



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

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**District Leaders**  
Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

**State Committee**  
Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

**Club Meeting, March 13, 2019, 8:00 pm**  
**The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street**

### *The Coming Fight in Albany for Housing & Rent Regulation*

**Speaker:**

**Andrea Shapiro, Program Manager,  
Metropolitan Council on Housing**

**Endorsement Vote for Public Advocate**

#### **AGENDA**

7:45 pm Sign In

8:00 pm Call to Order

District Leader

Endorsement Vote for Public Advocate\*

Speaker: Andrea Shapiro

Questions & Answers

Adjourn

\*Ballot box will be open  
8:15–9:15 pm

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## President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

As the newly elected president of Three Parks, I am looking forward to following in the footsteps of Merle McEldowney, who served as president for the past two years. Not only did Merle encourage and inspire me to grab the baton, but she and I became good friends along the way, which is just one of the reasons I love this club. When I retired in 2011, after a long and satisfying career in nonprofit fundraising, I looked around to see where to put my time and effort. My criteria for being a volunteer were the same as those that had attracted me to the paid jobs I had held—teaming up with seriously dedicated people and working for a seriously worthy cause. I found that combination at Three Parks. Lucky me!

It looks like 2019 will be another active year for the club. Our January club meeting had an agenda filled to the brim. The highlight of the evening was hearing from State Senator Brian Benjamin and Assemblyman Dan Quart as they expertly reported on the current status of criminal justice reform in New York State. We also elected the 2019 TPID Board of Directors, and we endorsed six judicial delegates, six alternates, and District Leaders Cynthia Doty and Bob Botfeld for the June primary. Most amazingly, given the packed agenda, the meeting started and ended on time. Kudos to all for their well-timed presentations.

Our February 27 board meeting included our annual Petition Pick Up & Pizza Night! Last year this event was held at our June club meeting in preparation for the Democratic primary in September. But this year, the primary will be held earlier, on June 25, due to a new election law that switched the Democratic primary date from September to June. Petitioning for candidates for Judicial Delegate and other party offices began on February 26. Thanks to all who came to our February meeting, picked up petitions and a slice of pie, and committed themselves to garnering signatures for District Leader, Judicial Delegate and County Committee candidates.

At our March 13 club meeting, Andrea Shapiro from the Metropolitan Council on Housing will be our guest speaker. The club also will vote to endorse a Public Advocate candidate. Our April 10 club meeting will feature Julie Menin, Director of the Census for New York City, speaking on the status of the 2020 census and its impact on redistricting.

What a line-up! The Three Parks board works hard

to provide the kinds of informational programs that are of the most timely importance. Please mark your calendars now so you don't miss our next two meetings. Club meetings also give the board the opportunity to see and hear from you. I especially hope you will come say hello to me if we haven't had the chance to meet yet.

Before signing off, I'd like to extend a special thanks. The first day of my Three Parks presidency happened to be the day that Amazon withdrew its bid on the Long Island City location. I had little to do with it, but Daniele Gerard had lots. She drew up a resolution that was approved by the Board, created informative flyers, and gathered petition signatures along Broadway with the help of board and club members. Daniele didn't do it alone, but she was the driving force behind Three Parks' success in its efforts to help renegotiate (not necessarily reverse) the Amazon decision. Thanks, Daniele!

## District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

### Pick Up Your County Committee Petition

The 2019 Petition Kickoff began with the distribution of the Three Parks' omnibus District Leader, County Committee, and Judicial Delegate petitions at the Three Parks special Pizza and Petitioning meeting on Wednesday, February 27. Over 100 packets of election district (ED) maps, instructions and petitions, preprinted with each County Committee member's name and assigned election district, were ready for the club's 100+ County Committee members. If you have not yet picked up your petition or need to have your packet delivered, call or email Bob (bobbotfeld@aol.com or 212-865-1450) or Cynthia (c1doty@aol.com or 212-749-4085). Petitions are due back by March 25.

For those who might be unfamiliar with the functions and duties of the County Committee, here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

### County Committee FAQ, Part I

*What is the difference between the Democratic State Committee and the County Committee?*

The New York Democratic State Committee, commonly referred to as the State Committee, is composed of one male and one female representative from each assembly district. Among other roles, they meet to endorse and nominate the statewide Democratic candidates—the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Comptroller, and two United States Senators.

