

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

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

President

Daniele Gerard

Editor

Ray Schwartz (tapsch@nyc.rr.com)

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

February 2009

FEBRUARY MEETING: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

FEATURED TOPIC

&

SPEAKERS

MAYORAL FORUM

Council Member Tony Avella, Congressman Anthony Weiner and Comptroller William Thompson

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: American Youth Hostels
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel

AGENDA

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. Election of Three Parks Board
Members & Officers (ballot box open
8:30-9:30)
3. MAYORAL FORUM
4. Nomination of Delegates to Judicial
Convention
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Thurs., February 5, 2008, 7:30 PM
Health Care Briefing
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St

Wed., February 25, 2009, 8 PM
Three Parks Board Meeting
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St.

Wed., March 11, 2009, 8 PM
Three Parks Meeting
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave at 103rd St

Wed., March 28, 2009, 8 PM
Three Parks Board Meeting
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

What a fantastic presentation by Ed Ott at our last meeting! The membership was fascinated by the overview of real possibilities for the growth of organized labor, public works and "green" jobs under the Obama Administration, especially given attempts to weaken labor over the past 30 years. The Q&A was, as usual, lively and informative, and we hope to hear more from Ed, Executive Director of the NYC Central Labor Council, in the future.

The turnout of close to 100 people was truly heroic on an absolutely frigid evening, where Three Parks also heard from Senator Eric Schneiderman and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell. Our heartiest congratulations go out to Senator Schneiderman for all his hard work in realizing the goal of a Democratic State Senate. Congratulations also to Kirsten Gillibrand, New York's new junior Senator. We look forward to having her address the Three Parks membership once she has settled down in D.C.

The February 11th meeting will feature remarks and Q&A from all three Democratic Mayoral candidates: Council Member Tony Avella, Congressman Anthony Weiner and Comptroller William Thompson. When members sign in, please be sure to pick up an index card to submit your question.

The membership will also elect the Three Parks Board of Directors and nominate delegates to attend the September judicial convention on behalf of Three Parks where New York Supreme Court judges will be nominated. Delegates to the convention will be elected at the Three Parks March meeting. Make sure to pay your dues to be eligible to vote!

Mark your calendars for the Health Care Briefing at the Youth Hostel this Thursday, February 5th at 7:30 p.m. Learn from Three Parks member Steve Max about what can be done to ensure health care for all, focusing on single payer in relation to current legislation. This meeting will provide valuable background, especially for those who want to work on the issue, ahead of the Three Parks March 11th Health Care Forum.

Finally, I would just like to express our collective sigh of relief now that President Obama has taken office. The new administration's stated goals

during the first days in office bode well for the future: halting torture, closing Guantanamo, revoking the global gag rule, restoring funding for the U.N. Population Fund, raising emissions standards, computerizing medical records, emphasizing health care, education and public works in the stimulus plan, and freezing pay for White House staff. Now, if working together, we can end the Iraq War, get the economy turned around, combat global warming and provide universal health care, we can bequeath to our children a cleaner, peaceful and more equitable planet.

A tall order, to be sure, but—Yes We Can!

Repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws

By Cynthia Doty

Please join the campaign to pressure Governor David Paterson and other state policymakers to repeal the outdated draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws in 2009 that are adversely impacting so many New Yorkers. **Mark your calendars! Drop the Rock Advocacy Day will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

On October 4, Drop the Rock Coalition and The Correctional Association took to the streets to build political leverage in 20 communities negatively affected by the Rockefeller Drug Laws. More than 150 volunteers statewide gathered over 5,000 signatures calling for the repeal of the Rockefeller Drug Laws and registered 400 new voters.

The Drop the Rock coalition is aiming to gather 35,000 signatures by March 10th. So far they have collected almost 20,000 signatures. They need 10,000 more in the next 5-6 weeks.

Please consider sending an email to your friends, families and colleagues in New York State, asking them to sign the electronic petition. It is quick and easy. Visit their websites at www.correctionalassociation.org and www.droptherock.org.

