



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

Website: [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) • Email: [ThreeParksDems@aol.com](mailto:ThreeParksDems@aol.com)

<i>President</i>	<i>Editors</i>	<i>District Leaders</i>	<i>State Committee</i>
Merle McEldowney	Lorraine Zamora <a href="mailto:lzamora245@gmail.com">lzamora245@gmail.com</a> Jock Davenport Richard E. Luna	Bob Botfeld Cynthia Doty	Lynn Thomas Daniel Marks Cohen

**Club Meeting, February 14, 2018, 8:00 pm**

**The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 St.**

**“Climate Change: Federal Setbacks, Local Victories”**

**Speakers:**

**Alex Beauchamp, NE Regional Director, Food & Water Watch**

**Jonathan Smith, Associate Attorney, EarthJustice**

**State Senate Endorsement Vote, Districts 30 and 31**

**Election of 2018 TPID Board of Directors**

### AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign-in  
8:00 pm Call to Order  
District Leader Report  
State Senate Endorsement Vote\*  
Election of TPID Board of Directors\*  
Speakers: Alex Beauchamp; Jonathan Smith  
Questions & Answers  
Adjourn  
\* *Ballot Box for State Senate Endorsement Vote and Election of TPID Board will be open from 8:15-9:15 pm*

### 2018 CALENDAR

**Wednesday, February 28, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
**Wednesday, March 14, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Club Meeting  
**Wednesday, March 28, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
**Wednesday, April 11, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Club Meeting  
**Wednesday, April 25, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
**Sunday, April 29, 1:00-4:00 pm**  
Three Parks Annual Fundraising Benefit

## **President's Report: What's Up At Three Parks?**

By Merle McEldowney

At our January club meeting, our featured speaker was Todd Gitlin, professor at the Columbia School of Journalism. Gitlin counseled club members to pay less attention to Trump's constant and outrageous statements and more on the grave and ongoing damage being done behind the scenes by the Trump administration—civil rights, immigration, the environment, the federal judiciary, and government regulatory agencies. Turning to his own experience on the college campus, he expressed his hope that today's college students would engage more actively in electoral politics. For Gitlin, students' frequent focus on so-called "micro-aggressions" can get in the way of "fighting genuine macro-aggressions like voting restrictions, immigrant deportations, and the like." When the weather improves, Three Parks will be tabling in the neighborhood to help local college students register to vote in New York and to encourage them to vote in local elections.

Three Parks' February 14 meeting will feature two guest speakers—Alex Beauchamp, NE Regional Director at Food & Water Watch, and Jonathan Smith, Associate Attorney at EarthJustice. They will discuss how their organizations are fighting the Trump Agenda's efforts to dismantle government regulations. Beauchamp will talk about how the environment is being protected through lobbying and organizing efforts; Smith will describe how the legal system is trying to protect the environment.

Then there will be endorsement votes for the State Senate. Robert Jackson, former member of the New York City Council, will be running for the Senate in the 31st District. His opponent is Senator Marisol Alcantara, who currently represents the 31 District. Because of her participation in the Independent Democratic Caucus (an alliance of politicians who run as Democrats but support Republicans once elected), Three Parks has voted that Alcantara will not be allowed to speak at a Three Parks' club meeting until she joins the Democratic Caucus.

State Senator Brian Benjamin was elected to the State Senate last year to fill a seat vacated by Bill Perkins. Benjamin is running for his first full term representing the 30th District.

We also have club business to tend to, i.e., the re-election of the Three Parks Board of Directors for 2018. Each of the renominated board members and newly-nominated candidates will introduce themselves. The full line-up of board nominations appears on pages 5 and 6.

February 14 promises to be another informative, timely club meeting.

## **The Democratic Manhattan Commissioner of the Board of Elections**

By Bob Botfeld, District Leader

As Trump and the Republicans continue their assault on the free press, the independent judiciary, and the FBI—our democracy's checks and balances—we are reminded daily how essential it is that our elected leaders work within the law and respect our institutions. This attack did not begin when Trump was elected. Throughout Obama's presidency, the Republicans thwarted his authority to nominate federal judges. They blocked hundreds of federal circuit court appointments culminating in their unprecedented refusal in 2016 to consider the nomination of Merrick Garland, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, to the Supreme Court.