The Manhattan County Committee, commonly

referred to as the County Committee, is composed of two, three, or four representatives from each election district. The primary role of the County Committee is to elect the Democratic nominee when a vacancy occurs in a local, non-statewide, elected office such as City Council, State Assembly, State Senate, or United States Congress.

*When does the County Committee replace a vacated elected office such as a Congress member, State Senator, or State Assemblyperson?*

The County Committee assembles to replace a vacated elected office when the vacancy occurs after the Democratic primary and before the next general election.

*Why do election districts have different numbers of County Committee members?*

The number of County Committee members representing each election district depends on the vote for the Governor on the Democratic ballot line in the most recent election for Governor. If fewer than 300 voted for the Democratic candidate for Governor in the election district, then there will be **two** County Committee members; if 300 to 450 voted, then there will be **three** County Committee members; 451 or more, there will be **four** County Committee members.

## **Amazon: Cuomo Cooks the Books (Again)**

By Steve Max

A full-page ad in the March 1 issue of The New York Times begs Amazon to come back to the City, pledges that the Governor will take “personal responsibility for the project’s state approval,” and lies about the tax revenue the State will gain if Amazon comes to Queens. Three Parks has supported renegotiating the Amazon deal so that it would actually benefit all of us, but the Governor throwing himself at the feet of Jeff Bezos and pulling the Mayor after him is not promising.

There are many issues here. The obscenity of handing \$3 billion in tax breaks to the richest person in the world, the secrecy in which the deal was done, the evasion by the Mayor and Governor of the City’s Land Use Procedure requiring community input, and the real estate speculation that started in Long Island City are just a few.

Let us focus on the main argument now being advanced by the Governor and Mayor, that investing \$3 billion in tax breaks for Amazon would bring a return of \$28 billion in new tax revenue. This claim is made in the Times ad signed by 79 prominent New Yorkers, some of whom are smart enough to know better. Is it inaccurate? Let us count the ways.

Cuomo contracted with Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) to estimate the increased tax revenue generated throughout the State’s economy by the promised 25,000 jobs Amazon would bring. Actually, the study said the State would gain \$14 billion in new tax revenue. The additional \$13.5 billion figure, which would supposedly accrue to the City, comes from a different study that the City has not released.

While Amazon promised 25,000 new jobs, the REMI report is based on Amazon bringing 40,000 jobs over fifteen years. When asked why the difference, Cuomo’s Budget Director said that the Queens site would be big enough for 40,000 people. An honest report would have given separate estimates of the benefits from the promised 25,000 jobs and the hoped-for 40,000 jobs.

The report assumes that without Amazon, there will be no development of the site for twenty-five years. It is Amazon compared to nothing. Actually two developers had plans to build 6000 new apartments on that site, of which 1500 were to be “affordable.” The report should have compared the costs, benefits, and economic activity generated by Amazon to this and other potential uses of the land.

The REMI study provided inflation-adjusted tax revenue figures for the 25 years it covers, but the Governor doesn’t use them. His unadjusted figures make the payback to the state seem larger. Cuomo claims that the State will get nine dollars back in taxes for every one dollar it gives to Amazon in benefits, that is, 9 to 1. The inflation adjustment brings it down to 6 to 1.

The REMI report fails to consider additional costs to the City of the Amazon project. For example, how do the 25,000 people get to work every morning? Do they come on the bus? What is the impact on housing costs in the area? What happens when 25,000 people flush the toilet?

Of course, more high-paying jobs would be welcome in New York. But if we are going to subsidize those jobs as Cuomo and de Blasio propose, we need to know the real costs and benefits, both financial and social. The conversation has to start with honest numbers.

Source materials on the Amazon deal are on the Three Parks web page. [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org). Click Amazon on the menu.

## **An Uninhabitable Earth**

By Wendy Dannett

There have been many articles on the worsening effects of climate change. The journalist Dahr Jamail, in his book *The End of Ice* and in many articles, predicts the

terrifying results of climate disruption. Up until now, we had been told the effects of climate change were in the future, whether that future was twelve years or a century away. And we were told that we had two years, or maybe ten years, to get it right, to lower carbon emissions and make things better. It is not clear why we believed this, since we have already had devastating heat waves, floods, droughts, fires, dying coral reefs, and Arctic ice melting so quickly that polar bears have lost their home. Our capacity for denial is immense.

