

## ***THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS***

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

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## **MARCH 14, 2012**

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: 2012 CANDIDATES NIGHT: Rep. Jerrold Nadler for the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District; Rep. Charles Rangel, Joyce Johnson, Craig Schley, and Vince Morgan for the 15th CD; and others

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14th

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel  
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

### **AGENDA**

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

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. Congress Member Nadler for the 8th CD
3. Congress Member Rangel, Joyce Johnson, Craig Schley, and Vince Morgan for the 15th CD
4. District Leaders' Reports
5. Voting for judicial delegates, maybe other offices; ballot box to close at 9:30 PM
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

### **CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD RETAIL ZONING VOTE**  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 7 Full Board Meeting, 6:30 PM**  
Place: Jewish Home & Hospital  
120 West 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Amsterdam/Columbus Aves.

**Wednesday, March 28, 2012**  
**Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2012**  
**THREE PARKS ANNUAL BENEFIT, 1 to 4 PM**  
Place: Café Frida, 97th Street & Amsterdam Avenue

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012**  
**Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM**  
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103<sup>rd</sup> St.

## President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Our thanks go out to Comptroller John Liu for his thoughtful and thorough remarks on the state of the city's finances and for answering our many questions. We were also grateful to have Freelancers Union's Gabrielle Wuolo give a presentation on her organization's efforts in the areas of benefits and labor protections for independent workers. Congratulations to the newly elected 2012 Board of Directors of Three Parks for their tireless work on behalf of progressive causes and candidates. Onwards and upwards!

This month's meeting promises to be rollicking. It will feature BOTH Congress Member Jerry Nadler who, due to redistricting, may represent at least parts of the Three Parks area in the 8th Congressional District, and Congress Member Rangel, as several of TPID's election districts may still be in the 15th CD. Mr. Rangel's announced opponents – Joyce Johnson, Craig Schley, and Vince Morgan – will also speak.

With all the uncertainty about congressional and state legislative district lines and primary dates, who knows what will be?!

As this newsletter goes to print, although we will elect judicial delegates on March 14 to send to the NYS Supreme Court convention in September, we are not sure for which other offices the membership may be voting, if any – Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, Democratic State Committee, Civil Court, or Surrogate's Court. But votes may be held on March 14, at a special meeting on March 28, or on April 11, to comply with the compressed petitioning schedule as a result of late redistricting by the legislature and the court. In addition, as we go to print, we do not know who the declared candidates will be for all the districts because the lines are unknown.

The Three Parks tradition has been not to vote on the same night as we hear candidates speak, but if petitioning begins March 20, it may be necessary to do so for at least some of these offices.

A splendid time is guaranteed for all at the Three Parks 37th Annual Benefit at Café Frida on Sunday, April 1 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Club will present the *Ted Weiss Public Service Award* to Assembly Member Deborah Glick in recognition of her contributions in the areas of social and environmental justice and her advocacy on behalf of progressive issues. We will also present the *Jesse Crawford Community Service Award* to Community Voices Heard for its invaluable work improving the lives of low-income families and communities.

You should have received your benefit invitation via regular mail and email by now – the member rate is \$50 per person and the guest rate \$150. Remember, this is an election year – we need your support to fund our upcoming storefront,

promote our cherished issues, and elect progressive candidates. Be sure to join us at Café Frida on April 1!

## District Leader Report

By Bob Boffeld

### **SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STORES: Real Estate Interests Fight Hard to Defeat the Upper West Side Neighborhood Retail Zoning Proposal**

Last month, after two hours of discussion and debate, the Community Board 7 (CB7) Land Use Committee voted 11-2-0 (11 Aye, 2 Nay, 0 Abstentions) to support the proposed Neighborhood Retail Store zoning change.

Several amendments were proposed including one to exclude all of Columbus Avenue from the proposed zoning area and another to allow current business owners to expand beyond the proposed 50 foot limit. Both amendments were defeated.

The next step will be the vote on the Neighborhood Retail Store zoning plan by the CB7 Community Board at the CB7 Full Board meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. Public comment will be permitted at the full board meeting.

