



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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President
Lorraine Zamora

Editors
Chuck Wall
Corinne Constantine
Richard E. Luna

District Leaders
Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee
Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

Club Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2020 8:00 pm
The Youth Hostel
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd St.

Don't Panic—Wash Your Hands!
Learn How NYC is Preparing for the Coronavirus

Speaker:
Mark Levine
Chair, City Council Health Committee

AGENDA

7:45 pm: Sign in
8:00 pm: Call to Order
District Leader Report
Speaker: Mark Levine
City Council Member (7th District)
Questions and Answers

Calendar Note

April Club Meeting Date:
Wednesday, April 1
(first Wednesday in April)

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President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

Three Parks had one of its busiest meetings on February 12. The club voted to endorse candidates for two congressional seats, two state senate seats, one assembly seat, two state committee seats, and six judicial delegates and six alternates. The results are published on page 3 of this newsletter. Add to that the election of the Three Parks Board of Directors, which was uncontested. I thank all of you who came to cast your votes.

Our guest speaker was Ricky Silver from Empire State Indivisible. His topic was "Budget Justice in New York State," a campaign by activists and grassroots organizations across the state to make the wealthiest New Yorkers pay higher taxes that would fund progressive priorities in the state budget. Aided by power point visuals, Ricky explained what Budget Justice means: to make the economy work for all of us, not just the wealthy few; to address the long-neglected needs of everyday New Yorkers; and to make our state a better, fairer and safer home for us all. His presentation elicited a series of good questions from the membership, a sure sign that they were listening, interested in what he had to say, and wanted to know more.

I feel fortunate to be club president again this year and will do my best to lead and help organize the many activities that we are planning between now and the end of this pivotal year. Our three new Board members—Genora Bennett Johnson, Wendy Diller and Vince Brancato-- are already contributing their energy and insights to the Board's work. As for our continuing Board members, special mention goes out to Cynthia Doty and Bob Botfeld, our hard-working District Leaders, who are currently organizing the petition drive to get our endorsed candidates on the June primary ballot, and also to our two State Committee members, Lynn Thomas and Daniel Marks Cohen, who work to support progressive Democratic candidates for various statewide offices. We are grateful as well to Treasurer Ellen Flax and Membership Director Theresa Canter, who both continue to handle vital club functions behind the scenes. And of course, our thanks and appreciation go out to Steve and Lynn Max, who will continue to organize tables on Broadway for petitioning, voter registration, and promoting endorsed candidates. I know I'm not mentioning everyone, but everyone has their important part to

play and can be counted on to perform.

District Leader Report

By Bob Botfeld

Petitioning for Jerry and Adriano and Robert and Brian and Danny and Lynn and Dan

The 2020 Petition Campaign kicked off with the distribution of the Three Parks' omnibus petitions at the Three Parks Board and Pizza Party meeting on Wednesday, February 26. Our role in petitioning for our endorsed candidates is critically important. Congress member Jerry Nadler cannot continue his constitution-preserving, democracy-saving work as chair of the Judiciary Committee unless we collect thousands of signatures to get him on the ballot. Congress member Adriano Espaillat cannot continue fighting for immigrants' rights; State Senators Robert Jackson and Brian Benjamin cannot help maintain the newly won Democratic majority in the State Senate; and Danny O'Donnell cannot continue to represent us in the State Assembly; and Lynn Thomas and Dan Cohen will not get the recognition they deserve for their efforts to help the Club and Democratic Party—unless we petition to get them all on the ballot.

If you have not yet picked up your petition or need to have your packet delivered, call or email Bob (bobbotfeld@aol.com or tel: 212-865-1450) or Cynthia (cldoty@aol.com or tel: 212-749-4085). Petitions are due back by March 23.

If you want to petition with others at the Three Parks tables, we will be tabling each weekend and some nights during the week. Look for the Three Parks emails to find out when and where.