**Looming environmental disruption.** The ramifications of climate change affect us deeply. So much rain was dropped in Hurricane Harvey that the weight of the water caused Earth's crust to sink by 2 cm. Oceans are warming at unprecedented rates, and according to Jamail, evidence shows that greenhouse gas emissions have caused Earth to warm ten times faster than it should. *The End of Ice* addresses how rapidly ice is melting and disappearing in the Arctic. Back in 2003, Jamail noted that the glaciers on Denali Mountain in Alaska were already receding. Since then, visitor parking lots built closer to the mountain are no closer to the receding glaciers. Glaciers are even disappearing on Mt. Everest, says Jamail. The New York Times reported on 1/22/19 that the melting of Greenland's ice could be a major contributor to rising seas in two decades.

**Disappearing species.** Another impact of the changing climate is the disappearance of insect and animal life. Regarding insect populations, the scientist Brad Lister, on recently returning to Puerto Rico, found that 95% of all the ground insects had disappeared since he was there 35 years ago. Other disturbing studies have revealed crashing insect populations around the world. Lister has warned of an ecological Armageddon from these insect crashes. Birds are also in trouble. A study in Wales shows that almost one-third of the bird species have declined significantly, with some having disappeared entirely. And we are now adding carbon to the atmosphere faster than during the extinction of 252 million years ago. According to a recent report, the number of Arctic reindeer has crashed by 58% in the last two decades alone, due largely to climate change. Scientists warn that the rates of extinction could be much worse than what we see, which itself is 1000 times the normal rate, if destruction of habitat is included.

**Change is speeding up.** As I have indicated, climate disruption is happening faster than ever, and faster than predicted. As bad as climate change has gotten, it is going to get worse. According to a study cited by the respected Science Explorer website, global

temperatures will rise faster than previously thought because of thinning low-lying clouds. They are thinning due to rising Earth temperatures. Clouds have a cooling effect on the climate, and without them, temperatures will rise even faster. The journalist Tanvi Misra cites a study that shows the frequency of fog over Los Angeles has declined by 63% since 1948. The authors of the study find that concrete surfaces in cities trap heat during the day, causing nighttime temperatures to rise. High temperatures near the ground prevent water from condensing, causing clouds to form at a greater height.

The journalist David Wallace-Wells, in his article and book *The Uninhabitable Earth*, gives a portrait of where our planet is headed without aggressive action. The forecast without intervention includes frightening highlights, such as Miami and Bangladesh becoming "toast" this century, even if fossil fuel burning comes to a sudden halt within ten years. When the planet is just 4° warmer (projected for early next century, optimistically), the ocean would be above the Florida landmass. According to Wallace-Wells, scientists have concluded that no program of emissions reductions alone can prevent disaster. "At 4°, the deadly European heat wave of 2003, which killed as many as 2000 people a day, will be a normal summer," he says.

## Activism and Our Local Libraries

By Judy Wood

Three Parks Members, here is an issue we need to address for our community. As many of you may know, the Bloomingdale library at 100th street closed on February 15 for one year (at least). It had been open two nights a week until 7 pm for the benefit of working people and others in the neighborhood. The next closest library we are being referred to is the Morningside branch at 113th St. and Broadway, which has just reduced its hours so that it is closing at 6 pm every night!

Losing library access time is a hardship for people in our community, so let's try to right this wrong. I have written to our local politicians as a beginning, and I urge you to do the same and anything else you can do to convince the library officials to add a couple of later evening hours at Morningside as soon as possible.

Perhaps this is a good petitioning issue—and our newly elected Public Advocate will receive at least one letter on the subject. (See sample letter below.)