**Please come to the Community Board 7 meeting on Tuesday March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Home & Hospital, 120 W. 106th Street to show your support for the neighborhood retail zoning plan. Our community's support is crucial to the passage of this zoning proposal.**

By the time you read this, the March 6 CB7 meeting may have occurred but your support will still be needed after the anticipated approval by CB7.

The real estate interests appear to be just beginning to campaign to defeat to Neighborhood Zoning proposal. Over the past week, a Florida telemarketing firm has been making thousands of calls purporting to conduct a 'survey,' actually a negative push poll, to westsiders that is soliciting opinion about the proposed Neighborhood Retail zoning. More than thirty full time "pollsters" have been calling the west side for over a week.

I received one of these insidious 'negative push poll' calls last Monday. The pollster said that she would read both negative and positive comments about the proposed zoning. She initially read about a dozen strongly negative statements about the proposed zoning and then after each statement wanted to know if I felt strongly more favorable, more favorable, less favorable, or much less favorable toward the proposed zoning.

The pollster then read "positive" statements about the zoning. But not only were the positive statements rather

weak; but instead of being asked to reply whether I now thought more or less favorably about the proposed zoning, the pollster now wanted to know instead how much more or less “convinced” I was by each positive statement, implying, that the negative statements were facts that I should think about and the positive statements about the zoning were propaganda.

By the time you read this, you may have well received one of these calls. It is up to us to let our elected officials know that we support the plan. The zoning proposal is likely to come before the City Council for a vote in May or June.

## Gasoline Prices – Obama in Trouble?

By Steve Max

The Republican debates have signaled that, among other issues, they intend to hit Obama hard on the price of gas at the pump. The Republicans are taking two lines of attack. First, Obama’s Middle Eastern policies have led to an oil shortage. Second, his environmental regulatory fervor blocks oil drilling in the U.S. To the first, they give no policy alternative but to allow voters to imagine the Marines sent to plunder every drop of oil in the region. To the second they have a clear answer, “Drill baby drill!”

The President, as usual, accepts the premises of his opponents’ arguments and then debates the details. For example, we are drilling he says, as if that were really the problem. (NYT 2/24/12)

But we need look no further than the daily press to learn why gasoline prices are rising. Guess what? Gasoline is now the top U.S. export says *USA Today* (12/31/2011), “Measured in dollars, the nation is on pace this year to ship more gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel than any other single export, according to U.S. Census data going back to 1990. It will also be the first year in more than 60 that America has been a net exporter of these fuels.”

The *Wall Street Journal* (2/23/2012) adds, “America is pumping more oil out of the ground than it has in years thanks to a surge in onshore drilling. U.S. refineries are producing more gasoline and diesel than ever. And Americans’ gasoline consumption is at an 11-year low. So with all that supply and not much demand, why have gasoline prices risen high enough this year to resurface as a national political issue? The short answer, experts say, is that the global economy and geopolitics, not the U.S. industry or economy, are driving gasoline prices.”

The *Alaska Dispatch*, (2/25/2012) coming from a state that knows something about oil, makes this observation, “The oil industry maintains the exports are necessary because domestic demand is weak. The industry says if refiners could not send American-made gasoline to China, India, Europe, and South America, the refineries would have to close as several have already done on the East Coast. Yet, other energy observers say

exporting gasoline at a time of rising prices is sort of like throwing flammable liquid on a fire.”

So there we have it. The much-touted law of supply and demand no longer applies to oil. Supply is up. Demand is down. Prices keep on rising because instead of selling gasoline for less in the U.S., companies are getting more cash for it on the world market.

There are solutions. If an oil company buys foreign oil, refines it here, and sells it abroad, the oil, arguably, belongs to the company. But half the oil refined here is pumped right in the U.S. so don’t we all own that oil in some sense? Don’t we have sufficient claim to allow the President to negotiate gasoline prices in exchange for it? Too much like socialism? Okay, but there are 3,800 oil leases on public land – surely, we all own that oil and can negotiate for its use. In addition, there are all those ill advised, environmentally unsound permits for off shore drilling. Certainly the President can negotiate gasoline prices in exchange for permits. In November 2011, the Administration announced its intention to give permits for 75 percent of “undiscovered and technically recoverable” Gulf oil resources. Why can’t export limits and gas prices be part of the permit deal? The President can also score by asking Congress to impose export tariffs. Of course, none of this even touches on the role played by Wall Street oil speculation and the need for a federal investigation.

