



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Club Meeting, January 11, 2017

Topic: New York City Financial Outlook Under a Trump Presidency

Speaker: Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller, New York City

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Time: 8:00 PM

Place: The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign-in

8:00 pm Call to Order

District Leader Reports

Nominating Committee Report

Community Forum Report

Speaker: Hon. Scott Stringer
Comptroller,
New York City

Adjourn

CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Membership meeting,
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting, The Youth Hostel,
891 Amsterdam Avenue

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Membership meeting,
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting, The Youth Hostel,
891 Amsterdam Avenue

President's Report

Lauren Williams

As this newsletter reaches you, we will be into 2017 and begun implementation of our plans to push back on President-elect Trump's agenda. Democrats and other activists across the country are mobilizing to resist and thwart the agenda Trump and Republican congressional leaders are proposing. Since our November meeting, Three Parks members and volunteers from our campaign center have been circulating petitions to Senator Schumer, participating in post-election marches and our Community Forum on December 14, and signing up for activities to advocate our positions and take actions against Trump's announced administration and agenda. We must speak out, take action, and plan for the future so we defeat, and at a minimum slow, the radical and unacceptable agenda Trump is espousing. (Congressman Jerry Nadler has prepared a document suggesting actions to take that we have posted on our website at www.threeparksdems.org/Nadler.pdf)

The Three Parks Board of Directors extends thanks to all of our dedicated members and volunteers who contributed to the success of our Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center that opened in September and operated through early November. While all of our candidates were not victorious, we can celebrate the re-elections of Senator Chuck Schumer, Representative Jerry Nadler, NYS State Senator Bill Perkins, Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell and extend congratulations to new Congressman Adriano Espaillat and new NYS Senator MariSol Alcantara. Three Parks and Broadway Democrats partnered on the Center to attract and engage hundreds of volunteers and community residents in activities that supported national and state candidates. Other Centers' activities included hosting club meetings and debate-watch gatherings, registering voters, creating a family-oriented event where parents made phone calls while their children made buttons and posters, and coordinating canvassing and phone banking efforts with candidates' campaigns.

On January 11, we will welcome New York

City Comptroller Scott Stringer to our club meeting where he will provide his forecast for the effects of Trump's agenda on the city's budget and programs. Candidates for the 2017 Three Parks Board of Directors will be announced by the Nominating Committee, and we will learn about outcomes and proposed actions rising from December's Community Forum. I encourage you to renew your membership and become more involved in our club.

2017 Nominating Committee Report

The Three Parks annual meeting and club elections will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017. The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has proposed the following list of candidates. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the forthcoming January 11 meeting. Biographies of all candidates will be included in the February newsletter. The Board thanks departing members Elizabeth Kellner, Erl Kimmich, Betsy Malcolm, Gerald Schultz, Bruce Markens, Lauren Williams, and Judy Wood for their service and contributions to the club and board.

President – Merle McEldowney

First Vice President – Daniele Gerard

Second Vice President – Lynn Bender Max

Treasurer – Ellen Flax

Recording Secretary – Jock Davenport

Corresponding Secretary – Lorraine Zamora

Membership Director – Theresa Canter

Board Members: Corine Constantine, Wendy Dannett, Marie Lunn, Mary Ann Marks, Steve Max, Abigail McGloster, Lois Safian, Milivoy Samurovich, Nathan Schumer, Irene Shrier, Cecilia Villabona and Chuck Wall.

Report on Three Parks Community Forum

Steve and Lynn Max

Members and friends of Three Parks can still sign up for the activities to stop the Trump

Agenda that were discussed at the special community forum held in December. (Copy this link into your web browser: <http://tinyurl.com/hkxsntz>.) Nearly 130 people attended. Many were club members; others had been active in the club's Campaign Center and still others were from Upper Westsiders for Bernie. The forum started with reading excerpts from an excellent statement by our Congressman, Jerry Nadler, which you can reach from the link above.

After a open mic when we exchanged views on the election outcome, volunteers signed up for the following:

1. The January 21 Demonstrations in Washington and New York. (For the NYC demonstration, Three Parks will meet at the subway entrance at 96th St. and Broadway at 10:15 AM.)
2. Petitioning. We are asking our Senators to stand firm against the Trump agenda, no deals and no concessions - use the filibuster. Copies of the petition are at the link above. Tabling on Broadway will be announced soon.
3. Letter Writing. We want to keep up a steady stream of letters to the editor.
4. Take Back Congress and take back the State Senate races. It is not too early to start targeting districts for 2018.
5. Voter Registration.

