



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
Lorraine Zamora

Editors
Chuck Wall
Corinne Constantine
Richard E. Luna

District Leaders
Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee
Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

Club Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 8:00 pm

The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 St.

Budget Justice for New York State

Speaker: Ricky Silver, Empire State Indivisible

Election of 2020 Three Parks Board of Directors

Endorsements for Federal and State Offices

U.S. Congress • State Senate • State Assembly

• State Committee • Judicial Delegates

AGENDA

7:45 pm: Sign in

8:00 pm: Call to Order

District Leader Report

Guest Speaker: Ricky Silver

Questions and Answers

Election of Three Parks Board*

Endorsements for Federal and State Offices*

Adjourn

*Ballot Box for Board Election and

Endorsements will be open from 8:30-9:30 pm

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President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

For Three Parks, 2020 is off to a fabulous start! At our January 8 club meeting, we welcomed MSNBC Legal Analyst Maya Wiley (*shown below*), who spoke on "Impeachment: What's Next?"

The Hostel ballroom was packed—standing room only! Wiley was extremely well versed in impeachment legal procedures, and despite the seriousness of the topic, she was a delight to listen to. Her main points centered on whether the impeachment trial would be "real" or "fake." She warned that if Republicans succeed in holding a sham trial with no witnesses, a dangerous precedent might be set for all future impeachment trials. She also pointed out that Chief Justice Roberts' presiding role would be limited because the Senate can overrule him on any issue with a 51% majority vote. She was poised, insightful, intelligent, and personable. Wiley left her listeners with a note of optimism: If you assume defeat, there is only one outcome: defeat. If you have hope, there are possibilities.



We then heard from representatives of our elected officials who are up for re-election this year: State Senators Robert Jackson and Brian Benjamin, Congress Member Jerry Nadler and two of his opponents in the primary—Lindsay Boylan and Jonathan Herzog, Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell, and State Committee Members Dan Cohen and Lynn Thomas. We ended the meeting by asking for nominations for the Three Parks Board of Directors and for Judicial Delegates for 2020. Endorsement votes will be held at our February 12 club meeting.

Our annual Holiday Party, usually held in December, was moved to January 12 due to a rare scheduling conflict with the Hostel. Though the party took place after the official holiday season was over, it was a big hit! No one appeared to miss one more holiday party in December; in fact, people seemed to appreciate the opportunity to

get together after the holiday stresses were over. I sensed a definite mood of lightness and fun at our January party. And the board agreed; at their next meeting they voted that from now on, Three Parks will celebrate the holidays by holding our annual Winter Party in January.

Our January 21 Phone Bank was our most successful ever! Nearly 40 dedicated club members and friends took part. They made phone calls and wrote postcards to Republican seniors in Kentucky, letting them know that Senator Mitch McConnell has threatened cuts to Social Security and Medicare. They also made phone calls to younger registered Democrats in Maine who neglected to vote in 2018, urging them to vote in 2020.

To sum up, our new year is off to a terrific start. May that energy and commitment continue throughout the rest of 2020!

District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

As I write this today, *The New York Times* quotes University of San Francisco professor of Politics, Ken Goldstein, "There's this mistaken assumption in politics, we've got this really good message, let's save that till the end." At Three Parks, we emphatically agree—let's not wait. Currently we hold regular issue-focused phone banking and postcard writing evenings to unseat Republican Senators Susan Collins and Mitch McConnell. Getting a good message out early about Republican attacks on Social Security and Medicare is much more effective than waiting until just before the election. These evenings are organized by Chuck Wall, Dan Cohen, and Lynn and Steve Max. If you have not helped already, RSVP to the Three Parks' email announcement of the next evening of phone banking, Wednesday, February 18, or email Chuck at chuckwall07@gmail.com.

Anti-Semitism in New York

On January 2, following a rash of anti-Semitic attacks in December 2019, including the assaults in Brooklyn, the stabbing in Monsey and the shooting in the kosher supermarket in Jersey City, I attended a packed forum at the Mt. Sinai Jewish Center in Washington Heights. The meeting, quickly organized by Congress member Adriano Espaillat, was a valuable response to these hateful acts. Espaillat was joined by NYPD Police Commissioner Dermot Shea, NY Attorney General Letitia James,

Borough President Gale Brewer, Councilmembers Mark Levine and Keith Powers, Assemblymember Al Taylor, Deborah Lauter the Director of the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, David Pollock from the Jewish Council of Community Relations and other representatives from the Washington Heights community.