## A World Without Ice

By Wendy Dannett

Three Parks has been a relentless advocate in the fight against global warming. My book review adds a new urgency to the club’s campaign to reduce greenhouse gases and promote clean energy and contributes to the discussion on energy policy which will take place at a future meeting.

*A World Without Ice* by Henry Pollack is about ice and the people on Earth. It is about the impact ice has had on our planet, on its climate and human residents, and the reciprocal impact people are having on ice and the climate of the future.

Throughout most of Earth’s history, ice has been an indomitable force. It colors most of our continents and has profoundly shaped Earth’s surface (valleys formed by glaciers, for example). It is also a major player in Earth’s climate. About 30 percent of sunshine is reflected back into space – mostly by white clouds and white ice. In addition to reflecting back sunshine, polar ice generates huge wind streams that flow beyond the ice perimeter to shape weather systems that influence the entire globe.

During Earth’s history, there were many times that the climate was different from that of today. For instance, 20,000 years ago, there was a massive sheet of ice a half a mile thick in the areas where New York, Detroit, and Chicago are

situated. However, over the last three centuries, the rapid growth of humanity and the rise of industrial society have brought the relationship between ice and humankind to a precarious tipping point. Today, human activities are having a profound effect on Earth's climate and are destabilizing the world's ice.

The loss of ice has and will have dramatic consequences for the planet and people alike. Drinking water and agricultural water for almost one quarter of Earth's population come directly from mountain glaciers. An even greater number of people depend on the seasonal replenishment of water from the melting of winter snow to nourish crops.

The melting of continental ice means adding more water to the ocean, causing rising sea levels. The ensuing flooding will affect low-lying regions of all nations with a seacoast. Pollack points to the Pliocene Epoch, when there was an ice-free Northern Hemisphere, the global average temperature was only about four to six Fahrenheit degrees warmer than today, and sea level was as much as 100 feet higher than today. Richmond, Virginia would have been a seaside city. The loss of property and agricultural land and the pollution of fresh ground water aquifers with salty seawater are also significant consequences. But the most severe consequence of melting ice will be the displacement of millions of people who live near the sea. A sea level rise of only three feet would transform more than one hundred million coastal residents into climate refugees.

What can be done? Unfortunately, no course of action will freeze today's status quo and stop further change. Carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas, lingers in the atmosphere for more than a century. Even after stabilizing the greenhouse gases, the inertia of the climate system will drive climate change for several centuries. The picture presented looks bleak; Pollack is hopeful that with turning to renewable energy sources and dealing directly with problems that have been created by global warming, we have an opportunity for solutions. He states, "Lao Tzu, the ancient Chinese philosopher, once warned that in the absence of a change in direction, we will very likely end up where we are headed. That captures the essence of this moment in human history."

## The Energy Future of Our Buildings

By Erl Kimmich

### Law 87 and Switching from #6 Fuel Oil

As you know there is always something going on in the big apple. **plaNYC** may be about the coolest thing of all, but I am not sure. As part of the Greener, Greater Buildings Plan, local law 87 is calling for mandatory energy audits of approximately 16,000 of the city's largest buildings. Since 75 percent of carbon emissions stem from buildings and almost

half of those come from the biggest buildings, increasing energy efficiency in those buildings is a vital part of reducing the city's carbon footprint. Another reality that buildings will soon face is the requirement to switch from #6 fuel oil to other fuels. There are many different choices, all of which have their pros and cons.

If you take time to observe buildings in our neighborhoods you might be struck by the number of open windows in buildings when the outdoor temperature is below freezing. You might ask yourself, "How many of those window air conditioners are covered and sealed during the winter months? How many AC units are running in February?" We don't need energy auditors or engineers to tell us something is inadequate about the indoor temperature control systems in our apartment buildings. However, there are less obvious ways our buildings waste energy, drive up maintenance costs, and increase pollution. This is why we need energy audits by professionals.

