



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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<i>President</i>	<i>Editors</i>	<i>District Leaders</i>	<i>State Committee</i>
Merle McEldowney	Lorraine Zamora Corinne Constantine Jock Davenport Richard E. Luna	Bob Botfeld Cynthia Doty	Lynn Thomas Daniel Marks Cohen

**Club Meeting, June 13, 2018, 8:00 pm**

**The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street**

***Getting Ready for a Blue/Pink Wave***

**Speakers:**

**Kenneth Sherrill, Prof. Emeritus, Political Science, Hunter College**

**Charles Tien, Prof., Political Science, Hunter College, Graduate Center, CUNY**

**Brette McSweeney, Executive Director, Eleanor's Legacy**

**Endorsements for NYS Attorney General**

**Annual Pizza & Petitioning Party**

### AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign-in  
8:00 pm Call to Order  
District Leader Report  
Guest Speakers  
Endorsements for NYS Attorney General  
Pizza and Petitioning  
Questions & Answers  
Adjourn

### CALENDAR

**Wednesday, June 27, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Board Meeting

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**Wednesday, July 25, 5:30–8:00 pm**

**Annual Three Parks Picnic, Central Park**

Enter at 103 Street & Central Park West

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**Wednesday, August 22, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Board Meeting

**Wednesday, September 12, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Club Meeting

**Wednesday, September 26, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Board Meeting

## President's Report

By Merle McEldowney

On Sunday evening, May 6, the West Side Forum for Gubernatorial Candidates, held at B'nai Jeshurun, was really exciting! The idea germinated at a political breakfast and from that conversation, five Upper West Side political clubs who have a reputation and history of competing with one another, got together to have a joint forum. We invited both gubernatorial candidates, Cynthia Nixon and Andrew Cuomo, and both candidates for Lieutenant governor, Jumaane Williams and Kathy Hochul, to speak. Governor Cuomo did not come and did not send a surrogate. On the fly, Hochul said she would be Gov. Cuomo's surrogate. Over 400 attended the event. There was a little bit of rain and a whole lot of enthusiasm.

The May club meeting featured City Council member Mark Levine and Borough President Gail Brewer. Gail could not make it but sent her chief of staff, Jessica Mates. Both Mark and Jessica answered questions from the audience with amazing grace and knowledge. Endorsements were made at the meeting: Cynthia Nixon for Governor, and Jumaane Williams for Lieutenant Governor.

A few days before our May meeting, attorney General Eric Schneiderman resigned from office. Everyone reading this knows the circumstances so I will not go into them except to say that it is a great loss to the Upper West Side, New York State and, many of us believe, the whole country. We have three candidates: Letitia "Tish" James, Zephyr Teachout and Leecia Eve. What a choice: three amazing women with a history of using their legal credentials to promote progressive causes. All have passionate supporters. To my knowledge, no one will have a problem petitioning and campaigning for any one.

At our June meeting, we will have a chance to vote on who our club is endorsing for AG. Tish, Zephyr and Leecia have been invited to attend or send a surrogate. It will be worth it to come to the meeting just to have a voice in that decision. We also have three prominent speakers to talk about the political climate we are encountering: Ken Sherrill, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, at Hunter College, Charles Tien, Professor, Political Science at Hunter and the Graduate Center, CUNY, and Brette McSweeney, Executive Director, Eleanor's Legacy.

And, of course, there will be pizza for all and petitions handed out for candidates running for office in September. Come and join us to help the candidates. It is important and it will be fun.

## District Leader

By Bob Botfeld

Petitioning begins Tuesday, June 5. Robert Jackson (31st SD), Three Parks' endorsed State Senate candidate, needs our help early and often to collect nominating signatures and to promote his candidacy. Jackson is in a tough race against a well-financed incumbent, Marisol Alcantara, who until very recently was a key member of the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC), the Democrats who caucused and voted with the Republicans. During petitioning we have our best opportunity to educate our neighbors about the damage the IDC has done to the state. Republican control of the State Senate has also had national implications. Because the IDC has perpetuated Republican control of the New York State Senate, New York's congressional districts have been redistricted to give the Republicans more Congress members than their much lower party registration in New York State would warrant. This has made the crucial task of retaking the House more difficult.

