



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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### ***District Leaders***

Bob Botfeld  
Cynthia Doty

### ***State Committee***

Lynn Thomas  
Daniel Marks Cohen

## CLUB MEETING, May 10, 2017

**Topic:** Protecting Our Immigrants  
**Speaker:** Donna Lieberman, Exec. Dir., NY Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)  
Hon. Michael Gianaris NYS Senator, 12th District  
**Presentations:** Mayoral Candidates Invited.  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017  
**Time:** 8:00 pm  
**Place:** The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street  
**Room:** Ballroom

### AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign-in  
8:00 pm Call to Order  
District Leader Report  
Speakers:  
Donna Lieberman, NYCLU  
Sen. Michael Gianaris, 12th District  
Presentations:  
Mayoral Candidates (invited)  
District Leaders  
Endorsement Voting: 8:30-9:15 pm  
ADJOURN

### CALENDAR

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue  
**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**  
*Three Parks Board Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm*  
*Membership Meeting 8:00 pm*  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Membership Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue  
**Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 8:00 pm**  
Three Parks Board Meeting  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue

## President's Report

By Merle McEldowney

Three Parks continues to have a growing membership and increasingly exciting club meetings. In April, we were pleased to welcome Gale Brewer as an unopposed candidate for Manhattan Borough President. Also, we had five candidates who were running for city council (6th and 7th districts), including incumbents Helen Rosenthal and Mark Levine, respectively, who spoke of their records of accomplishment.

Helen Rosenthal is being challenged by Mel Wymore and Carey Goodman. Mr. Goodman spoke about the addition to the Museum of Natural History—an addition he thinks is ill advised and not in keeping with our neighborhood. Mr. Wymore described several conflicts in the neighborhood over rezoning of schools, as well as the historic nature of this election: if he were to be elected, he'd be our first transgender public official.

Mark Levine is being opposed by Thomas Lopez-Pierre. Mr Lopez-Pierre has developed a reputation for antisemitic, racist comments. His comments have been directed at Levine as well as our esteemed district leaders, Bob Botfeld and Cynthia Doty. The Three Parks board of directors decided that since he is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for city council, he should be invited to speak at our meeting. We expected his speech to be racist and antisemitic; it was. The best defense against his outrageous and unfounded accusations is to vote!

Earlier this year, the club passed a resolution stating that State Senators who have joined the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC) would not be allowed to speak at our meeting until they had joined the Democratic caucus. The debate was vigorous, but the resolution won by a clear majority.

This month, we have two exciting club meetings. The first, on May 10, will focus on immigration with Donna Lieberman from the NYCLU and NYS Senator Michael Gianaris as our featured speakers. I am not certain that there is a city in the world that has been a center of immigration as has New York City. Most Three Parks members are the children or grandchildren of immigrants; some are immigrants themselves. We take out-of-town family and friends for dinner in Chinatown, for dinner in Korea Town and Little Italy. More languages are spoken here than anywhere else in the world. If there was ever a city of immigrants, our port city is it—from Hell's Kitchen to Ellis Island—a veritable welcome mat for people from everywhere.

In a city where we walk from place to place and take buses and trains daily, we appreciate the nationalities that we rub shoulders with. President Trump has threatened

immigrants and has threatened our position as a sanctuary city. Donna Lieberman will talk about what the NYCLU is doing to help our immigrants. In response to Trump's threats to cities, Senator Gianaris has introduced the "liberty act" to extend some of the protections that immigrants have in our city to the entire state.

Occasionally, because of the heavy election schedule, we have a second meeting in May. On Wednesday evening, May 24, we will finish our endorsement process. Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor and publisher of The Nation, will speak on "Resistance and Rebuilding in the Trump Era." Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, a candidate for re-election, will also speak. For those of us who have lived on the West Side for a long time, we may wonder why we need an District Attorney when there seems to be so little crime. When was the last time you worried about wearing a gold chain on the subway, or about your kids riding their bikes in the park? What is the Manhattan DA's office doing anyway? Join us on May 24 and find out.

