

## ***THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS***

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, N.Y. 10025 ♦ (212) 539-7602

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

### ***President***

Elizabeth Kellner

### ***Editors***

Judy Wood ([judyw123@verizon.net](mailto:judyw123@verizon.net))  
Divya Anantharaman

### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

# **April 10, 2013**

### **FEATURED TOPIC &**

**SPEAKERS:** Presentations by candidates for Mayor

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**PLACE:** The Youth Hostel  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

**ROOM:** Chapel/Ballroom

## **AGENDA**

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

1. Introduction of candidates for Judicial Delegates and balloting
2. DA Cy Vance
3. Mayoral Forum Democratic Candidates
4. Presentations and questions
5. Adjournment

## **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday April 10, 2013**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8pm**  
**MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM**  
Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103d St.

**Wednesday April 24, 2013**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8pm**  
Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103d St.

**Sunday April 28, 2013**  
**THREE PARKS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
Cafe Frida, 768 Amsterdam Ave 1-4pm

**Wednesday May 8, 2013**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8pm**  
**CITY COUNCIL FORUM - 6th Council District**  
Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103d St.

**Wednesday May 22, 2013**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8pm**  
**CITY COUNCIL FORUM - 7th Council District**  
Youth Hostel , 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103d St.

## President's Column

By Elizabeth Kellner

Who is Caitlin Halligan and why does she matter? Ms. Halligan recently asked President Obama to withdraw her nomination to the prestigious United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Over the last two years, her nomination has twice been filibustered by the Republicans who have denied her the opportunity to even be considered by the full Senate. Ms. Halligan is originally from Ohio, a cum laude graduate of Princeton and a magna cum laude graduate of Georgetown Law where she was Managing Editor of the Law Review. Afterward she clerked for two years at the very same court to which President Obama had nominated her, working for Judge Patricia Wald who was often mentioned as a possible Supreme Court nominee before her retirement. Ms. Halligan then clerked for Justice Stephen Breyer at the United States Supreme Court.

Currently Ms. Halligan is General Counsel in the Manhattan District Attorney's office. Prior to that, she was Solicitor General of the State of New York. She also practiced at a large well known New York law firm for several years. It would be hard to find a more qualified and outstanding judicial nominee who combines scholarship, public service and private practice and considerable courtroom experience.

So why has Ms. Halligan been blackballed by the Republicans? It's the old familiar "judicial activist" canard cum smear. When Ms. Halligan served in the New York State Attorney General's office, she had the "radical" New York chutzpah to sue gun manufacturers on behalf of the People of the State of New York! That this would be cited as her fatal transgression in the midst of a raging national debate over gun law reform after a seemingly never ending string of gun violence tragedies seems almost beyond belief!

Why that's almost as radical as the idea that a corporation has First Amendment rights! Welcome back to New York, Ms. Halligan. I am very sorry about what they did to you. You made a courageous effort, and this is a national embarrassment. President Obama and the Senate Democrats need some chutzpah of their own to do better by future nominees. There are currently four vacancies on the busy Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Not a single Obama first term nominee has made it to that bench, and the second term isn't off to a very good start.

## NYS Democratic Committeeman Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

I am pleased to announce my support for the two council districts, for the 6<sup>th</sup>, I endorse Marc Landis for the position to succeed Gale Brewer and for the 7<sup>th</sup>, and I am supporting Mark Levine to succeed Robert Jackson. Both Marc and Mark are true pragmatic progressives, Landis and I have known each other over twenty years in Democratic politics,

he is the right person for the job, and I am glad he has thrown his hat in the ring. Levine and I are newer political allies, from his first run for the State Senate when I ran for State Committee in 2010, and he will be a worthy replacement for Jackson, who, like Brewer, has been term-limited.