Espaillet kicked off the forum by noting how the Washington Heights community, that has large populations of Dominicans and Jews, came together in 2018 to protest and surround white supremacists that had assembled in Fort Tryon Park. This forum demonstrated similar solidarity and the refusal to allow outbursts of religious, ethnic, or gender hate to intimidate us.

At the forum, NYPD Police Commissioner Dermot Shea noted that in 2019 there were more than 400 hate crimes, a 54% increase, half of which were anti-Semitic. Eighty percent of the anti-Semitic incidents involved graffiti, swastikas and other hate symbols. According to Shea about half the acts were by individuals with a psychotic history and half by "stupid" kids. Some of the forum speakers thought that young people participated in these acts because they were unaware of the Holocaust or the strong Jewish participation in the civil rights movement. But Deborah Lauter, Director of the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, noted that there is an ongoing program in the public schools to inform the students about this history that has reached over 70% of Brooklyn public school students.

In response to the hate crimes, there have been added patrols and money for extra security from New York State and the federal government. NYPD is adding patrols in orthodox areas and increased protection for synagogues. New York State has added an additional \$25,000,000 to fight hate crimes. Attorney General Letitia James said that her office will add twelve investigators to her hate crimes unit. Espaillet reported that Congress has authorized \$90,000,000 as part of the national fight.

Candidates for Judicial Delegates

At the February 12 Club meeting, members will be voting to endorse six candidates for Judicial Delegate and six alternates. The following Club members have submitted information about their candidacy.

Sam Bartos—an active litigation lawyer, has recently served as an alternate delegate to the judicial convention. He is currently co-chair of the

New York County Lawyers' Committee on Solo and Small Firm Practice, having served for five years as secretary of NYCLA's Federal Courts Committee. He is proud of our unusual judicial selection process, which emphasizes the qualifications, legal principles, and independence of judges.

Alan Flacks—an experienced and knowledgeable delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, is conversant with procedures and is committed to the merit screening panel process which he helped establish. After each convention, Alan writes a report of the proceedings for club members and other interested people. A long-time TPID member and Democratic County Committee member, Alan also has served as the club's membership and corresponding secretaries. Community and civic activities include his block association, the 24th Pct. Community Council, the NAACP, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Community Advisory Board.

Elaine Hazzard—a licensed NY attorney, has appeared at trials and hearings in Federal and State courts, and is admitted to the bars of four states and the U.S. Supreme Court. Elaine has been a court-appointed arbitrator and has taught law. As a Judicial Delegate in 2019, she helped select Jennifer Schecter as our successful Democratic judicial candidate. Elaine will seek strong, independent judges who will stand against injustice and organized crime and stand up for the rights of individuals.

Audrey Isaacs—an active Alternate Judicial Delegate for the past eight years, Audrey goes to the courtrooms of judges seeking elevation to Supreme Court Justice to see them presiding during judicial proceedings. She then prepares charts comparing the qualifications of candidates. From 1975-2000, she was an attorney in private practice, specializing in litigation, and appeared for clients in state and federal courts, and city, state and federal agencies. From 1996-2008, she was an Administrative Law Judge. In 2008, she was promoted to supervise an administrative courthouse with seven Administrative Judges.

Elizabeth Kellner—is a retired attorney and TPID member for 40 years. Elizabeth has served as a Judicial Delegate or Alternate several times, as well as Club President and board member. Since retiring, Elizabeth has served on the boards of a major network of community health care clinics, a public interest foundation affiliated with Columbia Law School, and a child advocacy policy not-for-profit. Her hus-

band maintains an active practice in the New York courts where he regularly follows developments.

Bruce Markens—has been elected as Judicial Delegate or Alternate on eight occasions. He served eight years on the TPID Board, including one as Recording Secretary. He co-chaired the club's Education Committee and helped formulate TPID's resolution supporting a moratorium on charter school expansion. He was active in the Sweatshop Free Upper West Side Campaign, fighting wage theft and exploitation of restaurant and nail salon workers. He participated in Presidential storefronts in 2008, 2012, and 2016 and canvassed for various Congressional candidates in 2018.

Merle McEldowney—Merle's bio appears elsewhere in this issue, as a TPID board member candidate in this issue.

Alfred Placeres—formerly a staff attorney for Harlem Legal Services, Al maintained a law office at 2710 Broadway from 1982 to 2015. He is a former Board Member of Community Board 7, former President and board member of the NYS Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, former Chair, Immigration Law Committee, of the Hispanic National Bar Association, and author of "Como Conseguir Los Papeles." Civic Awards include Mayor Bloomberg's Small Business Advocate Award, NYS Comptroller H. Carl McCall Civic Service Award, and the Greater NY Chamber of Commerce Small Business Advocate Award. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer proclaimed July 15, 2019, Alfred Placeres Appreciation Day.

