled for the December 2004 newsletter.)

Election Day in Cleveland, Ohio was a nasty day. My threeperson team was out by 6:30 in the morning getting out the vote. We were just a tiny part of a 12,000-strong volunteer army storming Ohio that day. It was gross out. Heavy rain was falling and the streets were flooding. Our feet were getting soaked with each step we took as we walked from door to door on muddy grass hanging up voting reminders.

By ten that morning we were finishing up our run and there was only one area left, a trailer park. We drove up and down the streets looking for it but to no avail. We asked the locals but no one knew. We were about to give up but then one of us spotted it. We quickly drove up to it, parked and got out. We were just about to meet America face to face.

Tucked away in the back of a parking lot, the trailer park had about two dozen trailers. To one side, no more than 50 feet, was what looked like a slaughterhouse. Cages and crates were stacked up all around the factory that created towers 40 feet high. Toward the back of the park, there were train tracks with only a modest fence separating them from the park. Above the tracks was a web of power lines going in all directions. Behind the tracks, a plume of smoke was hovering above an industrial factory.

Stickers with slogans like "Proud to be an American" and "I support the troops" were stuck on to doors. American flags draped some trailers' windows. It was a level of patriotism I have never seen before. The people we spoke to were all in their 50s and 60s, most of them were overweight. The majority of them were home when we came so I suspect they were unemployed, perhaps on disability from the government. One woman opened the door with an oxygen tube attached to her nose, another man had extremely swollen legs, and another man greeted us with such anger that he was clearly suffering from emotional problems. When we reminded them to vote, most of them told us they had already done so.

I asked one woman if anyone has ever stopped by before, to campaign, or to make sure she votes. She said I was the first one. Surely someone who is so neglected by society would vote for a glimpse of hope and for a party that fights on his or her behalf. Unfortunately, in this trailer park, this was not the case. Those who had voted told us they cast their vote in favor of George W. Bush.

Social Security Workshop and Meeting

Support the campaign to save Social Security from Bush privatization schemes by inviting friends and neighbors to your home to see the <u>Social Security Is Not Broke</u> slide show, and by getting signatures on the Club's petition to our US Senators urging them to avoid compromise and take leadership in opposing the Bush Agenda.

The Three Parks Social Security Campaign workshop and meeting will take place on Wednesday February 2nd at 7PM at the Youth Hostel (103rd &102nd Sts. on Amsterdam) Room 115. Get additional information and presentation tips on narrating the Social Security slide show when hosting a discussion in your own home. All you need is a computer. View the slides at

http://www.midwestacademy.com/Social/index.htm

The second purpose of the meeting is to schedule street tables and any other opportunities to get signatures on the club's petition asking our US Senators to stand firm and be outspoken in opposing the Bush legislative program including Social Security "reform". We fear that even on the West Side there are many people with misconceptions about the health of the Social Security system.

The slide show, presented at the last club meeting, can be downloaded as a PowerPoint presentation from the above URL. If you don't have PowerPoint we can get it to you in another format such as a PDF file, or you can easily show it directly from the web. For large groups we can provide a speaker with a projector. Please call Lynn Max (212) 666-3129 to say that you are coming to the workshop. (lbendermax@excite.com).

Political Data Geek By Steve Strauss

This month I inaugurate an occasional piece for Three Parks political data geeks to highlight useful statistical information about New York or national politics. With the certified election results for November released by the NYC Board of Elections (available on the web) I took a look at the total number of votes cast for President in each Assembly District in New York County (Manhattan).

While our 69th Assembly District tends to rank very high in raw number votes for Democratic Primaries, something to remember for the 2005 municipal elections, we did rather poorly in General Election voting. Keep in mind these are raw votes and don't speak to the issue of turnout (how many registered voters actually voted). Each Assembly District has a population of about 120,000 people. The number of eligible voters is influenced by things like the ratio of children to adults in the AD, the number of foreign citizens residing in the AD and the number of eligible adults in the AD who are actually registered to vote.

The highest voting Assembly District in Manhattan was Scott Stringer's 67th AD just to our south. Number 2 was Deborah Glick's Greenwich Village based 66th AD. No. 3 was Jonathan Bing's silk stocking 73rd AD which just barely beat out the Dick Gottfried's Chelsea-based 75th AD. Speaker Silver's 64 AD was 10th out of 12 ADs and Adam Powell's 68th AD was 11th. In fairness, most of the ADs with lower raw vote numbers are associated with communities with a high number of immigrants. The 69th AD ranked 7th in total number of votes cast, 58,724.

67th AD 69,422 66th AD 67,517 73rd AD 64,939 75th AD 64,849 65th AD 61,879 74th AD 59,841 69th AD 58,724 71st AD 43,278 70th AD 41,933 64th AD 41,526 68th AD 41,296 72nd AD32,226

> 2005 Surrogate Race By Alan Flacks

In my last column, I mentioned that one of the two Manhattan Surrogate judges, Eve Preminger, retires at the end of this year because she reaches the constitutional mandatory retirement age of 70. Initially, a number of people expressed interest in running for that slot, but, surprisingly, today, only a few candidates' names are heard despite the fact that the Surrogate is one of the more important and powerful judges.