We will not know until the petitioning period is over whether our other endorsed candidates will have opponents, but each of our endorsed candidates needs our help: Brian Benjamin in the 30th State Senate district, Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell (69th AD), club members Lynn Thomas and Dan Cohen for Democratic State Committee, and our countywide and 5th district Civil Court candidates and judicial delegates.

The Three Parks' endorsed candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Cynthia Nixon and Jumaane Williams, face the daunting requirement to collect over 15,000 valid signatures to get on the ballot. It's a difficult and unequal challenge. Because Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul received the nomination of the State Committee last week, they are automatically on the ballot and do not have to collect any signatures.

Petitioning is critical. If candidates do not get the requisite number of signatures, they won't be on the ballot. If they're not on the ballot, they cannot be elected—even if they are the incumbents. Because we reliably petition for our endorsed candidates every year, the candidates pay attention to our issues and our neighborhood concerns.

Petitioning is also our chance to meet our neighbors, talk about local issues and politics, get some fresh air while standing on the street corner, join other club members at the weekend tables, and knock on our neighbors' doors.

Because petitioning begins a week before our next club meeting on June 13, the petitions will be distributed at the Three Parks campaign tables on Broadway on Tuesday,

June 5; Thursday, June 7, Saturday, June 9; and Sunday, June 10. Check your email for locations and additional tabling dates. As usual, the June 13 club meeting and pizza party will include further petitioning training.

*A note for political history junkies:* Cynthia Nixon's challenge to Andrew Cuomo follows a similar uphill race by Zephyr Teachout in 2014. In the September 2014 primary Teachout received only 35 percent of the statewide vote. But here in the 69th assembly district, Teachout won 57 percent of the vote and ran even better in the Three Parks area of the 69th AD gaining 58 percent of the primary vote while winning 22 of our 37 election districts.

### Endorsement Results from May 9 Club Meeting

#### NYS Governor

14 Andrew Cuomo  
52 Cynthia Nixon  
22 No Endorsement

#### NYS Lieutenant Governor

16 Kathy Hochul  
57 Jumaane Williams  
12 No Endorsement

#### NYS Comptroller

65 Tom DiNapoli  
14 No Endorsement

#### NYS Assembly, 69th AD

62 Daniel J. O'Donnell  
6 No Endorsement

#### NYS Committee, Female 69th AD

67 Lynn Thomas  
10 No Endorsement

#### NYS Committee, Male 69th AD

75 Daniel Marks Cohen  
5 No Endorsement

#### Judicial Delegates\*

51 Alan Flacks  
39 Audrey Isaacs  
48 Elizabeth Kellner  
34 Abigail McGloster  
42 Bruce Markens  
21 Al Placeres

\*The three candidates with the most votes will be delegates. The next two candidates will be alternate delegates.

### Democratic State Committeeman report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

What does being the New York State "Official Democratic Nominee" mean? And is there any truth to the myth that becoming the "Official" nominee ensures that the candidate will lose? The "Official Democratic Nominee" is any candidate who receives more than 50 percent of the vote at the NYS Democratic convention. The myth is that becoming the Official Democratic Nominee is a "kiss of death" in a competitive primary as they usually proceed to lose the election. But is this true?

At the State Convention, there are two thresholds; any candidate getting 25 percent of the vote is placed on the primary ballot and those getting more than 50 percent enables the candidate to claim the "official" title. Those who may receive the "official" title does not prevent other candidates from qualifying, as long as they receive 25 percent of the vote (in one scenario - with perfect math

– a candidate could get exactly 50 percent and two other candidates could get exactly 25 percent, thus all three would be on the ballot with only one of them designated the "official" nominee). Being placed on the ballot means a candidate does not have to collect 15,000 signatures from more than one-half of the congressional districts in the state to be in the state-wide Democratic primary. Collecting this many signatures across the state is time consuming and expensive, so winning at least 25 percent can save a prospective campaign a lot of time and money.

At the most recent NYS Democratic Convention at Hofstra last week, the open seat of former Attorney General Eric Schneiderman was contested by three women, which is an historic moment for NY state: (1) current NYC Public Advocate and attorney Tish James; (2) 2014 Gubernatorial Democratic Primary candidate, 2016 NY-19 Congressional candidate and Fordham Law Professor Zephyr Teachout; and (3) 2006 Lieutenant Gubernatorial Democratic Primary candidate and current Verizon VP for Government Affairs, attorney Leecia Eve. At the State Convention, James got 85 percent of the weighted vote of the State Committee, 5 percent went to Teachout, and 10% to Eve. Thus, James is on the ballot because she is over the 50 percent threshold; she is also the Official Democratic Nominee. Teachout and Eve will have to petition to be placed on the ballot.