Understanding Indian Point*

By Steve Strauss

Rational and informed debate on the issues is part of what Three Parks Democratic Club is all about. The one thing nuclear power plants have over coal and gas-fired plants is that they emit zero, yes, zero greenhouse gases. Nuclear does

have a big problem because the industry and the Congress refuse to solve the waste disposal problem, but one issue nuclear doesn't have is greenhouse gases. If I remember from my Con Ed bills, NYC gets about 40% of its power from nuclear generation. In the short term a shutdown of IP would only result in more air pollution and greenhouse gases from coal and gas-fired plants.

**In 2006, Three Parks passed a resolution to close Indian Point. Check out our website for the document. Furthermore, a 2/08 newsletter article pointed out that Indian Point's nuclear power is neither clean nor green; the energy for mining, refining and enriching uranium fuel, conditioning radioactive waste for storage, and safely transporting and sequestering the radioactive waste comes from fossil fuel-burning plants that do produce greenhouse gases.*

Progress at Indian Point?

By Ali Haridopolos

The energy generator Indian Point is made up of two units (units 2 and 3). They were built in 1974 and 1976, respectively, and each has a 40-year license, meaning that the licenses expire in 2013 and 2015. In 2001, Indian Point was bought by a company called Entergy and now would like to renew the licenses. Hence, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is inspecting Indian Point and looking critically at its aging components. These were explained ambiguously in their proposal to extend the licenses. A spokesman for Entergy (Jerry Nappi) said that since 2001 Entergy has "invested hundreds of millions of dollars in new equipment, security and training." On the contrary, the NRC is taking a closer look at the long-term components of Indian Point, which may not (in the future) function correctly. NRC is particularly worried about unfound damages in a leak from a 400,000-gallon spent fuel pool in Unit 2. Unfortunately, there is no access to some of the leaks, according to a NRC spokesman, Neil Sheehan. Yet, Entergy claims that the pool isn't leaking. Still, the NRC is worried about what actions the owner will take in the future. Entergy has promised to supervise groundwater for tritium every three months, but the NRC is concerned about the pools' concrete and steel reinforcing bar areas. Nappi also stated that Entergy will "ensure that the plant continues to safely provide electricity for New Yorkers well into the future." All in all, let's hope that the NRC is able to close Indian Point, or New York could end up like Chernobyl.

Bronx Judge is named Interim Manhattan Surrogate

By Ralph Andrews

The NY Law Journal reported this week, "Bronx SC Justice Troy Webber was named as acting surrogate in Manhattan by Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau." Justice Webber will take over as the second surrogate while Nora Anderson, the Three Parks endorsed candidate, fights criminal charges. Ms. Anderson never took office because the Court of Appeals suspended her after she was indicted on 10 counts for masking as contributions \$250,000 that came from her former boss, trust and estates attorney, Seth Rubenstein. Justice Webber has accepted the assignment solely as a temporary one and stated "she has NO intent at any point" of running for surrogate should the office become vacant.

What happens next?

The law states that the Governor can only make an interim judicial appointment where there is an actual vacancy, i.e., the judge dies, resigns or otherwise leaves office; While Nora Anderson was suspended, she did not do any of these yet, so **there is no vacancy**; OCA can make a temporary assignment to any court (as they did here with Justice Webber) as needed, but the assignment is only temporary and Justice Webber remains a Supreme Court Justice before, during and after the assignment.

However, if there were a vacancy and the governor made an interim appointment, the governor would actually be naming an interim Surrogate to fill that vacancy until December 31, 2009, when the person elected this November will take office. Any sitting judge taking such appointment would have to resign his/her existing seat.

**Universal Health Care
Discussion and Briefing
Thursday, February 5th at 7:30 PM
Youth Hostel, 103rd & Amsterdam Ave.
Board Room, 2nd Fl.**

Everyone interested in working for a national health care system is invited. Discussion will focus on ways of promoting the principles of Medicare for All (Single Payer) in the context of the current debate in Congress.