Energy efficiency reports and energy audits become due in buildings over 50,000 square feet according to the last digit in their tax block #. You can access this number at the department of buildings Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dob/html/bis/bis.shtml>. Type in your address and you will find information about your building, including the tax block number.

Last digit of tax block number:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year first EER is due:	2020	2021	2022	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

The energy audit is best performed by a reputable company because a building's management, owners, and co-ops will want the best, most detailed and comprehensive report they can get. The report will show the building's existing energy usage and make recommendations on how savings might best be achieved through a variety of measures and options.

Currently natural gas is cheaper than #2 oil per BTU of energy, and gas appliances are typically more efficient than oil. It should be noted that most calculations of natural gas' contribution to climate change do not take into account the additional methane released inadvertently, but inevitably, in the course of extraction and transportation of natural gas from drilling rigs around the country.

Some folks are pretty excited about dual fuel systems. These people see themselves with a choice between fuels to help counter the vagaries of the oil and gas markets. There is also the hope that one could burn bio fuels in this kind of a system. In fact, there is a substantial subsidy if you do buy #2 oil with bio fuel mixed in.

Electric air source heat pumps are less expensive per BTU than gas, but they result in slightly higher carbon emissions overall, unless the electricity they require is coming from solar, wind, or hydro power, or some other source that is not a fossil fuel burning generation plant.

Some buildings may find themselves with prime choices for a variety of options, including geothermal which is very efficient and

solar thermal, solar PV, and various scenarios of co-generation. A thorough energy audit in your building should provide you with various options including detailed estimates of savings and costs associated with each route towards greater efficiency. The auditing firm should be chosen based on its ability to provide a report tailored to your particular building and location. The report should not just present cookie cutter solutions based on what is easiest for the auditor to provide and rubber stamp to satisfy the authorities.

The auditing firm should be familiar with all incentives available to help defray the costs of any measures your building may want to adopt as a result of the findings. Up to 50 percent of the audit can be incentivised. Incentives might come from a variety of sources including utility companies, NYSERDA, and the federal government. There are also attractive financing options considering that the energy savings in many cases will go a long way to pay back the loan.

Among unforeseen things that auditors and engineering firms may not be able to factor in to the cost of your projects is whether or not the utilities (in this case, on the Upper West Side, Con Ed) decide to contribute a massive cash infusion to bring gas lines of sufficient size and pressure to our buildings. This could happen and would be a considerable savings compared to buildings having to run individual lines to their buildings. For example, gas companies agree to this only if the appliances installed are mono fuel (i.e., gas only)?

If your building is considering a new boiler, and there is going to be digging of sidewalks and streets, could these building get “a bigger bang for their long-term buck” by running an open loop geothermal system tied to our beautiful Hudson?

Links for additional information include the following:

PlaNYC at

[http://nytelecom.vo.llnwd.net/o15/agencies/planyc2030/pdf/planyc\\_2011\\_planyc\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://nytelecom.vo.llnwd.net/o15/agencies/planyc2030/pdf/planyc_2011_planyc_full_report.pdf)

Overview and due dates for energy audits of buildings over 50,000 square feet at

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/downloads/pdf/audits\\_and\\_rcx\\_summary\\_for\\_website.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/downloads/pdf/audits_and_rcx_summary_for_website.pdf)

Solar One at <http://solar1.org/energy-connections/intro-to-green/>  
NYSERDA at [nyserda.ny.gov](http://nyserda.ny.gov)

## Condolences

Three Parks is saddened by the death of member Jerome Koenig and extends our deepest sympathy to his partner Mary Geissman, his sister Sandy, and his brother Howard. Jerry was considered an expert on New York State's election law and the electoral process. He worked for the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Elections and, in retirement, worked as a political consultant. He was serving as the New York State petition coordinator for President Obama's re-election campaign. Donations in his memory

may be made to The Bronx High School of Science Endowment Fund, Inc. and mailed to Christine McGovern Bates, President, Bronx High School of Science Endowment Fund, Inc. c/o Barrett Asset Management, LLC, 90 Park Avenue, 34th floor, New York, NY 10026.

The Club extends condolences to long-time former member Doug Kellner and his wife Board member Elizabeth on the loss of his father Arthur Daniel Kellner.