To sign up and to get more information, go to the Club's Stop Trump Action Page. <http://tinyurl.com/hkxsntz>

Excerpts from

HOW WE RESIST TRUMP AND HIS EXTREME AGENDA

By Congressman Jerry Nadler

Nov. 18, 2016

Donald Trump doesn't deserve the benefit of the doubt because he has not earned the benefit of the doubt. The burden is on Trump to change his stripes, though I, like many of you, am deeply doubtful that will ever happen. As such, there can be no normalization of him or

his Administration.

Here are some ideas:

Write letters to media editors every time you see an article or broadcast that utilizes a normalizing tone or doesn't make note of the extreme nature of Trump, his behavior and rhetoric, or his Administration's actions.

Use the hashtag #NotNormal or #DontNormalize on your social media platforms.

Contact your elected officials via petitions, letters, calls and social media to urge them to resist any action that would normalize the Administration and demand that they loudly condemn any Trump actions that are unbefitting our democracy.

Reach out to your friends and family and encourage them to do the same.

Support rhetorically and financially those organizations that are stepping up to fight normalization.

Advocacy groups and everyday citizens must become a unified blocking force for Congressional Democrats who are fighting against Trump's extreme agenda.

Congressional Democrats must ... use all available means to resist and thwart Trump's agenda. But we need a tough and efficient fighting force standing behind us. Concerned national organizations and individuals must band together immediately, in unprecedented and streamlined ways, putting aside slight ideological differences and competitions, and become committed to sharing resources in the interest of building an all-in force. It may very well require unorthodox advocacy strategies, like the creation of broader-than-normal coalitions based on each of Trump's individual proposals, wherein single issue groups may find themselves working on issues outside their normal wheelhouse to the extent their memberships allow, for the greater good.

Congressional leaders will be talking directly

to the national advocacy groups about this, and how to link directly to our emerging organizational structure within Congress to fight.

Download the full six page statement here:
www.threeparksdems.org/Nadler.pdf

Justice Will Be Served
Urges Boycott of
Manhattan Valley Restaurant

Despite a court order to pay workers \$700,000 in unpaid wages, the owners of the former Indus Valley on 100th St. and Broadway refuse to pay. They changed the name of the restaurant to Manhattan Valley in an attempt to avoid their responsibility. As Three Parks members will recall, Justice Will Be Served was honored by Three Parks several years ago for their work in combating wage theft.

Submitted by Lynn Max

Three Parks Holiday Party

By Lorraine Zamora

Three Parks held its annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 4, in the ballroom of the American Youth Hostel. Over 200 club members, friends and their families attended and partook of the fabulous array of food that they themselves provided.

District Leaders Cynthia Doty and Bob Botfeld welcomed everyone, including elected officials Congressman Jerry Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Congressman-elect and State Senator Adriano Espaillat, State Senator Bill Perkins and Assemblyman Keith Wright. Also attending were former City Councilman Robert Jackson (who stayed late to help with the clean-up), former State Senator Frnz Leichter, former New York City Comptroller John Liu, as well as judges, district leaders and state committee members.

The success of the party is due to an army of Three Parks board/club members and friends –

in alpha order – Bob Botfeld, Lynn Braswell, Theresa Canter, Daniel Marks Cohen, Wendy Dannett, Jock Davenport, Cynthia Doty, Ellen Flax, Daniele Gerard, Erl Kimmich, Elizabeth and Doug Kellner, Marie Lunn, Betsy Malcolm, Bruce Markens, Mary Ann Marks, Steve and Lynn Max, Merle McEldowney, Alex Medwedew, Milivoy Samurovich, Ray Schwatz, Lynn Thomas, Chuck Wall, Lauren Williams and Judy Wood. This dedicated group sent out invitations and e-blasts, made reminder calls, bought plants and paper goods, ordered and set up the decorations, tended the bar, served the food and stayed to clean up. All in all, it was a remarkable team effort.

The evening included a request for donations to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. \$355 was raised in addition to contributions of food.