Stephanie Tegnazian—has been involved in the judiciary selection process since Lloyd McAuley began the interview forums. She has visited Housing Court, Court of Claims, Family Court, Civil Court, Supreme Court, and Appellate Court to better understand how judges do their jobs. Stephanie has worked on campaigns for Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Robert Jackson, and Congresspersons Max Rose (Staten Island) and Jess King (PA). Last year she became involved with NY VOTES, a statewide grassroots advocacy group dedicated to guiding lawmakers on the need to change in our NYS voting laws.

Deborah Thomas—has served on the NY County Committee since 2006. She is a former board member and current club member of Three Parks

since 2004, and has been active doing petitioning, tabling, phone banking for candidates, working at the Obama and Clinton storefronts in 2008, 2012 and 2016, and fighting for health care reform and saving Social Security. Outside of politics, I am an opera singer and retired music and theater teacher in the NYC public schools, where I co-wrote the curriculum for the "ESL through the Arts" program.

Lauren Williams—was co-manager for the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center and TPID president for 2015 and 2016. She also served as membership director, corresponding secretary, newsletter editor, recording secretary, and board member at large. She welcomes the opportunity to serve as a Judicial Delegate, given the Trump administration's attacks on our justice system and the importance of the selection process for judges.

Robert Bardin and **Jacob Sher** have also been nominated for Judicial Delegate but their bios were not available when we went to print.

"Take Back the Senate" Campaign Brings Out a Crowd of Volunteers

By Chuck Wall

At the very moment that the impeachment trial in Washington was demonstrating the importance of taking back the Senate, Three Parks volunteers were hard at work reaching out to voters in battleground states. In a sign of the times, on January 21 an overflow crowd of volunteers gathered once again to make phone calls and write postcards to try to influence crucial Senate races. This was the fourth event in the current "Take Back Congress" campaign. All interested Club members are invited to join us in our ongoing efforts.



Volunteers at the Jan. 21 event wrote postcards to voters in Kentucky to alert them to Republican threats to their retirement benefits.

As Club members know, helping Democrats regain control of the Senate in 2020 is crucial. We continue to target two important races: the fights to unseat Republican Senators Mitch McConnell in Kentucky and Susan Collins in Maine. On Jan. 21, we had three activities going on at once:

- Phoning Republican seniors in Kentucky to alert them that Senator McConnell cannot be trusted to protect their benefits.
- Writing postcards to Republican seniors in Kentucky with the same message.
- Phoning younger registered Democrats in Maine who neglected to vote in 2018 and urging them to come to the polls next year.

We will be scheduling more phone banking/postcard writing events this winter and spring. Here is the next event:

**Next Phone Bank and Postcard-Writing Event
Tuesday, February 18, 6:30-8:30 PM**

For details, watch for email announcements or check the Three Parks website, threeparksdems.org

Petitions and Pizza Party

**Wednesday, February 26
7:30 to 9:00 pm**

The Youth Hostel
891 Amsterdam Ave. at
103rd Street

Club members: Come and
pick up your petitions, and
enjoy some pizza!



Three Parks Memories for Black History Month

By Judy Wood

Over the years, Three Parks has been fortunate to be part of the lives of many amazing African-American members of our community. Black History Month is an opportunity for us to remember some of those who have passed. In no particular order, we remember:

- **Rosetta Williams**, for her eternal good spirits and fabulous fried chicken at our parties.
- **Jesse Crawford**, club member and activist for whom our community service award is named.
- **Clara Taylor**, for her unfailingly peaceful demeanor and calm way of speaking.
- **Corinne Petty**, the retired school principal whose wisdom and experience spoke to us all.
- **Marie Lunn**, volunteer par excellence who worked at many locations helping others over many years.
- **Odessa Steward**, who worked with the police department for years to ensure our safety.
- **Philip Reed**, our district leader and city councilman who contributed so much to our club and our city.

TPID Joins the Women's March

By Irene Shrier

On Jan.18, TPID members and friends gathered at the 96th Street subway station to participate in the fourth annual Women's March. Despite

the cold and forecast of snow, we joined many others assembled along the march route on Central Park West. While the crowd was somewhat smaller than in past years, marchers carried homemade signs and chanted the usual refrain, "Hey ho, Donald Trump must go!" Mingling among the crowd was Senator Chuck Schumer, cheering us on.