*Dear [name of elected official],*

*I'm writing to address a serious public library access concern on the Upper West Side. As you know, the*

*Bloomington library has closed its doors for a year effective Feb. 15. For many in the neighborhood, the next closest library is the Morningside branch at Broadway at 113th St., which coincidentally reduced its hours effective on Jan. 28. Morningside now closes at 6 pm whereas Bloomington was open two nights a week until 7 pm. There never has been Sunday access in our community, so for working people and students, library access is now more limited than ever.*

*I ask that you, as an elected official representing our community, work to right this wrong and extend the Morningside hours to support our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.*

*Yours truly,*

### **Voting Results from the February 13 Club Meeting**

Endorsement Vote: The following were endorsed for the June 25 primary election:

#### **District Leader, Female 69th AD**

57 Cynthia Doty  
7 No Endorsement

#### **District Leader, Male 69th AD**

55 Bob Botfeld  
7 No Endorsement

#### **Judicial Delegates**

48 Alan Flacks  
39 Elizabeth Kellner  
29 Alfred Placeres  
27 Merle McEldowney  
26 Bruce Markens  
24 Judy Wood

**Alternate Judicial Delegates** will replace absent Judicial Delegates in this order:

19 Elaine Hazzard  
13 Deborah Thomas  
9 Stephanie Tegnazian  
9 Sam Bartos  
8 Robert Bardin  
1 Jacob Sher

### **2019 Three Parks Board Election**

#### **Officers**

Lorraine Zamora, President  
Daniele Gerard, 1st Vice President  
Merle McEldowney, 2nd Vice President  
Ellen Flax, Treasurer  
Theresa Canter, Membership Secretary  
Chuck Wall, Corresponding Secretary  
Jock Davenport, Recording Secretary

#### **Members-at-Large**

Paul Bifani	Mary Ann Marks
Corinne Constantine	Lynn Bender Max
Wendy Dannett	Steve Max
Jessica Haberstock	Miriam Rabban
David Lazarus	Lois Safian
Hannah Leider	Irene Shrier
Marie Lunn	Daniel Tsadok

Founding Member Emeritus  
Milivoy Samurovich

### **New Debs Biography from Steve Max**

Three Parks Board member Steve Max has written the text for a graphic biography of the famous early twentieth century American socialist Eugene V. Debs. Released this month, this innovative work is available wherever books are sold. Here is the publisher's description:

*Eugene V. Debs: A Graphic Biography* by Paul Buhle (author), Steve Max (author), Noah Van Sciver (illustrator), Dave Nance (contributor)

Dynamic and beloved American radical, labor leader, and socialist Eugene Victor Debs led the Socialist Party to federal and state office across the United States by the 1920s. Imprisoned for speaking out against World War I, Debs ran for president from prison on the Socialist Party ticket, receiving over 1 million votes. Debs' life is a story of labor battles in industrializing America, of a fighting socialist politics grown directly out of the Midwest heartland, and of a distinctly American vision of socialism.

### **The Three Parks Website Has a Great New Look!**

**The Three Parks website has just had a major upgrade, so take a few moments to check out our brand new look! Thanks go to Board members Jessica Haberstock, Hannah Leider, Steve Max, and Daniel Tsadok, who worked hard to create a handsome new home page with streamlined graphics, more color photos, simpler navigation, and a wealth of useful content. The new home page is designed to communicate the Club's mission, issues, and activities in a way that combines effective messaging with visual appeal. For the real thing, please go to [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org).**

## Endorsement Voting for Public Advocate on March 13\*

### Voters Eligible for March 13

First	Last
Eva-Lee	Baird
Susan J.	Baldwin
William	Baldwin
Emily	Baldwin
Robert	Bardin
Samuel	Bartos
Clemens Christian	Beels
Margaret	Beels
Amy	Belkin
Paul	Bifani
Bob	Botfeld
Raven	Brown
Marla	Brunker
Janice	Bynum
Theresa	Canter
Susan	Chace
Young Me	Chung
Daniel Marks	Cohen
Corinne	Constantine
Kitty	Crowley
Mimi	Daitz
John	Davenport
Maxine	DeSeta
Wendy	Diller
Cynthia	Doty
Jeffrey	Felmus
Gerry Ann	Fifer
Alan	Flacks
Ellen	Flax
Mary J.	Geissman
Daniele	Gerard
Robert	Ginsberg
Pilar	Gomez
Jessica	Haberstock
Prince	Haigood
Elaine	Hazard
David	Heitholt
Jacqueline	Huey
Judy	Hummel
Russell	Jenkins
Emma	Jenkins
David C.	Kaplan
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Andrea	Kishner
Warren	Kishner
Kenneth	Laufer
David	Lazarus
Hannah	Leider
Gail	Leinwall
Marie	Lunn
Susan	Maderer
Betsy	Malcolm
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Stephen	Max