## State Committee Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

We are in the middle of the redistricting mess. Just before the end of January New York State Senate Democrats filed a lawsuit challenging the way majority Senate Republicans had drawn district maps to create an additional 63<sup>rd</sup> seat to preserve their one-vote control of the State Senate. I was honored to be the lead plaintiff of the suit known as Cohen v. LATFOR (Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment). A summary of the original complaint is at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/79969638/LATFOR-Lawsuit>. In summary, the GOP blatantly and shamelessly uses two different methods of counting voters to get the result they want – that precious extra seat they need.

Each 10 years after a national census states redraw district lines to reflect demographic changes. NYS has a history of litigation and gerrymandering, and this year is no different. What IS different is the way Senate Republicans counted voters this year which prompted the lawsuit and the potential deal and/or governor's veto, which could fix the problem.

In years past, the GOP majority counted voters using a method with a specific formula, which we will refer call Method A. For years in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, Republicans used Method A to calculate the number of voters in each district to draw the lines for each Senator. Then, in 2002, the GOP used a new method, called Method B, since Method A would not give them an additional seat. And, *they also specifically disavowed Method A forever* as an appropriate way of counting voters. But in 2012, neither using Method B nor old reliable Method A would get them to 63 seats. Now, when using BOTH Methods A and B – even though they had said Method A was never to be used again – they bring it back to achieve the 63<sup>rd</sup> seat. So the lawsuit challenges the lines are unconstitutional, both because it is inappropriate to use of Method A and to mix and match both methods.

The lawsuit is in court, along with another lawsuit that is challenging the federal congressional lines. According to the *New York Times*, New York State has not approved either legislative or congressional districts, making it among the last in the country to do so. With the primary for congressional seats set for June 26 the need to get this done has become

critical. According to the *Times*, the congressional lawsuit is now before a federal Magistrate Judge, Roanne L. Mann. Judge Mann has scheduled a public hearing Monday in Brooklyn federal court to receive more information on the proposed congressional maps. *Cohen v. LATFOR* is before Judge Dora Irizarry to address a motion to dismiss the suit. In the midst of all this is the Governor, who said that he would veto the lines because of the gerrymandering; but he has not yet done so. Rumors abound of a deal being cut to create a panel that would redraw the lines, but the panel would be beholden to the Legislature and would solve nothing. The judge in the case could force the legislature to redraw the lines or call for experts to do it. Nothing will be resolved in the next few weeks. By the time of the club meeting Cuomo will have tipped his hand, and the lawsuit will have been dismissed, or, more likely, will lead to a panel of experts to redraw the lines. I will have an update about this and other matters at the next club meeting.

### **Let's Slow Down Boiler Conversions**

By Merle McEldowney

Is your building one of those Upper West Side buildings considering converting to gas? Buildings that use #6 oil are mandated to get off the dirty oil by 2015. Con Edison is promoting the switch to natural gas. If your building converts to gas, this gas will certainly be fracked gas and will come from the Marcellus Shale. Do we want to be stuck with fossil fuels? Why are we being rushed to invest in fracked gas when we can invest in a future with renewable energy?

Consider that if we put in gas lines and take out the oil tanks we will be stuck with fracked gas. The price of gas is low now, but it will not stay this low. When we have the infrastructure built the voices to advocate for fracked gas will be greater. Corporations want us to invest in gas lines.

President Obama wants to invest in renewable fuels, and the country is talking about the possibilities that include wind farms in Lake Erie, solar cells on apartment buildings, tidal energy from the Hudson River, geothermal energy (currently used by The Center for Architecture), and biofuels (i.e., the jet fuel made of algae being purchased by the U.S. Navy).

### **Spectra Energy Pipeline Proposal Is New Challenge**

By Erl Kimmich

On February 27, the Waterfront Committee of Community Board 2 met to listen to Spectra Energy representatives pitch their bid for an easement agreement between the Hudson River Park Trust and Texas Eastern Transmission, LP. Once again, I was proud to live in a city where folks do not allow those who would pose as authorities to monopolize the dialogue and force their plans without a fight.

Spectra Energy's public relations experts then laid out the company's plan to run a billion dollar natural gas pipeline. It would boast a 42-inch diameter from Linden to Bayonne, be reduced to 30 inches before plunging below the bed of the Hudson River in Jersey City, and finally make land on the South end of the Gansevoort Peninsula. From there it would travel 7 feet below the pavement under 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to a "vault" which would house valves to allow Con Edison to make their connections for dispersal to over 2 million households in NYC. The pipe will carry natural gas at 350 pounds per square inch. The representatives acted as if this is all a done deal. Confidently, they insisted on delineating their fantasy schedule which included a construction start date of June 2012 and a gas delivery date of November 2013. A Q&A period followed their presentation, and a sample of the questions and Spectra's responses follows.

"Will the gas delivered through the pipeline be from hydrofracked wells around the country and from the Marcellus Shale? Is there any gas in the United States that is not hydrofracked? Is there any way to tell if the gas coming to New York is hydrofracked or not?" There are multiple sources for natural gas was the reply. Most of it is hydrofracked. There is some from the Gulf of Mexico that is not hydrofracked. Gas will be coming from Nova Scotia, Colorado, and other places – including Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

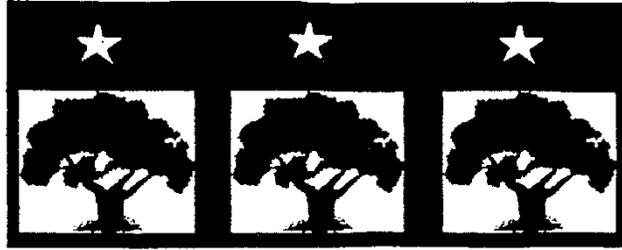
"Why such a big pipe to a single location? Wouldn't it be safer and smarter to have several smaller pipelines up and down the river?" He implied it was to set up a natural gas exporting station. Other questions were concerned with safety, explosions, terrorist attacks, and the presence of a playground 300 feet away. Spectra's spokespersons kept reassuring us how safe the pipeline would be – complete with monitoring inside the pipe.

"What about the pig (the monitoring device that travels inside the pipe seeking and reporting irregularities)? Will it be able to make the transition from 42-inch to 30-inch diameter pipe?" "How frequently will the pig examine the pipe for anomalies?" The reply was that there would be separate pigs for each pipe diameter, and the examinations would occur once every seven years.

"What are you going to do now that the mayors of Bayonne and Jersey City have come out in opposition to the pipeline?" The Spectra presenters seemed to think that negotiations would win the day and that they would be able to accommodate their opponents' objections and they that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would power the deal through for them.

Among the last questions were ones about climate change and dependence on fossil fuels. Spectra's presenters said the Environmental Impact Statement would address these but offered no details.

The Hudson River Park Trust has extended the time for public comment through April 25 and scheduled a public hearing for March 26 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Village School Auditorium. More details are available at [www.hudsonriverpark.org](http://www.hudsonriverpark.org).



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Please pay your 2012 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting  
or by mailing it with your check to:

*Three Parks Independent Democrats  
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316  
New York, N.Y. 10025  
Attn: Treasurer*

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## 2012 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) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter via email.

\*\*\*\*Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal – cash and money orders are far more difficult to process. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please make out all checks to “Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2012\*\*\*\*

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New York, N.Y. 10025

**NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14**

**CONGRESS MEMBER JERRY NADLER  
CONGRESS MEMBER CHARLES B. RANGEL  
and other candidates for 2012 elections**

**Eligible Voters List  
as of March 1, 2012**

Ralph	Andrew	Stephen	Max	Abigail	McGloster
Mollie	Bailey	Merle	McEldowney	Alex	Medwedew
Emily	Baldwin	Gail	Meyers	Dorothy	Mehler
William	Baldwin	Batya	Miller	Ernest	Mehler
Susan J.	Baldwin	Antonine	Momplaisir	Minda	Meister
Robert	Baldwin	Martin	Morand	Christopher	Mooney
Samuel	Bardin	Josh	Pepper	Brenda	Morgan
Margret	Bartos	Hank	Perlin	Derrick	Mullins
Bob	Beels	Annie	Petrus	John	Newell
Vincent	Botfeld	Corine	Petty	Joan	Ogden
Marla	Brancato	Florence	Puccetti-Hepner	Gabrina	Pearson
Jacqueline	Brunker	Suzanne	Samelson	Malik	Pearson
David	Bukowski	Milivoy	Samurovich	Geraldine	Phillips
Theresa	Camacho	Doris	Schreiber	Rose	Podrasky
Daniel Marks	Canter	Ray	Schwartz	James	Reed
Margaret	Cohen	Jacob	Sher	Carol	Reisner
Wendy	Collins	Irene	Shrier	Nathan	Riley
John	Dannett	Mildred	Speiser	K.	Samuels
Lucille M.	Davenport	Alan	Spitz	Eugene	Sarver
Cynthia	Donte	Michael	Stearns	Carl Joseph	Scalise
Renna	Doty	Roschel Holland	Stearns	Ann	Shirazi
Gerry Ann	Draynel	Clara	Taylor	Ahmad	Shirazi
Alan	Fifer	Stephanie	Tegnazian	Ruth	Tepper
Ellen	Flacks	Lynn	Thomas	Jane	Thompson
Ernestine	Flax	Deborah	Thomas	Vernita	Worrell
Martina	Gallagher	Ken	Tulloch		
Mary J.	Garcia	Ruben	Vargas		
Daniele	Geissman	George	Voorhis		
Louisa	Gerard	Yvonne	Vullemoz		
Robert	Gilbert	Lauren A.	Williams		
Pilar	Gerard	Rosetta	Williams		
Jacqueline	Ginsberg	Judy	Wood		
Ulla	Gomez	Gloria	Zeche		
Micky	Huey	Ariel	Zucker-Brull		
David C.	Jorgensen				
Elizabeth Krob	Josephs	<b>Eligible if Paid</b>	Adler		
Erlend	Kaplan	Cyrus	Andrews		
Kenneth	Kellner	Susan	Benmosche		
Marguerite	Kimmich	Shoshannah	Caputo		
David	Laufer	Isabella	Goggin		
Barbara	Lavin	Thomas	Gruder		
Estelle	Lazarus	Vivian	Gumbs		
Marie	Lee	Robert	Haridopolos		
Betsy	Levy	Adam	Huq		
Bruce	Lunn	Chaumtoli	Jordan		
Mary Ann	Malcolm	Brian	Katz		
Lynn Bender	Markens	Michael	Kogelman		
	Marks	David	Leinwall		
	Max	Gail	Levinson		
		Joan			

**Qualifications for Eligible Voters**

In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2012 and have attended at least one meeting in the last six months.

Members who were paid for 2011 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible upon payment of 2012 dues.

New memberships become effective thirty days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the thirty day period and within six months of the election. Memberships that have lapsed prior to 2011 are considered new.

**Reminder: Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.**

**Nominees for Judicial Delegates**

The nominees for Judicial Delegates are:

**Theresa Canter** is a long-time member of Three Parks and is currently serving as 2nd Vice President. In addition to serving as a Judicial Delegate for the last several years, she has been privileged to serve the club in the past as President and also as Treasurer. Having a keen interest in our Judiciary and a

commitment to choosing judges with the necessary experience, temperament, and integrity, she would be honored to continue to represent the Club as a seasoned Judicial Delegate.

**Elizabeth Kellner** has been on the Three Parks Board since 2009 and a club member since 1978. She was a Judicial Delegate several times in the 1980s and served again in 2009 and 2010, and as an alternate in 2011. Elizabeth is on the Boards of Community Healthcare Network and the Public Interest Law Foundation at

Columbia. She serves on the Advisory Council of the Citizens' Committee for Children. She has law and public health degrees from Columbia and practiced law as a civil litigator for 22 years.

**Bruce Markens**, a retired teacher and union activist, has served on Three Parks Board for three years, including one year as Recording Secretary. He helped organize forums on education for the Club. He worked in the 2008 storefront for Obama, on the John Hall campaign in 2006, and on Norman Siegel's campaigns for Public Advocate. He is a strong supporter of single payer health care and a strong opponent of expansion of charter schools.