Club Members Eligible to Vote on Feb. 12, 2020

Baldwin, Emily
Baldwin, Susan J.
Baldwin, William
Bardin, Robert
Bartos, Carole
Bartos, Samuel
Bennett Johnson, Genora
Bifani, Paul
Botfeld, Bob
Brancato, Vincent
Brown, Raven
Bynum, Janice
Canter, Theresa
Chung, Young Me
Constantine, Corinne
Crowley, Kitty
Daitz, Mimi
DeSeta, Maxine
Doty, Cynthia
Fifer, Gerry Ann
Flacks, Alan
Flax, Ellen
Freedman, Helen
Froehlich, Paul
Gerard, Daniele
Gonzalez, Ron
Gumbs, Robert
Haberstock, Jessica
Hazzard, Elaine
Isaacs, Audrey
Jamison-Howard, Ruth
Kellner, Elizabeth Krob
Kishner, Andrea
Korman, Iris J.
Lafond, Norman
Laitin, Penelope
Lazarus, David
Leider, Hannah
Levitt, Renee Greene
Maderer, Susan
Malcolm, Betsy
Markens, Bruce
Marks, Mary Ann
Max, Stephen
Max, Lynn Bender
McGuinness, George
Medina, Judith
Mehlman, Arlene

Nelson, Barbara
O'Donnell, Melanie
Pepper, Josh
Pierre, Judy
Placeres, Alfred
Placeres, Efigenia
Podwill, Elliot
Rabban, Miriam
Safian, Lois
Sher, Barry N.
Sher, Jacob
Sherman, Fredrick
Shrier, Irene
Smith, Willie
Stearns, Michael
Stearns, Roschel Holland
Tegnazian, Stephanie
Verzar, Christine
Victor, Helene
Wall, Charles
Williams, Lauren A.
Wood, Judy G.
Zak, Anthony
Zamora, Lorraine
Zucker, Tamar
Zucker-Brull, Ariel

Members Eligible to Vote If Paid on Feb. 12, 2020

Baird, Eva-Lee
Beels, Margaret
Beels, Clemens Christian
Belkin, Amy
Brunker, Marla
Camacho, David
Cohen, Daniel Marks
Davenport, John
Dess, Susan
Dess, Irene
Diller, Wendy
Eckersley, Timothy
Geissman, Mary J.
Ginsberg, Robert
Gomez, Pilar
Greene, Timothy
Gross, Jacob
Hall, Marnie
Huey, Jacqueline
Hummel, Judy
Jenkins, Emma

Jenkins, Russell
Jillson, Katherine
Kaplan, David C.
Laufer, Kenneth
Leinwall, Gail
Makleff, Rachel
McEldowney, Merle
McGloster, Abigail
Medwedew, Alex
Meister, Minda
Morgan, Brenda
Murphy, Forrest C.
Newell, John
Pasley, Mary
Rubin, Jonathan
Samuels, Katherine
Scalise, Carl Joseph
Schultz, Gerald
Schwartz, Ray
Semler, Michelle
Silverman, Vera
Socular, Deborah
Spitz, Allan
Stark, Barbara
Sterler, Lewis
Strauss, Steve
Thomas, Deborah
Thomas, Lynn
Tsadok, Daniel
Tulloch, Ken
Tyrkko, Arlene
Viera, Diana Zoe
Voorhis, George
Walsh, Tim
Williston, Kitty
Zeche, Gloria

***Voting Eligibility Clause:** In order to vote in Club elections, members must have paid dues for 2020 and attended at least one meeting in the past six months. Members paid up for 2019 and who meet the attendance requirement eligible to vote upon payment of 2020 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. Lapsed memberships are considered new. *Reminder:* Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.

Three Parks Winter Holiday Party

At the Winter Holiday party on January 12, TPID members and their families gathered to enjoy fun, festivities, and great food and to greet many local elected officials.

Below left to right: State Committee Member Dan Cohen, District Leader Cynthia Doty, Senator Chuck Schumer, TPID President Lorraine Zamora, District Leader Bob Botfeld, State Committee Member Lynn Thomas.

For more photos, visit: www.flickr.com/photos/30081092@N04/.



2020 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**.

Mail to: Three Parks Independent Democrats

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

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Next Meeting:

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020

Budget Justice for NYS

Ricky Silver
Empire State Indivisible

Election of TPID Board

**Endorsements for Federal &
State Offices**

U.S. Congress • State Senate
State Assembly • State Committee
Judicial Delegates

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting
7:30-9:00 Petitions & Pizza Party

Wednesday, March 11, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Club Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Club Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting