

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

<i>President</i>	<i>Editors</i>	<i>District Leaders</i>	<i>State Committee</i>
Lauren Williams	Lorraine Zamora lzamora245@gmail.com Jock Davenport Richard E. Luna	Bob Botfeld Cynthia Doty	Lynn Thomas Daniel Marks Cohen

CLUB MEETING, APRIL 13, 2016

- TOPICS:** Candidates for New York State Senate
Modernizing Elections and Voter Registration Processes and Reducing the Influence of Money in Politics
- SPEAKERS:** Candidates for New York State Senate: Bill Perkins and Brian Benjamin
DeNora Getachew, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
- DATE:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016
- TIME:** 8:00 pm
- PLACE:** The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 St.
- ROOM:** Ballroom

AGENDA

- 7:45 PM Sign-in
- 8:00 PM Call to Order
- District Leader Reports
- Speakers:
- Candidates for New York State Senate
- DeNora Getachew, Campaign Manager and
Legislative Counsel for the Brennan Center's
Democracy Program
- Adjourn

CALENDAR

- Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 8:00 pm**
Three Parks Membership meeting,
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue
- Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 8:00 pm**
Three Parks Board Meeting, The Youth Hostel, 891
Amsterdam Avenue
- Sunday, May 1, 2016, 1:00 – 4:00 pm**
41st Three Parks Independent Democrats Annual Benefit,
Mexican Festival Restaurant, Broadway & 102 Street
- Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 8:00 pm**
Three Parks Membership meeting,
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue
- Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 8:00 pm**
Three Parks Board Meeting, The Youth Hostel, 891
Amsterdam Avenue

President's Report

By Lauren Williams

This year's election season is full of opportunities to engage in our political process, whether you register voters, petition for candidates, contribute to campaigns, attend rallies, serve as a poll worker, or volunteer at a campaign office. We've already witnessed the intensity of presidential campaigning in other states and can expect New York State's April 19 Presidential Primary to make us the focus; however, our own state and congressional contenders are providing us with significant choices. Last month's endorsement voting for Senate and Congressional candidates (13th Congressional District) showed the sentiments of our members (voting results follow). These candidates will be on the ballot for the Congressional Primary to be held on June 28, 2016.

At the upcoming Three Parks meeting on April 13, additional candidates seeking to represent us in the New York State Senate will speak—Senate candidates Bill Perkins and Brian Benjamin. Endorsement voting for State Offices, State Committee, and Judicial Delegate will occur at our May 11 meeting.

Also at our April meeting, we will have DeNora Getachew, Campaign Manager and Legislative Counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, talk about voting rights, national and state trends, and the Brennan Center's efforts to protect and expand New Yorkers' voting rights. The Brennan Center for Justice is a nonpartisan law and policy institute that works to remove barriers to voting and to advance reforms that improve access to the ballot box. In particular, Getachew provides strategic leadership for legislative and policy campaigns related to modernizing voter registration processes and reducing the influence of money in politics.

You've surely heard and perhaps, like me, feel that "all politics is local." Three Parks exemplifies this adage through its actions and progressive agenda. Through this year's campaigns, we have clear choices and opportunities to influence the future of our neighborhood, state, and nation. Our annual fundraising benefit—to be held Sunday, May 1, at Mexican Festival Restaurant—is a wonderful way to support Three Parks and to meet and talk with our elected and prospective officials. We will be honoring the service and contributions of NYC Councilmembers Helen Rosenthal and Mark Levine and the West End Preservation Society, which works to preserve the heritage and character of the Upper West Side. I look forward to seeing you there.

Endorsement Vote, Wednesday, March 9, 2016

U.S. Senate—New York

55 Charles Schumer

18 No endorsement

U.S. Congress, 10th CD

72 Jerrold Nadler

1 Oliver Rosenberg

2 No endorsement

U.S. Congress, 13th CD

First Ballot

9 Susan Johnson Cook

23 Adriano Espaillat

0 Michael Gallagher

2 Guillermo Linares

4 Adam Clayton Powell IV

1 Clyde Williams

31 Keith Wright

5 No endorsement

1 Blank

Second Ballot

32 Keith Wright

27 Adriano Espaillat

4 No endorsement

1 Voided ballot (2 candidates marked)

Third Ballot

24 No endorsement

23 Keith Wright

Thoughts on Superdelegates

By Erl Kimmich

A Spaniard, an American, and a Mexican are debating which country is the most democratic. "We are the most democratic," says the Spaniard, "because our computers are so sophisticated we can announce the election winners only two days after the voting."