**Corine Pettey** is a former District Leader, Riverside Democrats, District 3 Elementary School Principal (24 years), long-time member of Three Parks, and current member of the Three Parks Board. She served as Judicial Delegate and Alternate previously. In 1970, I advocated, along with other West Side democratic District Leaders, that we delegate the selection of candidates for the Judiciary to independent, non-partisan panels, which we established, that were comprised of respected and knowledgeable community leaders (lawyers and non-lawyers). The unanimous choice of the panel to serve as Civil Court Judge was the highly qualified Fritz W. Alexander. Fritz later served as a Justice in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the First Department. In 1985, Fritz became the first Afro-American named to a full term on the New York Court of Appeals, which is the State's highest Tribunal. I still believe that our Judiciary must be of the highest quality and free of political influence and that judgeships not be used as political rewards.

**Milivoy Samurovich** is a founding member of Three Parks and served for five years as District Leader. He served on CB 7 as co-chair of the Urban Renewal committee and on the committee that opposed Westway. On CB 1, he served as chair of the Battery Park Committee during the planning phase. He led the Tenants Committee of his building, organized rent strikes, and served on the Co-op Negotiating Committee. He has served as a Judicial Delegate previously.

**Alan Flacks** is an experienced delegate to the Judicial Nominating Convention, having served many times. He is committed to the merit screening process, which he helped to establish. A long-time Club member, a Democratic County Committee member, Alan has also served as the Club's Corresponding Secretary and Membership Secretary. His community and civic activities include his block association, 24th Pct. Community Council, public member of Community Planning Board's Transportation Committee, Mid-Manhattan NAACP, and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Community Advisory Board.

**Stephanie Tegnazian**, a Three Parks member around 20 years and a long-term resident of 36 years, has been interested in our judicial system since she was a teen. Over the past 12-15 years, she has enlisted herself to learn as much as she can, to join those who represent our Club, to gain insight to not only the people wishing to be elected, but also how the process evolves and works. She attended the Panel selection meeting this past January; and in the past 7-8 years, she attended 5 of the Panel's interviews of the prospective electees. She is pleased to report that those she thought most qualified were eventually on the ballot. She has

attended Civil Court, Court of Claims, Surrogates Court, and Supreme Court to see first-hand how sitting judges run their courtrooms. She has read decisions and asked questions. She wrote, "I am qualified to represent you after this crucial research. I deserve your vote because I strive for the same openness and fair play, each one of us in this Club wants to see each and every defendant and plaintiff receives."

### Club Members Elect 2012 Board of Directors

Club members elected the 2012 Board of Directors at the February meeting. Elected as officers are President Daniele Gerard, 1st Vice President Judy Wood, 2nd Vice President Theresa Canter, Treasurer Ellen Flax, Membership Director Lynn Max, Corresponding Secretary Lauren Williams, and Recording Secretary Jock Davenport. Elected as Members-at-Large are Wendy Dannett, Ernestine Gallagher, Louisa Gilbert, Elizabeth Kellner, Erl Kimmich, Barbara Lee, Marie Lunn, Bruce Markens, Mary Ann Marks, Merle McEldowney, Corine Pettey, Milivoy Samurovich, Ray Schwartz, Ken Tulloch, and Jane Wisdom.

### Update on Participatory Budgeting NYC

By Cynthia Doty

It's time to Cast Your Vote! All residents of Council District 8 (regardless of immigration or parolee status) who are over the age of 18 are eligible to vote for 5 projects.

Voting will take place at the Hostel at 891 Amsterdam Avenue on March 25 from Noon to 6:00 p.m. Folks can also vote at the Councilmember's office at 105 E. 116th Street from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. between March 26 and 30.

Vote to decide how to spend \$1 million of Capital Funds. Visit [www.mmviverito.com/pbnyc](http://www.mmviverito.com/pbnyc) or [www.pbnyc.org](http://www.pbnyc.org) for more information.

### Presidential Primary Update

The Primary on April 26 will only be for Republicans to choose their nominee for President. No one filed petitions opposing President Obama and his Convention Delegates so there will not be a Democratic Primary.

Since there are very few registered Republicans in our area, polling sites may be combined and fewer poll workers will be hired to work.

Polls, however, will be fully staffed for the Primary for congressional and state offices and Election Day, November 6.

### Obama for America

NYC Headquarters, 25 E. 21st Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10010