I am reserving my endorsement on the other offices until all the clubs have spoken, but I will offer some observations about the rest of the field. The easiest is the Comptroller's race: at the moment, and likely going forward, Scott Stringer, the current Borough President, is the only candidate in the race. Briefly City Councilman Dan Garodnick on the East Side was in the race, but dropped out to run for re-election and possibly be elected as Speaker. And the campaign to success Stringer as Borough President is a little easier to see as well now that Gale Brewer has gotten in the race. A long-time West Sider, she competes against Bob Jackson for the West Side vote, and with the West Side being approximately 40% of the total vote in the primary, with four candidates, if she gets 75% or better of the vote, she wins the race. East Side Councilwoman Jessica Lappin is running hard, but with two west side candidates it will be difficult to get traction here. The remaining candidate in the race, Julie Menin, is a bit of a cypher, having been a Democrat, an Independent, a Republican, all within a year and a half. Considering that all of the Manhattan Borough Presidents in recently memory have run for higher office, and the last Democratic Mayor (Dinkins) was MBP, I am reluctant to elevate someone to higher office without more of a commitment from them about their progressive political bona fides.

The Public Advocate race is also really down to two candidates, State Senator Dan Squadron and City Councilwoman Tish James. The other two candidates, Cathy Guerriero, a Columbia professor, has no prior campaign experience, and Reshma Saujani, the Deputy Public Advocate, who ran an unsuccessful campaign against Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney before being crushed 80%/20%, despite raising almost twice as much money as Maloney. Saujani did not make many friends in that race, Maloney was a poor choice for her to challenge and the PA race is another one. It makes me question her political instincts. If she had lost to Maloney, but gotten close, that might have been worth the effort. Saujani probably would have been better off running for something more local – such as State Senate – alas, she lives in recently elected Brad Hoylman's district, so that isn't an option. But she also lives in City Council Speaker Chris Quinn's district, if Quinn gets elected Mayor, she might consider running there. I don't begrudge Saujani's ambition, but she needs to pick her targets more carefully.

Speaking of Mayor: of the four major candidates, Quinn has the most money, DeBlasio is probably the most liberal, Thompson is also politically but seems to be approaching his

campaign very, well, casually. Liu, with the investigation over his head, is in a tough spot. Over a month ago I signed up on his website to see if anyone would contact me: to date, no response. If nobody is following up with possible campaign volunteers it brings to mind the reference to a try falling in the forest with nobody to hear it: does it get elected Mayor? Probably not...

**MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM**  
**April 10, 8PM**  
**MEET AND HEAR OUR NEXT**  
**MAYOR!**

**Participatory Budgeting: Good Government Policy**

By Cynthia Doty, District Leader

The second year of Participatory Budgeting (PB) is in full swing in 8 council districts across New York City. This is good government and should be adopted by all City Council members. Community members review the needs of their neighborhood, work together to develop projects to address those needs, and then vote on them and see that they actually happen. Although only a small amount of capital funds are allocated for this process, but the benefits are huge. Since the projects come from the residents, they often reveal specific needs that are overlooked by city agencies. But more importantly, all the participants gain so much: looking at their neighborhood in a new way, learning about government and the budget process, getting to know their entire council district, meeting neighbors of all ages and walks of life, plus having fun creating proposals and power points and displays. Some of us at Three Parks who have been budget delegates have traveled all over the 8<sup>th</sup> district looking at schools, sidewalks, gardens, street lighting, community centers and have even gotten to do arts and crafts at El Museo Del Barrio as we developed our proposals. Along the way we made many new friends.... most of whom have never been involved in government before.

All residents who live in District 8 and are 16 or over are eligible to vote on the proposals. Voting will be on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 11AM–4PM at The Childrens Aid Society at 885 Columbus Ave at W.104<sup>th</sup> St. Voting will also be on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 307 E.116<sup>th</sup> St and at Council Member Mark-Viverito's office at 105 E.116<sup>th</sup> Street on April 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-5PM.

I believe all of our City Council Members should adopt this decision-making process. Let's make sure all the candidates running for City Council pledge to do so.

**Community Gardens and Sustainable Urban Agriculture**  
By David C Kaplan

There is a food crisis in our city. Over a million New Yorkers live in a state of food insecurity without enough to eat, while there are record levels of obesity from the overeating of junk food. Even otherwise healthy fruit and vegetables are often sprayed with pesticides. Most of the food eaten in NYC now comes from thousands of miles away. Long-distance transport creates more carbon emissions, thereby increasing global warming.

There are alternative food choices. Organic food grown locally in community gardens can play an essential role. The community garden movement was started in 19<sup>th</sup> century England to help the poor. The laws required local governments to provide land where people could grow their own food on small individual plots. In the U.S., during both world wars, it was public policy to allow citizens to grow fruit and vegetables on public land in order to aid the war effort. In the 1960s, new community gardens sprang up because urban ecologists wanted to get back to nature.