TPID Phone Bank and Postcard Campaign Targets Crucial Senate Races

By Chuck Wall

In the wake of the recent impeachment effort, Three Parks volunteers are more determined than ever to help swing crucial Senate races this November. The latest event in our current "Take



Back Congress" campaign, held on February 18, drew a crowd of Club members and their friends for an evening of phone banking and postcard writing.

Once again, our focus was on two vitally important races: the fights to unseat Republican Senators Mitch McConnell in Kentucky and Susan Collins

in Maine. A full schedule of additional events is planned as this year's elections get closer. All interested Club members are invited to join us in our ongoing campaign.

On February 18, we had three activities going on at once:

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

Participating volunteers receive phone scripts and model postcard messages to follow, as well as back-up information to support their talking points. There is also a selection of relevant newspaper articles available to mail to voters who request further information.

In terms of running totals, since last fall our volunteers have now called nearly 1,700 phone numbers and have written more than 1,100 postcards and logged numerous significant conversations with voters.

We will be scheduling more phone banking/postcard writing events this spring. These sessions will take place in a convenient 110th Street location unless otherwise specified. Here is the next event:

**Next Phone Bank and Postcard-Writing Event
Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30 pm**

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

Over time we plan to expand our focus to include not just important Senate races, but also Congressional and other local races in New York State. Once the campaigning season starts, we expect to work with campaign organizations in each district to support the eventual Democratic nominee. We encourage all Club members to join us at these events.

**Endorsement Voting
Results from the February
12 Club Meeting**

The following were endorsed for the June 23 state primary election:



U.S. 10th Congressional District

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Lindsey Boylan | 1 Amanda Frankel |
| 0 Jonathan Herzog | 74 Jerrold Nadler |
| 0 Holly Lynch | 1 No Endorsement |

U.S. 13th Congressional District

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 66 Adriano Espaillat | 1 Richard Habersham |
| 0 James Felton Keith | 3 No Endorsement |

N.Y. State Senate 30th SD

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 68 Brian Benjamin | 2 No Endorsement |
|-------------------|------------------|

N.Y. State Senate 31st SD

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 71 Robert Jackson | 4 No Endorsement |
|-------------------|------------------|

N.Y. State Assembly 69th AD

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 64 Daniel O'Donnell | 9 No endorsement |
|---------------------|------------------|

**N.Y. Democratic State Committee Female
69th AD**

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 68 Lynn Thomas | 2 No Endorsement |
|----------------|------------------|

**N.Y. Democratic State Committee Male
69th AD**

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 71 Daniel Marks Cohen | |
| 0 No Endorsement | |

Judicial Delegates

- 51 Alan Flacks
- 47 Elizabeth Kellner
- 33 Lauren Williams
- 28 Audrey Isaacs
- 28 Deborah Thomas
- 28 Alfred Placeres

Judicial Alternates

- 25 Merle McEldowney
- 24 Bruce Markens
- 15 Stephanie Tegnazian
- 13 Robert Bardin
- 13 Samuel Bartos
- 12 Elaine Hazzard

Three Parks Board (uncontested)

President

- 65 Lorraine Zamora

1st Vice President

- 63 Daniele Gerard

2nd Vice President

- 61 Merle McEldowney

Treasurer

- 64 Ellen Flax

Membership Director

- 64 Theresa Canter

Corresponding Secretary

- 68 Charles Wall

Recording Secretary

- 67 Jessica Haberstock

Members at Large

60 Mary Ann Marks	60 Daniel Tsadok
57 Corinne Constantine	57 David Lazarus
59 Lynn Bender Max	64 Steve Max
56 Genora Bennett Johnson	57 Miriam Rabban
57 Vincent Brancato	56 Irene Shrier
56 Wendy Diller	57 Jock Davenport
55 Paul Bifani	

Petitioning for Federal/State Primary Gets Underway

Petitioning has now begun to get TPID-endorsed candidates Jerrold Nadler, Adriano Espaillat, Brian Benjamin, Robert Jackson, and Danny O'Donnell on the ballot for the June 23 federal/state Democratic primary.

Petitioning is critical. If candidates do not get the requisite number of signatures, they can not get on the ballot. And if they are not on the ballot, they can not get elected or reelected, even if they are incumbents. Three Parks petitions for endorsed candidates every year, and as a result of those reliable efforts, the club earns the candidates' interest in our local issues and concerns.

[Below] Club members stop by the February 26 Board meeting to pick up their petitions. Everyone who participated received a tasty slice of pizza!



What Will Medicare for All Cost?

By Steve Max

At the Debate Circus. If you watched the debates, you know just what I'm talking about. Imagine that you are in front of a national TV audience and you are given one minute and fifteen seconds to explain the expenditures and income sources of your family budget. Meanwhile, six semi-hysterical people interrupt you, laugh, hoot, shout and wave their arms in the air. Could you do it? If your

income is as low as mine, perhaps you could, but that applies to a very few. OK, now try the same thing by putting budget amounts to a national health care system. There is an answer. We will get to it, and it will take less than a minute and fifteen seconds.

Making the Calculations. The debates show that Bernie Sanders' Democratic opponents don't understand that buying a health care system is not the same as having contractors submit bids for a new aircraft carrier. To cost out a new health care plan, start with what is currently projected to be spent system-wide over ten years if nothing changes: \$47 trillion. Then, estimate various Single Payer savings, for example, eliminating insurance company profits and not having to bill hundreds of insurance plans all with different rules for coverage. Next, estimate how much will be raised by a series of changes in the tax laws, for example, a 4% income-based premium paid by employees, exempting the first \$29,000 in income for a family of four. Now, add the costs of covering the forty-seven million people who are under—or uninsured, plus additional benefits. Then, subtract from the total ten-year projection of what the government will spend under current law (Medicare and Medicaid) over \$18 trillion or 39%, and there's your answer. Why didn't he just say so?

The Answer! After actually making these calculations, *The Lancet*, a weekly medical journal, estimates that Medicare for All will cost \$3.034 trillion annually, which is \$458 billion less than was spent on all U.S. health care in 2017. This would be a savings of 13% per capita over current spending. Altogether, the authors say, the government would have to raise an additional annual \$773 billion in new revenue, about 62% of what is currently spent on Social Security. The point is that this money is already being spent on health care. What needs to be done through the tax code is to move it from payments to private insurance companies into the national health plan.

The International Context. France, which has one of the more expensive single payer systems, spends 11% of its total economy (GNP) on health care, about \$4,965 for each person. Single Payer Canada spends 10% of GNP or about \$4,974 per person. The United States now spends 17% of GNP or \$10,596 per person.

Conclusion: A universal system, such as that proposed in the Medicare for All Act, has the potential to transform the availability and efficiency of American health-care services. Taking into account both the costs of coverage expansion and the savings that would be achieved through the Medicare for All Act, we calculate that a single-payer, universal health-care system is likely to lead to a 13% savings in national health-care expenditure, equivalent to more than US \$450 billion annually (based on the value of the US dollar in 2017). The entire system could be funded with less financial outlay than is incurred by employers and households paying for health-care premiums combined with existing government allocations. This shift to single-payer health care would provide the greatest relief to lower-income households. Furthermore, we estimate that ensuring health-care access for all Americans would save more than 68,000 lives and 1.73 million life-years every year compared with the status quo.

To sum up, while the debate stage is no place for analysis, what should come across is that over the next ten years, the country is already projected to both spend more on health insurance than Medicare for All would cost, and get less actual health care for the dollar than a Medicare for All would deliver.

1 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

2 In 2018, the typical working family paid an average of \$6,015 in premiums to private health insurance companies. Under this option, a typical family of four earning \$60,000 would pay a 4% income-based premium to fund Medicare for All on income above \$29,000—just \$1,240 a year—saving that family \$4,775 a year. (Revenue raised: about \$4 trillion over 10 years) Sanders web page

3 Improving the Prognosis of Health Care in the USA. The Lancet, 01/15/2020

4 Figures from The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Bills in Albany Aim to Ban Fracking by Legislative Act

By Vince Brancato

Natural gas fracking (hydraulic fracturing) has been banned in New York State by executive order of Governor Andrew Cuomo. However, a future governor could rescind the ban, which is why the legislature must act to pass it into law.