Last year, in a similar manner but on a more local but still vital issue, the authority of the Manhattan County Committee to nominate the Manhattan Democratic Commissioner to the Board of Elections (BOE), was blocked by Manhattan members of the City Council.

### **Background**

The New York City Board of Elections is run by ten commissioners, one Democrat and one Republican from each of the five boroughs or counties. The Manhattan County Committee comprises the county committee members representing each election district in Manhattan. More than 80 Three Parks club members are members of the Manhattan County Committee. The Executive Committee of the Manhattan County Committee makes the nomination on behalf of the county committee which generally meets only once every two years.

Under Section 3-204 of the New York State Election Law, a commissioner is nominated by "the county committee or by such other committee as the rules of the party may provide."

The election law further provides that the party's nomination is subject to the confirmation by the City Council. By long standing tradition, the City Council follows the recommendation of the Democratic council members of the county which the commissioner is to represent.

In November 2016, the Manhattan County Committee nominated Jeanine Johnson to be the Board of Elections commissioner. But for over a year, the City Council neither denied nor accepted her nomination. Instead, the City Council members nominated Speaker Mark-Viverito's candidate, Andy Praschak, ignoring the election law and the Manhattan Democratic Party County Committee. The Manhattan County Committee nominated a substitute candidate for Johnson, Sylvia DiPietro, as the election law defines their role. But again,

the Manhattan City Council delegation ignored the County Committee nominee, DiPietro, misappropriated the role of nominating body, and tried to confirm Praschak instead.

### **No Quorum at the City Council**

However, in another unprecedented event, the five Democratic county leaders coordinated to prevent Praschak's confirmation by directing their City Council members to boycott the next Council meetings. Thus the Speaker lacked a quorum for two consecutive Council meetings and was unable to confirm her candidate before her term expired.

### **Why the Commissioner Is Important**

The BOE commissioners determine which method we use to vote, where we vote and, by qualifying or disqualifying petitions, for whom we can vote. In the 1990s, when New York's election officials were planning to replace the antiquated lever machines, they considered fully electronic direct voting machines that were installed in other states. In NYC, we were fortunate that the Democratic Manhattan Commissioner, Douglas Kellner, now New York State's Democratic Election Commissioner, recognized that the electronic voting machines could be compromised. He insisted on a paper ballot—the ones we use today. Without him, Russian hackers would be able to influence what we read about the election on the internet, as well as alter the vote count, and we would be unable to recheck by manual count.

### **Current Status**

At this date, no commissioner has been confirmed. Complicating the issue, however, is a lawsuit between the City Council and the Manhattan County Committee concerning the authority of the Council to nominate a Candidate. It is likely that the new Speaker, Corey Johnson, and the county party will agree on a candidate shortly.

The good news is that the everyday operations of the Board of Elections are now in the very capable hands of the new Deputy Clerk, our own Cynthia Doty. Well earned and congratulations, Cynthia!

### **IDC**

However flawed, the Democratic Party in New York fairly represents our progressive values. The IDC was formed to usurp the duly elected Democratic Senate majority, so that the turncoat members of the IDC, including Jeff Klein and Marisol Alcantara, would have more individual power. (Klein formed the IDC after he lost the battle for Democratic senate majority leader.)

Robert Jackson, in addition to being anti-IDC, is a

thoughtful, smart and experienced candidate who we should strongly support. Not only so that he will win our endorsement, but also so that our support will prevent others from entering the race and allowing Alcantara to eke out a minority victory again.

### **Join Feb. 20 Phone Bank to Take Back Congress!**

By Chuck Wall

The Three Parks "Take Back Congress" phone bank team is ramping up its activities in anticipation of the coming Midterms. We're laying the groundwork for Democratic victories in nearby "swing" districts. Join us for our next event on Tuesday, February 20, and keep the momentum going!

In our phone banks so far, we have racked up some pretty impressive totals:

Approximate numbers called: 3,500

Approximate conversations logged: 700

We have been calling Republican senior citizen voters in the Hudson Valley 19th Congressional district, which is considered a genuine opportunity for a Democratic pick-up in the Midterms. This January, in keeping with the latest news from Washington, we alerted those voters to the threats to Medicare and Social Security that Republican legislators are now openly expressing. The goal was to make those voters aware that their Republican congressman, John Faso, can't be relied on to protect seniors' vital interests. Faso, whose electoral margin in the district was already slim, is considered one of the most vulnerable Republicans in Congress. In our calls, we stressed that Faso's record of support for cuts is harmful to seniors. We also suggested a way to test Faso's reliability: call and challenge him to promise in public that he will not vote for cuts to Medicare or Social Security. Even if the voter did not make the call, doubts about Faso were likely planted in the voter's mind.

At the end of the evening, our callers reported that many of the voters they spoke to were unaware of threats to Medicare and Social Security and were grateful for the call. Yes, there were the usual Republicans who responded, "I'm a Trump guy," but there were also many who were genuinely worried about losing their benefits and who doubted that Congressman Faso would protect them. A number of these people asked us to send them additional information.

The strong turnout for our January phone bank showed that our team members are ready and eager to rev up campaign activities in advance of the Midterm elections. So let's keep the ball rolling! The February 20 phone bank will be followed by more phone banks this spring, and we'll be watching closely as the primary season gets

Voters Eligible Feb 2018				Voters Eligible if Paid Feb 2018			
Susan J.	Baldwin	Alan	Messer	Marla	Brunker	Forrest C.	Murphy
William	Baldwin	Brenda	Morgan	David	Camacho	Barbara	Nelson
Emily	Baldwin	Derrick	Mullins	Margaret	Collins	Joan	Ogden
Samuel	Bartos	Carole	Myers	Kitty	Crowley	Dorothy	Papo
Amy	Belkin	John	Newell	Irene	Dess	Mary	Pasley
Shoshannah	Benmosche	Elliot	Podwill	Wendy	Diller	Chris	Peralta
Vincent	Brancato	Carol	Reisner	Renna	Draynel	Hank	Perlin
Janice	Bynum	Lois	Safian	Gerry Ann	Fifer	Annie	Petrus
Theresa	Canter	Katherine	Samuels	Alan	Flacks	Ilene	Pfeiffer
Daniel Marks	Cohen	Michelle	Semler	Arlene	Geiger	Geraldine	Phillips
Corinne	Constantine	Jacob	Sher	Mary J.	Geissman	Judy	Pierre
Wendy	Dannett	Irene	Shrier	Robert	Ginsberg	Miriam	Rabban
John	Davenport	Anna Lee	Spiro	Barbara	Goldwyn	Nathan	Riley
Cynthia	Doty	Allan	Spitz	Pilar	Gomez	Carl Joseph	Scalise
Ellen	Flax	Michael	Stearns	James	Guest	Faye	Schneier
Daniele	Gerard	Roschel Holland	Stearns	Robert	Gumbs	Roger	Schneier
Timothy	Greene	Lynn	Thomas	Jessica	Haberstock	Doris	Schreiber
David C.	Kaplan	Deborah	Thomas	Adam	Haridopolos	Gerald	Schultz
Erlend	Kimmich	Charles	Wall	Elaine	Hazzard	Ahmad	Shirazi
Warren	Kishner	Arnold	Weiss	Jacqueline	Huey	Calvin	Snyder
Andrea	Kishner	Lauren A.	Williams	Judy	Hummel	Polly	Spain
Gail	Leinwall	Judy	Wood	Robert	Jackson	Mildred	Speiser
Batya	Lewton	Vernita	Worrell	Emma	Jenkins	Barbara	Stark
Marie	Lunn	Lorraine	Zamora	Russell	Jenkins	Jane	Thompson
Susan	Maderer			Penelope	Laitin	Daniel	Tsadok
Rachel	Makleff			Hannah	Leider	Ken	Tulloch
Bruce	Markens	Cyrus	Adler	Anna	Lewis	Arlene	Tyrkko
Mary Ann	Marks	Eva-Lee	Baird	Betsy	Malcolm	Tim	Walsh
Stephen	Max	Robert	Bardin	Merle	McEldowney	Kitty	Williston
Lynn Bender	Max	Margaret	Beels	Alex	Medwedew	Matthew	Woodruff
Abigail	McGloster	Bob	Botfeld	Arlene	Mehlman	Gloria	Zeche
George	McGuinness	Raven	Brown	Minda	Meister	Tamar	Zucker
				Annie	Muir	*	

**\*Voting Eligibility Clause**

In order to vote in TPID club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2018 and attended at least one meeting in the past six months. Members who were paid up for 2017 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible to vote upon payment of 2018 dues. New memberships become effective 30 days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, new members must attend at least one meeting after the 30-day period and within six months prior to the election. Memberships that have lapsed due to nonpayment of annual dues are considered new. Reminder: Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.

underway in the 19th District and also in other nearby potentially “flippable” districts. In the 19th District, six Democrats have announced plans to challenge Faso. Once a front-runner emerges, either before or at the primary election on June 26, we expect to work with progressive groups in the district to support that candidate.