Back to the myth: is it the kiss of death that the "Official Democratic Nominees" usually all lose? Recently, at club meetings I have repeated this myth. But after doing some research, I am mostly wrong. You have to go back more than 20 years to find a case where this is true: Oliver Koppell was chosen by the NYS legislature to replace the Attorney General Bob Abrams, who resigned mid-term in 1993. Koppell was chosen as the Official Democratic Nominee at the State Convention in the spring of 1994, but went on to lose the Primary to Karen Burstein later that fall, and then Burstein herself lost to Republican Dennis Vacco in the general election that November. More recently, we have had Tom DiNapoli as Comptroller, picked to fill the remainder of Alan Hevesi's term in 2006 and re-elected without incident in 2010 and 2014. Kirsten Gillibrand was chosen to replace Hillary Clinton as Senator in 2009 and has been re-elected twice, in 2010 and again in 2014. And, most recently, the Lieutenant Governor position under Cuomo was swapped from Robert Duffy to Kathy Hochul, with the latter elected in 2014 without incident.

I suppose one could say there is no advantage to being the Official Democratic Nominee based on recent history, but with a small sample size of ONE, that is not a scientific scenario. Another test will come this year, with the 2018 AG

race, but if past performance is a predictor of future results, looking at for all vacancies filled mid-term, Tish James is in a strong position to win the Primary for Attorney General this fall. Personally, I voted for Teachout, but would also be delighted with James as the Democratic candidate for AG.

## **Phone Bank /Postcard Party**

By Chuck Wall

Wednesday, June 20, 6:30–8:30 pm

Visit [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org) for details

Up in the Hudson Valley, in the 19th Congressional District that is considered a potential pick-up for Democrats, the June 26 primary is now just around the corner! And, while waiting for the Democratic nominee to emerge from a pack of seven contenders, the Three Parks “Take Back Congress” team is planning more calls to voters in the District. Our next phone bank is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20. Once again, we’ll have three activities going on at once:

- Calling Republicans in the 19th District to erode their support for Congressman John Faso,
- Calling NYC Democrats with second homes in the 19th District to urge them to switch their voting registration in order to vote against Faso,
- Writing postcards to NYC Democrats with second homes in the 19th District urging them to make the same switch.

At our last phone bank on May 14, callers who targeted Republicans logged dozens of significant conversations. As usual, though a few responders were negative, most were friendly and several agreed to call Congressman Faso to tell him to oppose cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Other callers targeted NYC Democrats with second homes in the 19th District and volunteers also addressed a big stack of postcards to be sent to more of those second-home owners. The aim is to encourage those owners to switch their voter registration to the upstate district, where their Democratic votes are most needed. At the next phone bank, we plan to call those people to whom we sent postcards in order to reinforce that message.

Over the past year, the Three Parks “Take Back Congress” team has reached out to nearly one thousand voters in nearby “swing” districts with messages that we hope will make a big difference on election day. In keeping with the latest news from Washington, we have been alerting senior citizens to the growing and undisguised threats from Republican legislators to the Medicare and Social Security benefits that they rely on. The goal is to warn those senior voters that they

cannot count on Republican legislators in general, and incumbent GOP congressman John Faso in particular, to protect their interests. We have also urged those voters to call Faso’s office and ask him to promise in public to oppose any cuts to seniors’ benefits.

The June 20 phone bank/postcard party will be followed by more events this summer. We’ll be focusing particularly on the 19th District and also other nearby potentially “flippable” districts, such as the New Jersey 11th District, which has suddenly become a possible Democratic pick-up following the abrupt retirement announcement of longtime GOP Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen. Once Democratic nominees emerge in these districts at the primary election, we expect to work with local progressive groups to support those candidates.

So please join your fellow TPID club members for the June 20 phone bank/postcard party 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.