Looking Back at 2016: Some Thoughts

Erl Kimmich

In February, Bernie Sanders teams in New York wound up submitting more than 80,000 ballot petitions to the NYS Board of Elections or 16 times the required 5,000. Not surprisingly many Three Parks members contributed in this effort to move our donkey party in a direction of victory for a people's agenda.

Before the March deadline tens of thousands of young people registered as Democrat to be able to vote for Bernie in the primary. Still, Bernie lost the NY primary April 19 amidst sudden purging of tens of thousands of voters from the rolls in Brooklyn.

The DNC and the Democratic leadership misguided the party. The platform committee at the Democratic Convention could not even bring itself to include an anti-TPP clause.

The vice presidential selection was as lackluster at best. Was it a first ever at a Democratic convention to have thousands of signs with the Republican nominee's name in big print on them? *Love Trumps Hate.*

On May 3 Democrat Sheldon Silver the Majority Leader in Albany was sentenced to serve prison time. On May 12, less than two weeks later, Dean Skelos, Republican Senate majority leader, was sentenced to prison time.

In October the Colombian people voted by a narrow margin to reject the Peace Agreement negotiated between the Santos Government and the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) which would have ended a 50-year armed conflict.

Also in October the Portuguese the Socialist Communist coalition government again called for the German finance minister to chill out with his demands to impose austerity measures on the Portuguese people. The coalition forcefully pointed out that the deficit had been greatly reduced owing to the sound leftist fiscal policies they were practicing. The German Minister had to eat crow.

A bill came before the House of Representatives to force Nicaragua to hold elections. Fancy that! When the US foreign policy machine wants to interfere in elections they don't resort to leaking or hacking in secret. They just force countries to hold elections until the vote goes for the candidate that we chose for them. Ask any Haitian.

Trump wins the White House. Voter turn-out was only about 55. percent of eligible voters. The Army Corps of Engineers halts the DAPL citing the need for an EIS and more. Protestors and supporters around the country are elated. Yet this vanguard of folks agitating for an end to fossil fuel use, for the rights of the first peoples, and for the protection of our land water and air know that this showdown is far from over. In just two days following the decision, Shaun King's brilliant Injustice Boycott action force was able to raise over \$300,000 to send to the Standing Rock efforts.

A speaker kicked off the Three Parks open microphone community meeting urging us to remain vigilant so that we do not find our country in another war. I really appreciated this, as there has been so much saber-rattling in the past months. Hawkish posturing towards Russia and Iran and China while all the while threatening a no-fly zone in Syria does not bode well. I watched our arch-enemy Cheney and that Leon Panetta in a televised discussion at the Reagan Library urging a hard line against Putin. The drums to war are banging loudly, aren't they? Are we about to be suckered again?

Finally, we all wish the Obamas the best on the

next leg of their journey. I hope president Obama has pardoned Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown), Leonard Peltier, and Assata Shakur, Eric Snowden, and Chelsea Manning among others before he leaves.

Also, Sanders supporters are demanding more party positions and representation in the DNC. With their help Democrats can win the House and Senate in 2018.

Three Parks Independent democrats threw an open mike meeting as the neighborhood needed to come together to start the fight back. Well over 100 people were in attendance. Newcomers to political struggle and seasoned activists alike voiced their commitment to take action and urged us all to remain active.

Over 100 more petition signatures were gathered to tell Schumer: "No deals, no concessions with Trump"

Locally we push Cuomo to steer the IDC group of Democratic state senators to vote in favor of the decent legislation the State Assembly passes.

The resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline is a national rallying point. As is Shaun King's Injustice Boycott.

There are many tools to pick up and help build a movement, from social media to knocking on doors and editorial writing.

Let's not get too down! The Clinton and Bush dynasties may have ended in this election cycle and that is reason for working people everywhere to celebrate.

And what of us, the Democratic Party? Will we continue to play footsies with the billionaire class? Are we going to be the party that can't choose sides? Or will we finally acknowledge that the rich have been having their way with us for decades? Will we protect and serve the Democratic leaders who insist on continuing the failed Clinton/Reagan programs? Or will we demand and build a new and improved party? We know we need to bring pressure on both Cuomo and Schumer. Remember that through resolute effort we won a fracking ban in New York so we can accomplish plenty. Did I hear someone say single payer?



Three Parks 2017 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 2017.**

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, N.Y. 10025**

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017
New York City Financial Outlook Under a
Trump Presidency
Speaker: Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller, New York City**