In the 1970s, during the fiscal crisis in NYC, the city acquired many acres of unused land. Operation Green Thumb (OGT) was founded to take possession of these lands and turn them into community gardens. OGT is a city agency that helps organize groups of people who want to start community gardens. It gives them short leases on unused public land and offers them technical support. There are now hundreds of such gardens in NYC. Some have long-term leases, but many lose out when their land is reappropriated for housing or other uses. Housing is surely important, but community gardens play a vital role in an urban setting, providing citizens with healthy food and open space. There is now a proposal to create special municipal "community garden districts" in NYC. Within them, community gardens would be safe from having their land reappropriated for other uses.

One joins a community garden by paying a small membership fee. One is then put on a waiting list. After a time, one gets a small plot where one can grow vegetables or flowers. Pesticide use is forbidden. Thousands of New Yorkers now supplement their diet by growing vegetables in community gardens. Common areas include space for fruit trees and shared gardens to grow flowers and herbs. Members of the garden volunteer to keep up the common areas. Decisions are made democratically by members or member committees. To qualify for Green Thumb status, gardens must be open to the public a few hours a week in order to provide open space for city dwellers with little parkland. Due to changes in the law, community gardens can now keep beehives and raise a few chickens.

Community gardens are only part of the solution to the problem of sustainable agriculture. Locally grown food should be encouraged by changing zoning and tax laws in the far suburbs to encourage small farmers to use organic practices, while federal farm aid should be given to small farmers instead of agribusiness.

## Ernestine Gallagher, speaking at NYCHA meeting



Ernestine was on fire!

## Goodbye, Saigon Grill

The final nail in the coffin of that late, unlamented establishment has finally been put in place. After much turmoil, picketing, demonstrations and actions, the owners have thrown in the towel. However, unfortunately they abandoned the workers, as a great deal of money is still owed to the former employees. It is to be hoped that an action will be filed to go after this money owed. We will be following this story.

## Climate Happy Talk at the New York Times By Steve Max

Now don't get me wrong, *The Times* has done fine reporting and editorial work on climate change and particularly on hydrofracking. The Business Section, however, is differently managed and written for a somewhat more select clientele. From these pages we are more likely to learn that free market magic is solving the most difficult problems.

Such a piece appeared on 3/20/13 under the heading "A Model For Reducing Emissions." "Who would have thought the United States would one day be a leader in cutting greenhouse gas emissions," asked columnist Eduardo Porter citing a 13% drop in US carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions since 2007. "It was perhaps the biggest decline among industrial countries," he enthusiastically added. But, the best news is, "What stands out most in this shift, however, is not

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/20/business/us-example-offers-hope-for-cutting-carbon-emissions.html?ref=business&r=0>

environmental regulation or public concern about global warming but the price of energy and market-driven technological advancements." Who says the age of miracles is over?

Lets stop right here, First, using the year 2007 as the baseline is cherry picking the good news to manufacture a trend, and that trend appears to be ending. The EPA started collecting emissions data in 1990 and the long term picture shows an 8.7% increase in US greenhouse gas emissions from then to the most recent data for 2011.<sup>2</sup> Second, the United Nations reports that 32 countries including the EU and Russia had a better percent change in emissions since 1990 than did the US.<sup>3</sup>

Not being totally out of touch, columnist Porter notes that the recent emissions reduction is largely due to the recession and that wonderful fracked gas. Interestingly, he says that the switch to fracked gas, particularly in electrical generation, brings "within reach" President Obama's 2009 promise of a 17% cut in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020. This explains a part of Obama's fascination with natural gas, though we might add that 17% is woefully inadequate. Porter also recognizes that while CO<sub>2</sub> is the main greenhouse gas warming the planet, it isn't the only one, and that fracking also releases Methane, another contributor to climate change.

Actually, the emissions drop since 2007 resulted from US coal fired generating plants having been run at 50% of capacity. In turn, this was caused by reductions in energy demand due to the recession, combined with unsustainably low natural gas prices.<sup>4</sup> We can not solve the climate problem by relying on continued economic stagnation and a gas price that is below the cost of production. True, the market economy does appear to be prone to just such stagnation, but this is not to be wished for. The solution to both climate change and economic stagnation is massive government-led investment in green energy. We at Three Parks have been telling the President and all our elected representatives that this, not fracked gas, is the answer. We will continue to do so.