**So join your fellow TPID club members for the February 20 phone bank and help take back Congress! Watch for details in your email, or check the TPID website [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org). We invite all interested club members to join us, but remember to respond promptly as space may be limited. No computers are needed, but please bring a cellphone. Scripts and training are provided.**

**How Hospitals are Failing Black Mothers**

By Wendy Dannett

With the death of Erica Garner at age 27, who had given birth to a son three months earlier in August 2017, a discussion ensued about the kind of maternal care Black women receive in hospitals throughout the United States. Erica had become an activist for justice on behalf of her father, who had died from a police choke hold. But in addition to having the stress of her fight, Erica learned while pregnant that she had an enlarged heart. Shortly after giving birth to her son, she had a heart attack. Then, after suffering an asthma attack on December 23, 2017, she had another heart attack which led to her becoming brain dead. She subsequently died. *(Continued on p. 7)*

## Biographies of 2018 Board Candidates

**Merle McEldowney, President**—first came to Three Parks during the 2006 John Hall Campaign. Since then, Merle has worked in three Campaign Centers, including 2016 in which she coordinated the efforts to aid the campaign of Zephyr Teachout. She has spent the last few years working to stop hydraulic fracturing, objecting to the TPP, and Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. Merle believes that grass roots efforts—sending letters, making phone calls, and creating whatever legal mischief we can—will help hold our elected officials’ feet to the fire and keep New York, and the USA, as a place in which we all are proud to live.

**Daniele Gerard, 1st Vice President**—is a lifelong New Yorker on the Upper West Side since 1996. Currently a staff attorney at Children’s Rights, Daniele has worked on the staff of NYC Council President Carol Bellamy, attended Columbia Law School, and practiced at Cravath Swain and North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services. A member of Three Parks since 2004, she’s been a five-term president, a three-time Campaign Center veteran, and a critic of fracking/Indian Point and the “grand bargain.”

**Lynn Max, 2nd Vice President**—co-managed the 2004, 2008, and 2012 Presidential Campaign Centers and was an active leader in the 2016 Campaign Center. She was co-coordinator of the Bernie Sanders Campaign in the 10th Congressional District, has served on the steering committee for Three Parks’ successful rezoning campaign, and has been an involved member of its Issues Committees including healthcare, social security and Anti-fracking. As a leader in all the club’s campaigns for progressive candidates, she remains committed to working together to defeat the Trump Agenda and to take back Congress in 2018.

**Ellen Flax, Treasurer**—is the director of a foundation that supports causes that benefit women in the U.S. and Israel, and serves as the rabbi of several eldercare facilities. She was an active participant in Three Parks’ 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 presidential Campaign Centers and is delighted to continue to serve as Treasurer

**Theresa Canter**—Membership Director having previously served as President, First and Second Vice Presidents, and Treasurer, Theresa would be honored to continue to serve TPID as Membership Secretary. Utilizing her experience with campaign finance and management, and fundraising administration, she will continue to work to make Three Parks a more visible presence in NYC County politics. She is eager to support the election of progressive Democrats in this very important election year.

**Jock Davenport, Recording Secretary**—As a Board member of TPID, he has been consistently resisting the barbarians at our gates for many, many years. Trump is the worst of them all, by far, a modern Atilla the Hun. America’s constitutional government is now imperiled, and Jock pledges to work all the harder on the Board to preserve, protect and defend it.

**Lorraine Zamora, Corresponding Secretary**—upon retiring from her career as a professional fund raiser, Lorraine joined Three Parks as a volunteer for the 2012 Obama campaign, became a board member in 2013, and in 2016 became a co-manager of the storefront for the Clinton/Kaine Campaign. As Corresponding Secretary, she publishes the club’s monthly newsletters with the help of board member Jock Davenport and her husband, Richard Luna. Lorraine is a coordinator of Three Parks’ Holiday Party and annual fundraising benefit and is dedicated to helping elect Democratic candidates in the next and future elections.