Candidates for the Three Parks Board of Directors

Nominated by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the Club's Constitution:

Daniele Gerard, **President**
Judy Wood, **First Vice President**
Theresa Canter, **Second Vice President**
Lauren Williams, **Recording Secretary**
Ray Schwartz, **Corresponding Secretary**
Lynn Max, **Membership Director**
Ellen Flax, **Treasurer**
Jock Davenport
Ernestine Gallagher
Arlene Geiger
Elizabeth Kellner
David Kogelman
Marie Lunn
Bruce Markens
Mary Ann Marks
Merle McEldowney
Corine Pettey
Milivoy Samurovich
Deborah Thomas
Ken Tulloch
Yvonne Vulliemoz
Tim Walsh

Nominated at the Jan. 14th Club Meeting:

Bob Ginsberg for First Vice President

Serving as a member of the Three Parks Board of Directors is an honor and a privilege. It is both a reward for and a commitment to hard work on behalf of Club and the membership "to support the Democratic Party in Part A of the 69th Assembly District . . .; to build enrollment in the Democratic Party; to support Democratic candidates who demonstrate ability, integrity and progressive convictions; and to maintain and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood, city, state, and country." TPID Constitution, Art. II: Purpose

Board Nominees Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Theresa Canter – Second Vice-President. Having been privileged to serve the past year as Second Vice-President, and previously as First VP, President, and Treasurer; she would be honored to continue to serve the membership in her current position and provide support to the Club leadership. Presently, she is also coordinating Norman Siegel's campaign for NYC Public Advocate.

Jock Davenport. Neighborhood resident since 1986 and active in many areas since then: my block association, the "drugstore" wars, pushing Columbia

University to include a supermarket at 103rd St and active in Three Parks since 1996. I have been a Board member for almost ten years and will be able to devote more time as I retire in June.

Ellen Flax – Treasurer is a consultant to foundations and non-profits, and serves as the rabbi of several local elder-care facilities. She was active in the storefront during the 2008 and 2004 elections and would be delighted to serve another term as Treasurer.

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 is also active in Frederick Douglass Houses.

Arlene Geiger is an Economist teaching at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and has been a political activist in the neighborhood since 1970 on issues ranging from anti-war, rent regulation and presidential campaigns. She welcomes the opportunity to continue serving our Club and community.

Daniele Gerard – President is a lifelong New Yorker. She worked on the staff of NYC Council President Carol Bellamy, attended Columbia Law School and practiced at Cravath and NC Prisoner Legal Services. A Three Parks member since 2004, Indian Point critic and two-time storefront veteran, she would be honored to serve a second term as President.

Robert Ginsberg. Born and raised in the Bronx; Bronx Science; U. of Michigan; Yale Law; presently partner in Ginsberg and Broome P.C. President Riverside Dems; District Leader; CD campaign chair Gene McCarthy; 2004 NY campaign chair Kucinich; 2008 NY campaign co - chair Al Gore; Dem State Committeeman 1974 - 2008.

Elizabeth Kellner. Member Three Parks 30+ years, 2008 Storefront regular and among the original 1984 Storefront team. Columbia Law and School of Public Health grad. Practiced law for 20 years as civil litigator at large NYC firm and insurance industry corporation. 20 year board member of community health care agency. Primary areas of interest are health care reform, public schools and affordable housing.

David Kogelman is an arbitrator and general practice attorney. He has been active in petitioning, registering voters and electronic voting. He welcomes the opportunity to serve our Club and community.

Marie Lunn has served on the board for 4 years and has been a Three Parks member for 8 years. She has worked on several campaigns, helped with petitioning and served as a poll worker. She is also a member of the NY County Committee.

Bruce Markens is a retired teacher and union activist. Worked at 2008 storefront in the Obama campaign. Also involved in John Hall campaign in 2006 and Norman Siegel's campaign for Public Advocate in 2005. An active member of DFNYC and strong supporter of a single payer health care system.

Mary Ann Marks. I am a proud mother and grandmother, and work in the health care field, assisting the elderly. I have worked as a teacher's assistant for the Board of Education. I volunteered at the 2008 storefront, worked on Cynthia Doty's City Council race, helped with the re-zoning campaign, and have been an active Board member for four years.

Lynn Max – Membership Dir. Co-Manager of the Obama/Biden 2008 Campaign Storefront. Steering Committee Member for our successful rezoning campaign. Co-Chair of Three Parks Social Security Campaign and Three Parks 2006 Take Back Congress Campaign (John Hall). Co-Manager of the Kerry/Edwards Campaign Storefront in 2004. Looking forward to working together for more important victories in 2009.