## **Reflections on Volunteering**

By Christine Verzar

Through friends in the neighborhood, I was asked to volunteer with The New Sanctuary Coalition ([www.newsanctuarycoalitonyc.org](http://www.newsanctuarycoalitonyc.org)), an organization that helps immigrants and refugees apply for asylum, work permits, and many other social benefits.

About eighty volunteers meet weekly in the evening at the Judson Church and/or the NYU Law School on Washington Square. In special clinics, volunteers form into groups of three to help immigrants fill out official forms, record their stories and organize personal information. Often some volunteers serve as translators, if needed, for Spanish, French (like myself), Creole or other foreign languages for non-English-speaking applicants. Dedicated pro bono lawyers and sanctuary staff are also available to assist our immigrant families.

For me, this has been an extremely meaningful and moving experience. I have been shaken deeply hearing many stories of persecution and difficulty. After immigrants and refugees leave their homelands, they often experience additional trauma (detention and persecution) at the hands of ICE and ISAP while they are trying to make a new life in the USA. I have been struck by their courage, determination and strength to survive the hardships they have faced along the way.

## On June 13, we will vote to endorse candidates for New York State Attorney General\*

<b>Voters Eligible June 13</b>		Daniele	Gerard	George	McGuinness	Mildred	Speiser
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	Robert	Ginsberg	Alex	Medwedew	Anna Lee	Spiro
Cyrus	Adler	Pilar	Gomez	Minda	Meister	Allan	Spitz
Emily	Baldwin	Judy	Gray	Alan	Messer	Barbara	Stark
Susan J.	Baldwin	Timothy	Greene	Charles R.	Morgan	Michael	Stearns
William	Baldwin	Robert	Gumbs	Brenda	Morgan	Roschel Holland	Stearns
Robert	Bardin	Jessica	Haberstock	Derrick	Mullins	Lynn	Thomas
Patricia	Barrera	Prince	Haigood	Forrest C.	Murphy	Deborah	Thomas
Samuel	Bartos	Janet	Harvilchuck	Carole	Myers	Jane	Thompson
Margaret	Beels	Elaine	Hazard	Barbara	Nelson	Ken	Tulloch
Amy	Belkin	Nichole	Homa	John	Newell	Christine	Verzar
Shoshannah	Benmosche	Jacqueline	Huey	Joan	Ogden	Helene	Victor
Paul	Bifani	Judy	Hummel	Mary	Pasley	Charles	Wall
Bob	Botfeld	Audrey	Isaacs	Chris	Peralta	Janet I.	Wasserman
Vincent	Brancato	Emma	Jenkins	Hank	Perlin	Arnold	Weiss
Linus	Brant	Russell	Jenkins	Annie	Petrus	Lauren A.	Williams
Raven	Brown	David C.	Kaplan	Ilene	Pfeiffer	Kitty	Williston
Marla	Brunker	Elizabeth	Kellner	Judy	Pierre	Judy	Wood
Janice	Bynum	Erlend	Kimmich	Alfred	Placeres	Matthew	Woodruff
David	Camacho	Warren	Kishner	Elliot	Podwill	Vernita	Worrell
Theresa	Canter	Andrea	Kishner	Miriam	Rabban	Anthony	Zak
Young Me	Chung	Norman	Lafond	Carol	Reisner	Lorraine	Zamora
Daniel Marks	Cohen	Penelope	Laitin	Jonathan	Rubin	Gloria	Zeche
Margaret	Collins	Jill	Larson	Lois	Safian	Tamar	Zucker
Corinne	Constantine	Kenneth	Laufer	Katherine	Samuels	Ariel	Zucker-Brull
Kitty	Crowley	Sam	Lazarus	Milivoy	Samurovich	<b>Voters Eligible if Paid</b>	
Mimi	Daitz	David	Lazarus	Carl Joseph	Scalise	<b>June 13</b>	
Wendy	Dannett	Hannah	Leider	Doris	Schreiber	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
John	Davenport	Gail	Leinwall	Gerald	Schultz	Eva-Lee	Baird
Maxine	DeSeta	Marie	Lunn	Michelle	Semler	Arlene	Geiger
Wendy	Diller	Susan	Maderer	Barry N.	Sher	James	Guest
Cynthia	Doty	Betsy	Malcolm	Jacob	Sher	Adam	Haridopolos
Timothy	Eckersley	Bruce	Markens	Ahmad	Shirazi	Anna	Lewis
Jeffrey	Felmus	Mary Ann	Marks	Ann	Shirazi	Arlene	Mehlman
Gerry Ann	Fifer	Stephen	Max	Irene	Shrier	Annie	Muir
Alan	Flacks	Lynn Bender	Max	Carol	Siegel	Calvin	Snyder
Ellen	Flax	Merle	McEldowney	Deborah	Socolar	Daniel	Tsadok
Mary J.	Geissman	Abigail	McGloster	Polly	Spain		