## Condolences

Aramis Gomez lived 85 wonderful years and was a loyal Democrat to the end and a long-time member of Three Parks. The well-attended service was at Riverside Chapel on 3-17-2013. Was Commissioner of Relocation at HPD in the Beame Admin., appointed to the post to succeed Herman Badillo for whom he had worked. He was later "Director of

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/ghgemissions/US-GHG-Inventory-2011-Chapter-2-Trends.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://maps.unfccc.int/di/map/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/report-can-us-carbon-emissions-keep-falling-15058>

Housing Inspectors" for Cuomo. In 1975, he was named "Man of the Year" by the Spanish Society of the NYPD. A US Navy veteran. Married sixty years to Elizabeth Gomez. Two children and 2 grandchildren survive him. He and his wife Betty helped open the building at 689 Columbus Ave. 45 years ago. He will be missed.

Condolences to Roschel Holland Stearns on the loss of her brother-in-law.

We are sad to report the death of Hon. Sylvia Freidman, former Assembly Member.

## Candidates for Judicial Delegate, 2013

Theresa Canter is a long time member of Three Parks and is currently serving as 2nd VP. In addition to serving previously as a Judicial Delegate, she has been privileged to serve the club in the past as President and as Treasurer. Having a keen interest in our Judiciary and a commitment to choosing judges with the necessary experience, temperament and integrity, she would be honored to again represent the club as a seasoned Judicial Delegate.

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 Committee member, Alan has also served as the Club's Corresponding Secretary and Membership Secretary. His community and civic activities include his block association, 24th Pct. Community Council, public member of Community Planning Board's Transportation Committee, Mid-Manhattan NAACP, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Community Advisory Board.

Ernestine Gallagher is 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 also is active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

Merle McEldowney found Three Parks during the 2006 John Hall Campaign. She loves Three Parks because in addition to the important work that a political club does in the neighborhood, there are people in the club who are passionate about preserving Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; getting a reasonable energy policy that closes Indian Point, prevents fracking in New York State, and moves our country to renewable fuels.

Bruce Markens has served three years on the Board, including one year as recording secretary. He worked at the 2012 storefront at various tasks and was particularly involved in organizing phonebanking for Elizabeth Warren's campaign. He has served as co-chair of the Club's education committee and is very concerned about combating charter schools and other attempts at privatizing public education. He also has been involved in Three Parks' tabling and protest activities on such issues as fracking, protecting Social Security and closing down Indian Point as well as serving as an alternate judicial delegate the last two years.

Corine Pettey is a former District Leader, Riverside Democrats member, and served as a District 3 Elementary School Principal for 24 years. She is opposed to gas companies drilling for gas in our

watershed, insists that Government create more jobs by helping to establish more "green" companies and public work projects to improve our infrastructure. She opposes Columbia University's use of eminent domain in the West Harlem area. She volunteered regularly at the 2012 Obama/Biden storefront.

K. Samuels, MD graduated cum laude from Columbia University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1974 with a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, graduated as a Medical Doctor from Downstate Medical Center in 1978 and practiced as an Internist with a sub specialty in Pulmonary/Intensive Care Medicine. I am a voracious reader and community activist who believes that the justice system must work fairly for everyone and that judges must have the temperament to properly dispense justice blindly with equity.

Milivoy Samurovich is a founding member of Three Parks and served for 5 years as District Leader. He also served on CB 7, co-chaired the Urban Renewal sub-committee, and served on the committee that opposed the Westway Highway. He served on CB 1, chaired the Battery Park Committee during planning phase, led the Tenants Committee of his apartment building, organized rent strikes, and served on the Co-op Negotiating Committee. He has volunteered at the Club's storefronts, including the 2012 Obama/Biden storefront.

Stephanie Tegnazian is a longtime Three Parks member and is interested in the judicial system. She has attended panel selection meetings. She has read decisions, and asked questions, and she wants to serve.