"That's nothing," quips the American, "our super modern computer lets us know the results early in the morning following the election."

The Mexican just smiles. "Our democracy is the best! We don't need computers! We know two weeks before the election who the winners will be!" (CLETA joke heard at a street performance in Guanajuato, Mexico 1998.)

Today the Democratic Party nominating process includes 712 “superdelegates” who are not pledged in accordance to the popular vote. They make up 15 percent of the total number of delegates, or 30 percent of the total number necessary to win the nomination. The superdelegates include President Obama and Vice President Biden, 239 Democratic members of the House and Senate, 21 sitting governors, 437 Democratic National Committeepersons, and a category referred to as “distinguished party leaders” —former presidents and veeps, ex-congressional leaders and erstwhile presidential nominees. The superdelegates system was adopted by the Democratic Party back in 1984. The reasons why they chose to empower appointed party VIPs, in contrast to the pledged delegates assigned in proportion to the popular, is cause for some debate. Recently the DNC chair Wasserman-Schultz told CNN’s Jake Tapper that their appointment is necessary so entitled incumbents and party leaders don’t have to run for the position “against grassroots activists.” But, more recently she has since cited other reasons.

Even though superdelegates are not officially bound to a candidate until the ballot roll call begins on the convention floor, the vast majority of them in this election had already announced their support for Hillary Clinton by August 2015. Five months before the first primary contest Clinton appeared to have already secured 20 percent of the delegate votes needed to win the primary. I say “appeared” because while the superdelegates may endorse or make commitments to a candidate, they may also change their minds and choose the most electable or most popular candidate when they actually cast their ballots at the convention. Some voters are confused, others upset, and some are ecstatic with the medias’ inclusion of the super delegates in the candidate totals. Clinton supporters love it; Sanders folks not so much.

People, calm down, take solace, Bill Clinton assures us that he will vote with whoever wins the primary just as he did when he was a superdelegate and voted for Obama back in 2008. However, Clinton does not speak for all of superdelegate elite of the New York Democratic Party. Meanwhile, since before the primaries even started, the superdelegates were added to Clinton’s total delegate count in what appears to be a vote suppressing and vote crushing pronouncement that Bernie Sanders cannot win against her, because she already has 20 percent of the necessary votes. It’s a done deal in a rigged system. Or is it? Maybe that joke about Mexican elections is not so funny anymore.

How the Media Influences This Election

By Wendy Dannett

A Huffington Post reporter, Brian Henley, covering the Bernie Sanders campaign, wrote an article on the influence of media on presidential campaigning. It drew my interest because there has been so little coverage of Bernie, despite his success. For example, when Hillary won Arizona, and Bernie won Utah and Idaho, the New York Times made little mention of Bernie’s successes but clearly emphasized Hillary’s. In another instance, ABC World News Tonight gave 20 seconds to covering Sanders while allocating 80 minutes to Donald Trump.

Henley made the point that the ruling class not only controls politics and economic systems, but also mainstream media. He asks: “Did you know the Walt Disney Company owns ABC, and that Time Warner owns CNN?” Verizon owns AOL and the Huffington Post. Comcast and GE own MSNBC, NBC news and CNBC. Very likely, you won't see ABC discussing the minimum wage or income inequality because Disney pays its workers \$8 or \$9 per hour. Henley asks: “And why isn’t there more talk about climate change? Does it have anything to do with the fact that the corporate media collect huge sums of advertising money from the fossil fuel industry and the super PACs...because of Citizens United?” It’s not that media executives don’t care about our planet, but that they care about their profits more.

Many people have commented that they feel Trump has gained prominence due to intense media coverage. But the media has also expressed their feelings toward Bernie Sanders by writing him off. After Sanders’ sweeping three Western caucuses and winning six of the last delegate battles, he now only needs 57 percent of the remaining delegates to surpass Hillary Clinton. Even though Trump also needs 57 percent to clinch the nomination, the Wall Street Journal states Trump has a feasible path to winning, but does not say that about Bernie.