Merle McEldowney. Originally from Los Angeles, California, I fell in love with the Upper West Side and moved here 5 years ago after living in Brooklyn for 26 years. I have found a home at Three Parks. Active in DFNYC, I have belonged to Three Parks for three years. I think it is the perfect club to continue the grass roots work I became involved with at the 2008 Storefront during the Obama Campaign.

Corine Pettley. Former District Leader, Riverside Democrats. District 3 Elementary School Principal 24 years. Member of Board of Directors and Membership Committee three years. Volunteered at club's Obama storefront doing telephone calls and voter registration. Went to Pennsylvania to bring out the vote for Obama. Looking forward with hope to an administration of transparency ensuring equal rights, a healthy economy, jobs, health care and opportunities - so that all Americans can pursue "their full measure of happiness". When and if it comes - Oh Happy Day!!!

Milivoy Samurovich. Founding member of Three Parks, served for five years as District Leader. Also, served on CB 7, co-chaired the Urban Renewal sub-committee, on the committee that opposed the Westway Highway. Served on CB 1, chair of Battery Park Committee during planning phase. Led Tenants Committee of my apartment building and organized rent strikes, and served on Co-op Negotiating Committee.

Ray Schwartz – Corresponding Secretary. I have been a member of the Club for more than 15 years and served as Membership Sec'y and VP. The need for a progressive and loud voice is vital to all of us and Three Parks gives us the opportunity to make our

voices heard.

Deborah Thomas has been a lifelong Democrat and an Upper Westsider for over 20 years. She is an opera singer and currently works as a teaching artist in the New York City Public Schools, where she has she co-authored curriculum. With TPID, she has been active in tabling, petitioning, anti-war marches and the 2008 Storefront. She is also a member of the NY County Committee and an Alternate Judicial Delegate. Besides politics, her other interests include animals, history, languages and travel.

Ken Tulloch. Educated at Allegheny College and Drew Seminary, served as UM clergy from 1968-2004, retired to NYC in 2004, married with 2 daughters, leafleted and tabled on TPID issues, petitioned on Indian Point and for candidates, worked for Stender campaign in NJ, served on Democratic County Committee (2005), recruited 50 people for CB7 meetings on zoning change action, served 2 years on TPID Board, teach ESL classes, Chair of NYC CROP Hunger Walk.

Lauren Williams – Recording Sec'y since 2007, have served on Board and membership committee, coordinated the Holiday Party, volunteered during 2004 and 2008 campaigns, and tabled and petitioned for rezoning, Indian Point, Iraq War and voter registration. Worked on Cynthia Doty's 2005 campaign, and on the Harrison and Hall campaigns for Congress.

Tim Walsh. Tim has been a member of Three Parks since 2004. He has participated actively in the 2008 Storefront and has been engaged in tabling activities regarding Social Security and other issues. In 2008, he traveled to Pennsylvania several times, and was a bus captain in the trip to Ohio for Obama. A regular Habitat for Humanity volunteer, Tim looks forward to serving the club regarding housing, environmental and educational issues.

Yvonne Vulliemoz, born and educated in Switzerland, worked as a biologist at Columbia University. Nowadays she volunteers at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Member of Three Parks for the last 8 years and Board member for the last 4 she worked at the 2004 and 2008 Storefront Presidential campaigns and has been participating in the many activities of the Club. She would welcome the opportunity to continue serving the Club and the community in the promising spirit of the new administration.

Judy Wood – First Vice-President. I have been an active member of Three Parks for many years and former District Leader of the Club. I edited the Club newsletter for three years which was very exciting. After the success of our storefront where I supervised phone banks many nights and traveled to Penna. I am now ready to work towards achieving health care for all, and other policies important to our country.

Eligible Voters for February 2009 Meeting*

This list reflects dues paid for 2009 as of Jan. 30, 2009, plus attendance at one meeting in the previous six months in accordance with the Club Constitution.