### \*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.

New Sanctuary Coalition helps many families with children broken by separation or other circumstances. It also works with individuals who have suffered kidnapping, extortion, gang violence and other forms of violence or discrimination. The involvement of The New Sanctuary Coalition in the lives of immigrants and refugees represents only a first step in support for their journey toward a better life in the USA. Due to the increasingly restrictive new immigration laws, it can feel, at times, frustrating but also very gratifying to everyone.

The New Sanctuary has also organized a very effective program for volunteers to accompany immigrant friends as silent witnesses to their court check-ins, individual hearings, or for bond applications by family members of detainees who are still in detention. Each week, I join other volunteers who have received a list of dates for hearings in Federal Court and are encouraged to sign up for one or more accompaniments as their schedule permits. These may be brief or can take up to half a day. They can be emotionally uplifting and/or at the same time distressing, as the case may be. But the support and courage that our contributions of time and skill give to our immigrants is invaluable.

New Sanctuary also has a Bond Fund that is continuously in need of more funds. If you are so moved, I encourage you to think of volunteering in The New Sanctuary Coalition ([www.newsanctuarycoalitionnyc.org](http://www.newsanctuarycoalitionnyc.org)). Tel: 646-395-2925. Because conditions for immigrants and refugees are ever worsening more volunteers are needed in greater numbers.

## **Abuse of Dogs for Experimentation**

By Wendy Dannett

The Department of Agriculture reported nearly 61,000 dogs were used in the US for experimentation in 2016 and the total number of animals reportedly used was more than 820,000. The Intercept's Glen Greenwald examined the highly profitable and poorly regulated industry of breeding dogs solely for experimenting. Conducting scientific experimentation on dogs is legal and pervasive.

Dogs are kept in small cages, from which they are often not removed. They are experimented on in horrific ways, such as drilling holes in their brains where pathogens are injected or being force-fed products such as laundry detergent into their stomach that causes them to vomit and have seizures—just for testing. Researchers say the experiments have little or no value because the physiology of dogs is so different from humans.

But breeding dogs for experimentation is an entire industry. At Ridgland Farms in Madison, WI, one of the three largest breeders, beagles are preferred because they

have been bred to be sweet, docile, and trusting. Dogs are kept there by the thousands and sold to research facilities at the University of California and corporations around the world. There are very few standards regarding what is done to them.

Greenwald cites an investigation by PETA into dog experimentation by Liberty Research Incorporated. Dogs are injected with insecticides, and experiments are performed on hundreds of cats and dogs each year. Liberty also breeds thousands of animals to sell to veterinary pharmaceuticals, government agencies and universities. Their clients include Bayer, Merck, the USDA, and Universities of Pittsburgh, Florida and Michigan State.

Hundreds of animals at Liberty are treated like inanimate laboratory objects and forced to suffer in experiments each year, even when well-established non-animal methods are available. In one experiment, young dogs were injected with mega-doses of an opioid. In another experiment, holes were drilled into the skulls of 30 dogs so distemper virus could be injected into their brains.

Oversight of dog experimentation is under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is now headed by Sonny Purdue, President Trump's appointee. Apparently he is a typical appointee for administrations over several decades in that he comes from the industry he is charged with regulating. As Governor of Georgia, he profited off agribusiness and became a favored candidate of that industry. Like all cabinet agencies, there is an inspector general with the job of investigating its own agency. Every five years beginning in 1995, the inspector general has said enforcement of even minimum treatment requirements of experimental animals, including dogs, was lax and permissive. But fines are minimal and there is no incentive for corporations to abide by the law, even with purposeful violations.