Lynn Bender  
Merle  
George  
Alex  
Arlene  
Minda  
Barbara  
John  
Hank  
Judy  
Alfred  
Efgenia  
Miriam  
Nathan  
Jonathan  
Lois  
Katherine  
Carl Joseph  
Gerald  
Ray  
Michelle  
Barry N.  
Jacob  
Irene  
Vera  
Willie  
Mildred  
Allan  
Roschel Holland  
Michael  
Stephanie  
Lynn  
Deborah  
Daniel  
Ken  
Ruben D.  
Helene  
Diana Zoe  
Charles  
Tim  
Lauren A.  
Kitty  
John  
Judy G.  
Anthony  
Lorraine  
Gloria  
Tamar  
Ariel

Max  
McEldowney  
McGuinness  
Medwedew  
Mehlman  
Meister  
Nelson  
Newell  
Perlin  
Pierre  
Placeres  
Placeres  
Rabban  
Riley  
Rubin  
Safian  
Samuels  
Scalise  
Schultz  
Schwartz  
Semler  
Sher  
Sher  
Shrier  
Silverman  
Smith  
Speiser  
Spitz  
Stearns  
Stearns  
Tegnazian  
Thomas  
Thomas  
Tsadok  
Tulloch  
Vargas  
Victor  
Viera  
Wall  
Walsh  
Williams  
Williston  
Wilson  
Wood  
Zak  
Zamora  
Zeche  
Zucker  
Zucker-Brull

### Voters Eligible if Paid March 13

First	Last
Vincent	Brancato
David	Camacho
Wendy	Dannett
Timothy	Eckersley
Keith	Edwards
Judy	Gray
Janet	Harvilchuck
Audrey	Isaacs
Norman	Lafond
Penelope	Laitin
Sam	Lazarus
Derrick	Mullins
Joan	Ogden
Mary	Pasley
Ilene	Pfeiffer
Carol	Reisner
Doris	Schreiber
Deborah	Socolar
Jane	Thompson
Arlene	Tyrkko

### **\*Voting Eligibility Clause**

*In order to vote in TPID club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2019 and attended at least one meeting in the past six months. Members who were paid up for 2018 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible to vote upon payment of 2019 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.*

## Save the Date!

Three Parks 44th Annual Benefit Sunday, April 28, 2019 1:00-4:00 pm

### Honoring:

**Brian Benjamin, State Senator, 30th District**

**Robert Jackson, State Senator, 31st District**

**Peter Arndtsen, Manager,**

**Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District**

Mexican Festival Restaurant, 2672 Broadway at 102 Street

Three Parks needs you to support Democrats  
who are fighting to restore our democracy.

Please contribute to this year's fundraiser at one of these levels:

\$500 Benefactor \* \$300 Patron \* \$200 Sponsor\*

\$175 Guest \$50 Member

\*If you would like to have your name listed on the benefit invitation as a Benefactor, Patron or Sponsor, please click on Fundraiser on our home page [ThreeParksDems.org](http://ThreeParksDems.org) by Thursday, March 21, or call Lorraine Zamora at (917) 348-5136.

## 2019 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 2019.**

*Mail to:* Three Parks Independent Democrats

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

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

**Next Meeting: March 13, 2019**

**Andrea Shapiro  
Metropolitan Council on Housing  
*The Coming Fight in Albany for  
Housing & Rent Regulation  
Endorsement Vote for Public  
Advocate***

**Upcoming Meetings**

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

Three Parks Board Meeting

**Wednesday, April 10, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Club Meeting

**Wednesday, April 24, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Board Meeting

**Sunday, April 28, 1:00–4:00 pm**

Three Parks Annual Fundraising Benefit

**Wednesday, May 8, 8:00 pm**

Three Parks Club Meeting

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

Three Parks Board Meeting