### Eligible Voters List for April 10, 2013

Susan	Andrews
Mollie	Bailey
William	Baldwin
Emily	Baldwin
Susan J.	Baldwin
Robert	Bardin
Samuel	Bartos
Margret	Beels
Shoshannah	Benmosche
Marcia	Benowitz
Bob	Botfeld
Marla	Brunker
Isabella	Calisi-Wagner
Theresa	Canter
Joyce	Cashman-Selig
Daniel Marks	Cohen
Melissa	Cohen
Alex J.	Colgan
Margaret	Collins
Debra	Cooper
Wendy	Dannett
John	Davenport
Sydney	de Jongh
LaMae	de Jongh
Wendy	Diller
Betty Jean	Dixon
Renna	Draynel

Gerry Ann	Fifer	Katherine	Samuels
Alan	Flacks	Milivoy	Samurovich
Ellen	Flax	Doris	Schreiber
Ernestine	Gallagher	Ray	Schwartz
Mariana	Garcia	Irene	Shrier
Mary J.	Geissman	Rachael	Smit
Daniele	Gerard	Mildred	Speiser
Louisa	Gilbert	Allan	Spitz
Robert	Ginsberg	Roschel Holland	Stearns
Noah	Gotbaum	Michael	Stearns
Bonnie	Gould	Clara	Taylor
Robert	Gumbs	Deborah	Thomas
Janet	Harvilchuck	Lynn	Thomas
Margot	Herrera	Jane	Thompson
Jacqueline	Huey	Ken	Tulloch
Marsha	Jacobson	Ruben	Vargas
David C.	Kaplan	Franz	Vila
Rita	Kardeman	George	Voorhis
Michael	Katz	Jonathan	Weil
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner	Edith	Weil
Erlend	Kimmich	Lauren A.	Williams
David	Lazarus	Judy	Wood
Barbara	Lee	Lorraine	Zamora
Estelle	Levy	Gloria	Zeche
Thomas	Lopez-Pierre	Ariel	Zucker-Brull
Marie	Lunn		
Betsy	Malcolm	<b>Voters Eligible if Paid</b>	
Bruce	Markens	Cyrus	Adler
Mary Ann	Marks	Bobbie	Beck
John	Martinen	David	Camacho
Stephen	Max	Cynthia	Doty
Lynn Bender	Max	Thomas	Goggin
Merle	McEldowney	Pilar	Gomez
Abigail	McGloster	Marnie	Hall
George	McGuinness	David	Kogelman
Gail	Meyers	Kenneth	Laufer
Jonathan	Miller	Marguerite	Lavin
Christopher	Mooney	Gail	Leinwall
Brenda	Morgan	Judith	Medina
Bradley	Muro	Alex	Medwedew
Forrest C.	Murphy	Minda	Meister
John	Newell	Antonine	Momplaisir
Joan	Ogden	Martin	Morand
Joan	Paylo	Derrick	Mullins
Josh	Pepper	Hank	Perlin
Wilhelmina	Perry	Rose	Podrasky
Annie	Petrus	Carol	Reisner
Corine	Petty	Liz	Samurovich
Geraldine	Phillips	Carl Joseph	Scalise
Nicole	Polier	Jacob	Sher
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner	Judith	Solomon
Zead	Ramadan	Stephanie	Tegnazian
Eve	Remba	Natalie	Weinstein
Suzanne	Samelson	Vernita	Worrell

To be eligible to vote in the Club election, a member must have attended at least one meeting in the previous six months and have paid 2013 dues. New memberships do not become effective for thirty days, after which a new member must attend at least one meeting to be eligible to vote.

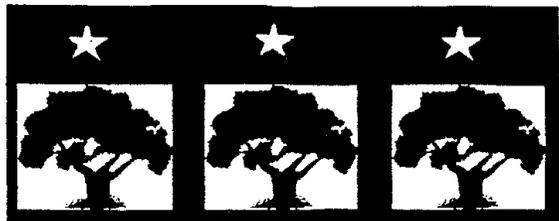
Reminder: Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.

**THREE PARKS FUNDRAISER**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00PM**

**Café Frida**



*THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 539-7602

Please pay your 2013 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*

---

**2013 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*New Member* \_\_\_\_\_

*Renewal* \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category -- Check One**

Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*\*Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal – cash and money orders are far more difficult to process. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please make out all checks to “Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2013\*\***

*Three Parks Independent Democrats*  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
New York, N.Y. 10025

**NEXT MEETING**

**MAYORAL FORUM**  
**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**