Jacqueline Silbermann, thought to be interested, is not running. Having just been re-elected to State Supreme court, she is happy to remain where she is. Helene Blank, an attorney who is active with the N.Y. State Trial Lawyers, is exploring running. Eve Markewich, who just resigned as district leader at Park River Independent Democrats, announced last month that she is a candidate. Her major practice is as an estates lawyer at Blank, Rome. And John Reddy, a private attorney to the other Surrogate, Renee Roth, is considering running. (A surrogate judge may appoint a private attorney to handle certain estates; e.g., where a decedent dies intestate or there are no relatives.) One would have expected a greater field of candidates at this time, so stay tuned.

Fund The Violence Against Women Act By Cynthia Doty

Please call Clinton, Schumer, and Rangel today and urge them to support full funding for The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the FY 2005 budget. Congressional leaders are meeting to plan out the final Fiscal Year 2005 Congressional budget numbers, and VAWA funding is once again being cut. In 2000, Congress authorized \$729 million for VAWA for the year 2005, yet the current House and Senate are wrangling over \$562 million versus \$593 million in funding. This means that whichever budget number prevails, services and programs for victims of violence are being short-changed by over \$130 million that they desperately need. We must demand that they keep their bipartisan promises and campaign pledges to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act.

Violence in the form of sexual abuse, assault, incest and rape is an urgent issue with devastating consequences for women and men - and their children and families. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000 and funds for its programs and services are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice.

Every year Congress has to appropriate money to these cabinet agencies to fund VAWA, and for the last several years they have cut away tens of millions of dollars in vital anti-violence funding. Even though domestic violence is the number one cause of death for pregnant women and crimes of rape have increased.

VAWA provides funding for safety programs on campuses and in communities, as well as critical services and programs for survivors of sexual abuse, rape and domestic violence. In the ten years since we won passage, VAWA has funded an effective safety net for millions of women and their children. In order for these programs to be fully effective they need to be fully funded.

Take Action Now! Help stop violence against women! Call Congress today!

THREE PARKS CLUB MEMBERS News and Announcements

Our hard work has paid off

Columbia has promised that a new supermarket (probably Gristedes) will be going in to the ground floor of the new building at 103rd Street and Broadway. The other retail unit will be a bank. Opening should be in April.

Save These Dates: Upcoming Hearings

Thursday, Jan. 13 City Council will hold a hearing on Class Size/School Size in the implementation of the CFE court rulings from 2-7PM at the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Friday, Jan.21 New York City hearing on a new death penalty law for NY State will be held at 10 AM at the NYC Bar Association, 42 West 44th St (5th and 6th Aves).

3rd Annual Martin Luther King Day March for Peace January 17th 2005 at 2PM

Westsiders for Peace and the faith communities of the Upper West Side (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Catholic) and all people dedicated to peace and justice. March will depart from Holy Name Church and continue to West End Presbyterian (105/Amsterdam), then to Anche Chesed Synogogue (100/WEA), then to Advent Lutheran/UCC (93/Bway), then back to Holy Name for short presentations and a prayer -includes Dan Berrigan or Simon Harak, Grandmothers for Peace, youth choirs, and the various clergy members. People will gather at numerous other locations to feed into the main march.

Women's City Club of New York

To register, call WCCNY at 212 353-8070.

Education Committee's 90th Anniversary Program Civics in the Schools: An insider's view from Carmen Fariña, Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, NYC Department of Education

Thursday, January 20th • 12:30pm The College Board 45 Columbus Avenue, between 61st and 62nd Street NO CHARGE **Co-Sponsored by the Educational Priorities Panel**

As the first civic committee event of WCC's 90th anniversary series, the Education Committee presents **Carmen Fariña**, Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning for the NYC Department of Education. Co-sponsored by the Educational Priorities Panel, a coalition of 25 member organizations, Ms. Fariña will discuss changes that have taken place in the public school system in the last year and her initiatives for the future. She will also discuss how civics is currently taught, an issue that the Education Committee has focused on for the last few years.

Before her appointment as Deputy Chancellor, Ms. Fariña served as the regional superintendent for four Brooklyn districts that include 140 schools in Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Fort Greene, Bedford Stuyvesant and Sunset Park. She has been a public school educator for more than thirty years, and has won numerous awards for her service in the field, including the OTTY Award - "Our Town" Newspaper Outstanding Contributor to Education on the Upper East Side, and Outstanding New York City Public Servant Award - Fund for the City of New York.

The Manhattan Borough President, C. Virginia Fields

Friday, January 21st • 12:30pm Women's City Club Offices 33 West 60th Street, 5th Floor \$10; No charge for WCC members

Borough President since 1998, **C. Virginia Fields** will describe the role of her office as defined in part by the City Charter. About to end an eight-year tenure due to term limits, the Borough President will explore the relationship between her office and that of the Mayor and City Council. Has she been able to accomplish her priorities? What has helped or hindered in doing so? How would she wish her term of office to be defined in the future?