Eligible to Vote

Stephanie Andrew
Ralph Andrew
Margret Beels
Bob Botfeld
Marla Bruncker
Nicholas Bryan
Theresa Canter
Dan Cohen
Luanne Corea
John Davenport
Lisa DiCaprio
Cynthia Doty
Amaka Ezeh
Gerry Ann Fifer
Alan Flacks
Ellen Flax
Ernestine Gallagher
Daniele Gerard
Robert Ginsberg
Sherry Gorelick
Joan Grosser
Marion Harris
Janet Harvilchuck
Ulla Jorgensen
Helen Karlan
Elizabeth Krob Kellner
David Kogelman
Iris J. Korman
Marguerite Lavin
David Lazarus
Joan Levinson
Marie Lunn
Bruce Markens
Mary Ann Marks
Stephen Max
Lynn Bender Max
Merle McEldowney
Dorothy Mehler
Ernest Mehler
Batya Miller
Martin Morand
Brenda Morgan
John Newell
Elizabeth Olana
Diane Ostrofsky
Iretta Owens
Joshua Pepper
Wilhelmina Perry
Annie Petrus
Corine Pettey
Stephen Randazzo

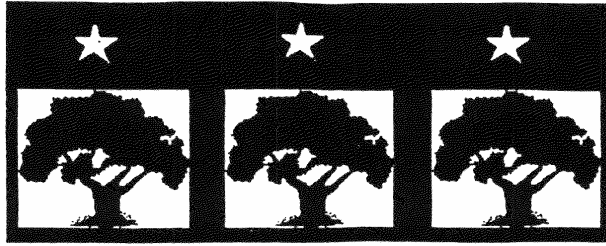
Fred Reichman
Patricia Reilly
William Reilly
Jonathan Rubin
Suzanne Samelson
Milivoy Samurovich
Eugene Sarver
Carl Joseph Scalise
Doris Schreiber
Ray Schwartz
Barry N. Sher
Vicki Slate
Gladys Smith
Judith Solomon
Mildred Speiser
Donna Tapper
Clara Taylor
Deborah Thomas
Ken Tulloch
Yvonne Vulliemoz
Jeri Wellman
Judith White
Lauren A. Williams
Judy Wood

Eligible Voters If Dues Are Paid By February 11, 2009

Cyrus Adler
Susan Andrews
Anna Avila
Mollie Bailey
Robert Bardin
Bobbie Beck
Richard Bellman
Shoshannah Benmosche
Chaim Bronstein
Margaret Collins
Wendy Dannett
Phyllis Dolgin
Lucille Donovan
Mogos Fassil
Dayle Frick
Arlene Geiger
Mary J. Geissman
Ed Gragert
Robert J. Healy
Cynthia M. Holden
John Hurley
Arlene Patete Hurley
David C. Kaplan

Michael Katz
Jan Caryl Kaufman
Jerry Koenig
Kenneth Laufer
Barbara Lee
Gail Leinwall
Robert Leuze
Danny Max
Connie Max
Alex Medwedew
Minda Meister
Gail Meyers
Joan Ogden
Hank Perlin
Geraldine Phillips
Lisa Anne Prochazka
Florence Puccetti-Hepner
Carol Reisner
Kathy Rothschild
Hayette Rugg
Rosalind Schmall
Judy Segal
Ahmad Shirazi
Ann Shirazi
Irene Shrier
Calvin Snyder
Michael Stearns
Roschel Holland Stearns
Gloria Swanson
Stephanie Tegnazian
Ruth Tepper
Lynn Thomas
Jane Thompson
Yara Trokel
Ruben Vargas
George Voorhis
Tim Walsh
Pamela Wax
Rosetta Williams
Caryl Young
Gloria Zeche
Ariel Zucker-Brull

***If a member of Three Parks
is a voting member of
another club then s/he is not
eligible to vote at Three
Parks.**



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

Please pay your 2009 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

2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member___

Renewal___

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) _____

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

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$10)_____

Low Income Family (18) _____

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 make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2009"

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

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mayoral Forum

**Council Member Tony Avella, Congressman Anthony Weiner and
Comptroller William Thompson**

Have a question for the Mayoral candidates on 2/11?

Be sure to fill out an index card when you arrive at the Hostel! We would like to get as much information as possible from each candidate on all the critical issues: the economy, mass transit, mayoral control of the schools, and more.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Feb. 25. 2009