**Paul Bifani**—holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Stevens Institute of Technology and an MBA from NYU. His professional career has been diverse, including working as an engineer for Carrier Corporation, a financial executive for IBM, an owner-operator of a printing and mailing business, as a real estate agent and, currently, as a Certified Aging in Place Specialist. Paul enjoys exercising, cooking, photography and travel, and especially loves the theater, dance, jazz and good movies. He looks forward to serving on the Board and helping to replace elected Republicans with Democrats.

**Corinne Constantine**—has lived on the Upper West Side since 1976, witnessing the renewal of the neighborhood after the 1976 blackout. Corinne is retired but her past work experience included professional administrative positions at all the major institutions of higher education in NYC. She was very involved in the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center as captain of the bus trips to PA and was thrilled to be asked to be a board member. Her focus will be on the mid-term elections and returning Congress “back to the Dems.”

**Wendy Dannett**—is a long-time progressive and has been a member of Three Parks since 2000. She’s been on the TPID board for five years and feels that board membership allows her to be actively involved with campaigns and elections, as well as have input on issues such as fracking, social security, Indian Point and TTP. Wendy is proud of Three Parks’ efforts on behalf of public education, housing and the local community. She is a prolific contributor to the TPID monthly newsletter and spent many hours volunteering at the 2016 Campaign Center.

**Pilar Gomez**—has a BA from Western Connecticut State College and is an IBM retiree where she was a marketing representative. She currently is a recording secretary at the 20th Police Precinct Community Council. Pilar is a long-standing member of TPID and looks forward to her work as a board member to turn back Congress.

**Jessica Haberstock**—is a Missouri native who moved to NYC several years ago to get a Master's Degree at Columbia University. She works as a structural engineer at Silman. As a member of TPID for over a year, she helped campaign for the Clinton/Kaine storefront and is a member of the NY County Committee. She is a member of the League of Women Voters, advocating for less restrictive voting laws in New York. Jessica looks forward to working with the board this year and bringing a millennial's perspective to the club.

**Hannah Leider**—joined Three Parks as a result of the 2016 election. She has been a resident of the Upper West Side for over 20 years and works in the publishing industry as a production editor for high school classroom magazines. Her first experience in a political campaign was as a volunteer for Bill Clinton in 1993. Since joining Three Parks, Hannah has participated in tabling and petitioning, and has become a County Committee member representing the 36th Election District.

**Marie Lunn**—has been active in TPID for over ten years and been on the board for seven years. She was worked on several campaigns, participated in tabling and petitioning, and was a key volunteer at the 2012 and 2016 Campaign Centers.

**Mary Ann Marks**—has been a resident of the Upper West Side for 36 years, a Three Parks member for 14 years and board member for 13 years. She has been an active participant at Three Parks' 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Campaign Centers. In addition, Mary Ann has worked on campaigns for rezoning, health care, anti-fracking and closing Indian Point, Cynthia Doty's campaign for City Council and the Hillary Clinton for President campaign. Mary Ann coordinates the mailings of the club's monthly newsletters.

**Steve Max**—co-managed the 2008 and 2012 Obama Campaign Centers and helped staff the 2016 Clinton Campaign Center. A Bernie Sanders socialist, Steve was a 10th CD coordinator for the Sanders campaign. He co-chaired the TPID club's committees on Social Security, Healthcare and Anti-Fracking, and worked on the campaigns to reauthorize rent regulation laws and pass neighborhood rezoning. He is Three Parks' webmaster. In 2017 he worked to elect Brian Benjamin, Helen Rosenthal and Mark Levine, helped to set up the Take Back Congress phone bank, and organize the Club's campaign against the State Constitutional Convention.

Steve is employed by The Midwest Academy, a training school for progressive organizers.

**Abigail McGloster**—has lived on the Upper West Side for over 16 years and has been very active in the community. It has been her pleasure to serve on the Three Parks board for the past three years and to be a club member for over eight years. Abigail is proud to have been an Executive Board member and Captain of her building at Douglas Houses. She also has been involved in the process of Participatory Budgeting and has a special interest in improving the neighborhood and quality of life for all its residents.

**Lois Safian**—has lived on the Upper West Side for the past 40 years. She is retired a few years ago from her profession as a producer of corporate meetings, in which she managed budgets, writers, creative teams, video production and on-site staging teams while interacting with high-level corporate executives. Lois became a volunteer with Three Parks at the 2012 Obama/Biden Campaign Center and returned in 2016 to become integral to the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center.