Right now there are bills in Albany to confirm the fracking ban by act of the legislature. The Assembly bill is A9678, and the Senate bill is S6906. In light of Three Parks' 2010 resolution calling for the Governor and the state legislature to enact a ban on hydraulic fracturing, our State Assembly members and Senators should be encouraged to support and pass this legislation.

Registering Voters on Broadway

On February weekends, despite the wind and chilly weather, Three Parks volunteers registered voters and gave out literature at tables on Broadway.



Mark Your Calendar



Take Back the Senate Phone Bank & Postcard Writing

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
West 110th St. Location

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

New York Democratic Presidential Primary

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00 AM to 9:00 pm

Early Voting: Saturday, April 18 through Sunday, April 26. Polling places and hours to be announced.

Annual Three Parks Benefit Fundraiser

Sunday, May 3, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Location to Be Announced

At 200 Amsterdam Avenue: Victory Against Irresponsible Development

By Lynn Max

West Side elected officials, Community Board members and West Side activists joined the Municipal Art Society and Olive Freud of the Committee for Environmentally Sound Development in celebrating Supreme Court Justice W. Franc Perry's recent ruling against the developers of 200 Amsterdam Avenue, a "supertall" luxury residential building at 70th St. and Amsterdam Avenue. The developers violated the zoning laws by creating a gerrymandered zoning lot and transferring air rights from non-adjacent buildings to create the tallest building on the West Side at 668 feet. Justice Perry ruled that "the building permits for 200 Amsterdam Ave. should be revoked and the building reduced to conform with zoning regulations." His ruling could result in the removal of as many as 20 floors from the almost completed building.



Marking a Victory at 200 Amsterdam Avenue.

At the press conference on February 14: Olive Freud, President, Committee for Environmentally Sound Development (*at center, holding white bag*); City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (*to the right of Freud*); Elizabeth Goldstein, President, Municipal Art Society (*behind Rosenthal*); Comptroller Scott Stringer (*to the right of Rosenthal*); Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer (*to the right of Stringer*).





Three Parks 45th Annual Benefit

Sunday, May 3, 2020 • 1:00-4:00 pm

Location to Be Announced

HONORING:

Michael N. Gianaris, NY State Senate Deputy Majority Leader
Ted Weiss Public Service Award

Dominicanos USA
Jesse Crawford Community Service Award

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:

\$1,000 Angel • \$500 Benefactor • \$300 Patron • \$200 Sponsor
• \$175 Guest • \$50 Member

If you would like to have your name listed on the benefit invitation as an Angel, Benefactor, Patron or Sponsor, please click on **Fundraiser** on our home page ThreeParksDems.org by Thursday, March 26. You may also call Lois Safian at (917) 453-5910; or email her at: loissafian6@gmail.com

2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Membership Category—Check One

Individual (\$25) _____

Family—two adults in the same household (\$40) _____

Low Income (\$15) _____ Low Income Family (\$20) _____

Sponsor (\$50) _____ Patron (\$100) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

Email _____

Check here _____ if you prefer to receive the newsletter **solely** by email.

Please pay your dues with a check, money order or via PayPal.

Please make out all checks to **Three Parks Independent Democrats**.

Mail to: Three Parks Independent Democrats

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

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Don't Panic—Wash Your Hands!

*Learn How NYC Is Preparing for
the Coronavirus*

Speaker:

Mark Levine

Chair, City Council Health
Committee

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Club Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 8:00pm

Three Parks Board Meeting

Sunday, May 3, 1:00-4:00 pm

Three Parks Annual Fundraising Benefit

Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 8:00 pm

Three Parks Board Meeting