## **Politics To Your Ears: Podcasts**

By Hannah Leider

I've always been a radio junkie, flipping on NPR first thing in the morning. But in the past few years I've gotten hooked on podcasts. The 2016 election gave rise to a flood of politics-themed podcasts and listening to them has been a great way to stay informed and entertained. Here's a short list of a few popular podcasts. If these strike your fancy there are many more out there to explore. Most podcasts can be downloaded for free to your smartphone (or streamed online from a computer). Happy listening!

**Pod Save America**—Created and hosted by former Obama White House staffers, Pod Save America is a

wildly popular podcast. It scratches an itch the way MSNBC does—it's a progressive echo chamber but with a mostly younger audience. The funny and charismatic hosts mix political commentary with jokes and shoptalk about the current administration. By including interviews with elected officials, political candidates, and local activists, the podcast aims to inspire listeners into advocacy, action, and the voting booth.

[crooked.com/podcast-series/pod-save-america/](http://crooked.com/podcast-series/pod-save-america/)

**The Daily**—Produced by The New York Times, these twenty-minute episodes are quick and easy to listen to. The host, Michael Barbaro, focuses on a single current event which he delves into with a Times investigative reporter. Past episodes have included Michael Winerip on the return of Rudy Giuliani; Emily Steel and Michael S. Schmidt discussing being on the record with Bill O'Reilly; and Adam Goldman on Gina Haspel being questioned about her moral character. [nytimes.com/podcasts/the-daily](http://nytimes.com/podcasts/the-daily)

**The Axe Files**—David Axelrod, chief strategist for Barack Obama's presidential campaigns, is your host for these in-depth interviews with figures from across the political spectrum. What makes these episodes so engrossing is that they are as much about the person as about their politics. Axelrod prepares insightful questions and the hour-long format allows guests the luxury of time to give thoughtful answers beyond the expected sound bite.

[politics.uchicago.edu/pages/axefiles](http://politics.uchicago.edu/pages/axefiles)

**Civics 101**—Each 15-minute episode (produced by New Hampshire Public Radio) is a “refresher course on the basics of how our democracy works.” Experts join the hosts to explain and contextualize each topic, from The Hatch Act, to how presidential transitions work, to the Freedom of Information Act. In a recent episode, NPR reporter Mara Liasson discusses the role of White House Press Secretary, and shares her own experiences covering White House press briefings. [civics101podcast.org/episodes/](http://civics101podcast.org/episodes/)

**Slow Burn**—This eight-episode podcast looks back at the Watergate scandal as it unfolded. Slow Burn aims to give the listener an idea of what it was like to live through Watergate, as each day delivered another head-spinning revelation. The individual episodes focus on small pieces of the whole, and the narration is interspersed with archival recordings, contemporary interviews, and fascinating details about the players and the period. [slate.com/articles/slate\\_plus/watergate.html](http://slate.com/articles/slate_plus/watergate.html)

## Taxi Taxi

By Judy Wood

As some of you may know, a fifth taxi driver in NYC committed suicide this week. What is going on? The ride-sharing companies, Uber and Lyft, are hurting the traditional yellow cab industry. The single owner/drivers have paid thousands of dollars for their medallions and now are unable to make a living.

I find that any time I need a taxi, there's almost always a yellow cab available on the street, even in bad weather. So much competition out there is hurting the drivers' income. I don't take many taxis, but after seeing what is taking place around us, I am boycotting those ride-sharing services and hoping that others will too.

This will help, but what's really needed are policy limitations on the apps, as well as a tax to provide revenue for our City.

## **TPID Annual Picnic Wednesday, July 25 5:30-8:00 pm**

**Please put July 25 on your calendar!  
Our 15th Annual Potluck Picnic will be in  
Central Park, on the lawn just inside the  
entrance at 103 Street and Central Park  
West. Since there are no club meetings  
in July and August, it's the perfect  
opportunity for club members to share  
a lovely evening in the park, schmoozing  
with friends, electeds & candidates.**

**We will be mailing a postcard invitation,  
sending email blasts and an Evite. At  
our June 13 club meeting, we will have a  
sign-up sheet for volunteers. As always,  
we ask you to bring a dish to share with  
your fellow members.**

**See you on July 25!**

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

**Next Meeting: June 13, 2018**

***Getting Ready for a Blue/Pink Wave***

**Speakers: Kenneth Sherrill, Charles Tien, Brette McSweeney**

**Endorsements for NYS Attorney General**

**Annual Pizza & Petitioning Party**