**Milivoy Samurovich**—is a founding member of Three Parks Independent Democrats. He was a District Leader for five years, served on CB 7, CB1, and on the committee to oppose Westway Highway, and co-chaired the Urban Renewal Subcommittee. Milivoy chaired the Battery Park Committee during its planning phase, led the Tenants Committee of his apartment building and served on its Co-op Negotiating Committee. He was a supportive volunteer for Three Parks' 2012 and 2016 Campaign Centers.

**Irene Shrier**—has been a West Sider since the late 1960s. Irene is a retired NYC high school math teacher who also taught GED in an alternative high school program for women living in shelters. Irene has been a member of Three Parks since 2004 and was active in the club's storefront campaigns for John Kerry, Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton, and is a member of the Democratic County Committee. Irene believes we need to stay strong and remain actively engaged in local politics in the upcoming years.

**Chuck Wall**—recently retired after a long career as an editor and publisher of test-preparation guides and study aids for Simon & Schuster, McGraw-Hill, Harcourt Brace and other publishing houses. Chuck holds degrees in modern European history from Columbia and the University of Paris. He has supported and participated in progressive causes from the Vietnam era to the present. As a member of the TPID Take Back Congress committee, he has helped organize and coordinate monthly phone banking events aiming to help Democrats achieve victory in nearby districts in the coming midterm elections.

*(continued from p. 4)* When her death first was announced, I don't recall a discussion implicating the healthcare system. But soon articles appeared in NPR, ProPublica, and Vox.com about black women who had suffered from hospital neglect. Some of these women had died; some had not. Some were poor. Some were well educated and well off. One such person was Serena Williams, the tennis champion. According to a Vogue profile of her, she had trouble breathing for two days after a cesarean section, and had to fight with her hospital for help and to have a scan. She had a history of embolisms, about which the hospital should have known. When she approached a nurse for tests, she was told she was hallucinating.

In short, the question is: why are black mothers in NYC dying at 12 times the rate of white mothers? A ProPublica analysis suggests that Erica Garner's postpartum death might be part of a larger problem where hospitals are failing black mothers countrywide. In an December 2017 article titled "How Hospitals are Failing Black Mothers," Annie Waldman of ProPublica cited that women who deliver at hospitals disproportionately serving African-American mothers are at a higher risk of danger. The problem appears to be segregation and bias. According to Vox.com, black women are used to being scorned or not heard. That's why one woman took her white husband with her to the hospital for maternal appointments.

Annie Waldman cites distressing statistics: "A black woman is 22% more likely to die from heart disease than a white woman, but 243% of black women are more likely to die of maternal related causes." Waldman states researchers have often said the problem is poverty, or social economic factors, or access to healthcare. But Waldman wondered whether doctors can be affecting this situation: Is there an unconscious bias? She found there was. In black communities or communities of color that are served by a hospital, the number of birth complications is very high. This includes complications such as hypertension disorder, blood pressure issues, and blood clots—which was Serena Williams's issue. Medics often give black women the wrong pain meds, and then say "it is in their heads." In Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate Medical Center has a high rate of hemorrhaging. On average, 34 percent of women who hemorrhage while giving birth at New York hospitals experience significant complications. At SUNY Downstate, it is 62 percent.

Journalists Nina Martin and Renee Montagne explained in a story on black maternal mortality in December, that lack women reported facing bias when receiving pregnancy-related care: "The feeling of being devalued

and disrespected was a constant theme." A young prospective Florida mother had breathing problems, which were blamed on obesity. Actually, her lungs were full of fluid and her heart was failing.

What are hospitals doing to investigate maternal problems and deaths on their grounds? Annie Waldman sees nothing so far. We need to put pressure on hospitals, and on our elected officials. The situation is a travesty.

## **Two New Local Races to Watch**

By Chuck Wall

For TPID members who follow suburban contests along with those in New York City, there are now two important nearby races to watch.

### **► Westchester State Senate Election**

In Westchester, there will be a special election on April 26 to fill the State Senate seat vacated by George Latimer, the Democrat who was elected County Executive last November. The seat represents the 37th District, including parts of Yonkers, White Plains and New Rochelle as well as Bedford, North Castle, Harrison, Rye and Mamaroneck.

Democratic Party leaders have unanimously endorsed Shelley Mayer, a Yonkers assemblywoman since 2012, to run for the seat.