Three Parks Elections Meeting February 9, 2005

Eligibility Rules for Voting

In order to be eligible to vote a member new to the association during the calendar year must have attended at least one other meeting of the association within the previous six months. Members during the prior calendar year must have attended at least one meeting of the association within the previous six months and have their dues current by the day of the vote.

The next newsletter will contain names of eligible voters and those whose dues are due.

Board of Directors Nominations for 2005

Nominations for Club Officers

President	Theresa Canter
1st Vice Pres	.Brenda Morgan
2nd Vice Pres	Ray Schwartz
Treasurer	Jason Morgan
Membership Sec'y	Josh Pepper
Corresponding Sec'y	Judy Wood
Recording Sec'y	Jock Davenport

Nominations for Club Board of Directors

Dan Berger Rosalyn Cherry Ellen Flax Ernestine Gallagher Arlene Geiger David Kogelman Barbara Lee Lynn Bender Max Milivoy Samurovich Lorraine Springer-Scott Odessa Steward Clara Taylor George Voorhis

Disaster Aid

Please make a donation to help those devastated by the Tsunami. It would be a good way to start the New Year.

The New York Times: Agencies Accepting Aid Dollars Published: December 28, 2004 http://www.nytimes.com/2004/12/28/international/28aidbox.html

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

247 West 37th Street, Suite 1201 New York, N.Y. 10018 212-967-7800 x108http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

45 West 36th Street, 10th Floor New York, N.Y. 10018 800-889-7146 http://www.ajws.org/

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

South Asia Tsunami Relief Box 321 847A Second Avenue New York, N.Y. 10017 212-687-6200 ext. 851 http://www.jdc.org/

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

AFSC Crisis Fund 1501 Cherry Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19102 215-241-7000 http://www.afsc.org/

AMERICAN RED CROSS

International Response Fund P.O. Box 37243 Washington, D.C. 20013 800-HELP NOW http://www.redcross.org/

CARE

151 Ellis Street Atlanta, GA 30303 800-521-CARE http://www.care.org/

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Tsunami Emergency P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Md. 21203-7090 800-736-3467 http://www.catholicrelief.org/

DIRECT RELIEF INTERNATIONAL

27 South La Patera Lane Santa Barbara, Calif. 93117 805-964-4767 http://www.directrelief.org/

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

P.O. Box 1856 Merrifield, Va. 22116-8056 888-392-0392 http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Emergency Fund P. O. Box 12043 Newark, NJ 07101 800-334-7626 http://www.er-d.org/

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT

http://www.ifrc.org/

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS

Earthquake/Tsunami Relief 1919 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 300 Santa Monica, Calif. 90404 800-481-4462 http://www.imcworldwide.org/

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Asia Disaster Response P.O. Box 630225 Baltimore, MD 21263-0225 877-803-4622 http://www.iocc.org/

ISLAMIC RELIEF USA

Southeast Asia Earthquake Emergency P.O. Box 6098 Burbank, Calif. 91510 888-479-4968 www.irw.org/asiaquake

MERCY CORPS

Southeast Asia Earthquake Response Dept. W P.O. Box 2669 Portland, Ore. 97208 800-852-2100 http://www.mercycorps.org/

OPERATION USA

8320 Melrose Avenue, Suite 200 Los Angles, Calif. 90069 800-678-7255 http://www.opusa.org/

OXFAM AMERICA

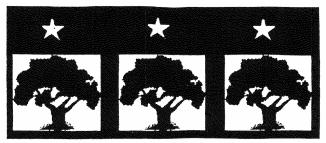
Donor Services Department 26 West Street Boston, MA 12111-1206 800-77-OXFAM http://www.oxfamamerica.org/

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Asia Earthquake/Tidal Wave Relief Fund 54 Wilton Road Westport, Conn. 06880 800-728-3843 http://www.savethechildren.org/

UNICEF

General Emergency Fund 333 E. 38th Street New York, NY 10016 800-4-UNICEF http://www.unicef.org/



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

Please pay your 2005 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting or by mailing it with your check to:

JASON MORGAN Treasurer Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 New York, N.Y. 10025

2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member____ Renewal____

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$15)_____ <u>Family -- two adults in the same household (\$20)</u> Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$8)_____ Sponsor (\$30)____ Patron (\$100) _____

Name	Date	
Address	Apt. #	
City	State Zip	
Phone (H)	(W)	
Email		

Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2005"

Three Parks Independent Democrat Holiday Party 2004



Cynthia, Steve, Lynn, Bob, Theresa



YMCA



Elena Gardner



Robert and Asia Bardin



Line Dancing with the DJ



Lynn Max and Arlene Geiger cut a rug



Gifford Miller, Theresa Canter and Daniel O'Donnell



Emily Jane Goodman, Ralph Andrew and Paul Feinman



A Feast



Gifford Miller and Cynthia Doty



Doris Schrieber, Donald Gray and Pilar Gomez



Mary Ann Marks and family