The lack of media coverage “drives Sander supporters bonkers” says Henley. When social media was abuzz about Sanders’ upset in Michigan, the mainstream media was quiet. CNN chose to cover Trump. “Why would mainstream media want to silence a popular presidential candidate who is educating the American people about our income inequality and our corrupt finance system? Why would Time Warner and Comcast, be among Clinton’s Top 10 campaign donors? Could it have anything to do with money?”

It upsets me to see how the playing field is skewed against Bernie. It excites and amazes me that Bernie is resonating with so many people via rallies, debates and the internet. Corporate money should not determine our democracy.

Poll Workers Wanted

Poll workers are need for the April 19 and June 28 primaries. Please sign up online at electiondayworker.com, or contact District Leader Cynthia Doty at cldoty@aol.com

Three Parks 41st Annual Benefit Sunday, May 1

In this critical year, we hope you will support Three Parks Independent Democrats by attending our annual fundraiser on Sunday, May 1, from 1:00-4:00 at the Mexican Festival Restaurant, 102 Street and Broadway. Since our successful fundraiser last year, Three Parks has continued its vital work addressing neighborhood, city, state and national issues and concerns. Now we have arrived at a presidential election year that promises to be the most crucial in the lifetimes of most Americans.

What is at stake in this year's elections has never been clearer, and preserving and strengthening our shared progressive agenda has never been more urgent.

Please consider supporting Three Parks benefit as a Benefactor (\$500), Patron (\$300), or Sponsor (\$175). Send your check to Three Parks Independent Democrats, Cathedral Station POB 1316, New York, NY 10025 or pay automatically by clicking on "Fundraiser" on the home page of ThreeParksDems.org or call 212-749-2882.

Please join us!

Three Parks Independent Democrats

41st Anniversary Benefit

Honoring

Mark Levine

NYC Council Member, 7th District

&

Helen Rosenthal

NYC Council Member, 6th District

with the Ted Weiss Public Service Award

&

The West End Preservation Society

with the Jesse Crawford Community Service Award

Sunday, May 1, from 1:00-4:00 PM

*Mexican Festival Restaurant
2672 Broadway at 102 Street*

\$500 Benefactor

\$300 Patron

\$175 Sponsor

\$150 Guest

\$50 Member

To be a sponsor or to purchase tickets, please send your check to Three Parks Independent Democrats, Cathedral Station POB 1316, New York, NY 10025, or pay online by clicking on "Fundraiser" on the home page of ThreeParksDems.org. You may also call 212-749-2882.

Special Offer from Suba Pharmacy

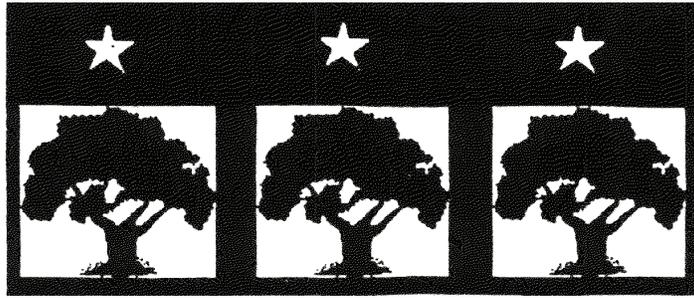
10 Percent Off for Three Parks Members Only!

In 2004, when Suba Pharmacy's lease was about to expire, Three Parks Independent Democrats petitioned successfully to reinstate the store's lease. The rest is history.

Today Suba Pharmacy remains one of the few independent, family-owned storefronts on the Upper West Side. Located at 2721 Broadway (at 104 Street), its prices are competitive with, and often significantly lower than, the major drug store chains in the area. The pharmacy is well-known for its personable and knowledgeable service.

Mr. Suba cares about his customers and goes out of his way to accommodate them. Effective immediately, he is offering Three Parks members a special discount.

Whenever you go to Suba Pharmacy, bring this coupon with you; you will receive 10 percent off all your purchases \$20 and up!



Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025, tel: 212-539-7602

Please pay your 2016 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

2016 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 solely by email.

Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal—cash and money orders are far more difficult to process.
Please make out all checks to “Three Parks Independent Democrats—Dues 2016”

Thank you

Three Parks Independent Democrats

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New York, NY 10025

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Forum with Candidates for the New York State Senate and
Modernizing Elections and Voter Registration Processes

Speakers: Candidates Bill Perkins and Brian Benjamin and
DeNora Getachew, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law