As TPID members know, power in the State Senate is currently shared by Republicans and the breakaway Democrats of the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC). For mainline Democrats to gain a majority, it is vital to elect candidates who will reject the IDC and adhere to the mainline party.

Mainline State Senate Democratic leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins backs Shelley Mayer strongly. She says that Mayer will be "an invaluable member of the Senate Democratic Conference," and "with her support, we will be able to finally take action on ensuring New Yorkers have access to good paying jobs, tax relief, high-quality public education, and affordable health care."

The 37th District has been held by a Democrat for three decades and Democrats outnumber Republicans by 30,000 voters. Still, it has been a target of Republicans in expensive campaign battles in recent years and is expected to again be viewed as a target seat by the state GOP. TPID members who are eager to see the mainline Democrats win control of the State Senate can follow this race at [www.facebook.com/ShelleyMayer4Senate/](http://www.facebook.com/ShelleyMayer4Senate/).

### **► New Jersey Congressional Race**

While many TPID members have been focusing on an

important congressional race in New York's Hudson Valley, the nearby New Jersey 11th Congressional District – long considered a Republican seat — has suddenly become another potential Democratic pick-up. The district includes all or parts of Essex, Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties.

Republican Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, the 12-term House member who currently represents the district, has announced that he will not seek reelection. He did not say why he is retiring, but he likely faced his toughest re-election campaign, in part due to growing local opposition to the policies of President Trump. "Representative Frelinghuysen's retirement opens up a very competitive seat that is moving quickly towards Democrats," said Evan Lukaske, a spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The Cook Political Report, a Washington-based publication that tracks congressional races, rates the race a toss-up.

So far, the strongest Democratic challenger is Mikie Sherrill, a former federal prosecutor and Navy helicopter pilot. Sherrill has called for expanding the Affordable Care Act, ensuring full funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, maintaining government support for Planned Parenthood, and increasing spending on infrastructure projects in New Jersey. You can follow her campaign at [www.mikiesherrill.com](http://www.mikiesherrill.com).

## In Memoriam

By Lorraine Zamora

Businesses die every day in New York. That includes

the Upper West Side. In our November issue, Judy Wood expressed her dismay over the closing of so many "mom and pop" stores along Broadway. In our recent newsletters, we have asked TPID members to patronize Suba Pharmacy at Broadway and 104 Street. Suba is one of the few independent family-owned pharmacies in the neighborhood and needs our help in its struggle to compete with major drug store chains.

On Sunday, January 28, the Lincoln Plaza Cinema at Broadway and 62 Street closed. The theater was created by Dan and Toby Talbot, Upper West Siders who understood the nature and importance of independent films. Dan Talbot died last month at age 91. The demise of Lincoln Plaza quickly followed.

I said my good-bye to Lincoln Plaza a few days before it closed. I bought my skim milk cappuccino—one of the best in town and a bargain at \$3.00—and a chocolate macaroon and sat down to watch "My Coffee with Jewish Friends." It was a delightful documentary in which a retired independent film maker has coffee with 20 friends to elicit their views on Israel, marriage and orthodox religion—all of which takes place on the Upper West Side! I can't imagine this little gem being shown anywhere but at the Lincoln Plaza Cinema.

As Clyde Haberman said in a recent NY Times editorial, "The Lincoln Plaza faithful who tend to be, shall we say, not young, are hanging crepe these days. They are practically ready to call in grief counselors." That includes me.



### Three Parks at the Women's March

Wearing signs saying "Take Back Congress", "Dump Trump" and "Stop the Trump Agenda," 40 Three Parkers and friends joined the throngs heading to Central Park West on 72nd Street. The mood was defiant and determined and most signs highlighted the agenda of the 2018 Women's March—Power to the Polls!

**Three Parks Independent Democrats  
2018 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here \_\_\_\_\_ if you prefer to receive the newsletter **solely** by email.

Please pay your dues with a check, money order or via PayPal.

Please make out all checks to

**Three Parks Independent Democrats—Dues 2018.**

*Mail to:* Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station, P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025 Attn: Treasurer

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

**Next Meeting, Wednesday, February 14, 2018**  
**“Climate Change: Federal Setbacks, Local Victories”**  
**State Senate Endorsement Vote, Districts 30 and 31**  
**Election of 2018 TPID Board of Directors**