## District Leader's Report

By Bob Botfeld

It is good to be a Democrat on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in 2017. We live in a thoughtful, civil, compassionate neighborhood within a sanctuary city. In the service of their greed and power, and willfully ignoring the consequences of their actions, Trump and the Republican Party appear to be willing to destroy the environment, the economy, the healthcare system, and long-established rules of international relations. Their moment in power will be temporary *if and only if* we continue to share our values and reason as we participate in the congressional and senatorial campaigns in the New York area and beyond.

While the results of the 2016 election were disastrous, the election was close, with Clinton winning the popular vote. In 2018, there will be 24 House seats up for election, held by Republicans, where Clinton won the Congressional district in 2016. If we retake just 23 seats in 2018, the Democrats will be in control of the House of Representatives.

There are many good signs: the plurality of the Democrat John Ossoff in the Georgia congressional election primary, the new emphasis of the national Democratic party to return to the 50 state congressional strategy, and the steady, strong effort of the members of Three Parks working on the 19th Congressional District, discussed elsewhere in this and previous newsletters. The always tempting NYC swing congressional district in Staten Island may finally be in play, if only because Staten Island has twice as many NYC workers per capita as any other borough and Trump is threatening the financial health of the city.

In May, my excellent co-leader Cynthia Doty and I will ask for your endorsement. Over the past two years, it has been a pleasure to work with our new president, Merle McEldowney, the hardworking members of our board of directors, and so many members of our Three Parks club. Some of the neighborhood, local and political issues I have worked on include:

- Kick starting the Clinton/Kaine campaign with tabling in August to gather volunteers prior to the opening of the presidential storefront campaign so ably run by Lorraine Zamora and Lauren Williams.
- Reopening the closed poll sites at the Marseille Apartments and the Masters after a two-year struggle with the Board of Elections.
- Reducing the proposed new heights for building along Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue under de Blasio's well meaning but blunderbuss MIH program. The added height threatened to provide the financial incentive to knock down the rent stabilized and controlled buildings.
- Co-ordinating the petitioning campaigns in our area for our local elected officials including Nadler, O'Donnell, and Perkins.

I look forward to continuing my work as District Leader in the years to come.

## TPID 42nd Annual Benefit

By Lorraine Zamora

Thanks to all our loyal supporters and friends who helped make Three Parks' annual fundraising gala on April 30 such a grand success. Over 140 guests, comprising club members, elected officials and candidates, showed up at the Mexican Festival Restaurant to applaud our distinguished honorees, Congressman Jerry Nadler and Make the Road New York, and to celebrate Three Parks' 42 years of activism.

Among the dignitaries that attended were former Congressman Charlie Rangel, State Senate candidate Brian Benjamin, Comptroller Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Public Advocate Tish James, City Councilmembers Helen Rosenthal and Mark Levine, State Assemblymen Danny O'Donnell and Keith Wright, former State Senator Franz Leichter, and former Comptroller John Liu. Also, NYS Supreme Court Judges Andrea Masely, Kelly O'Neill Levy and Robert Reed; NYS Supreme Court Candidates Nancy Bannon, Tony Cannataro, Melissa Crane, Shawn Kelly, Lynn Jotler, Dakota Ramseur, Lori Sattler, Verna Saunders, Jennifer Schedter, Adam Silvera, Lisa Sokoloff and Alex Tisc, and former NYS Supreme Court Judge Helen Freedman; Civil Court Judge Josh

Hanschaff; and Civil Court Candidates Shah Ally (Chair of Community Board 12), Jim Clynes (Chair of Community Board 8), and Suzanne Adams, Ariel Chester, Erik Gray, Anna Lewis, Ilana Marcus, Megan McHugh, Nick Moyne, Kim Parker, Phaedra Perry, Robert Rosenthal, Leslie Stroth, Richard Tsai and Kate Waterman; District Leaders Curtis Arluck, Joan Paylo and Earl Scott.

We deeply thank all our contributors whose generous support allows Three Parks to continue its political and social justice efforts and increased community outreach. Benefactors, patrons and sponsors are listed below.

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Hon. Jerrold Nadler  
Hon. Daniel O'Donnell  
Suba Pharmacy

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Hon. Cynthia Doty  
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Isabella Wagner  
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Lorraine Zamora & Richard E. Luna

## Judicial Candidates

The election of judicial delegates will be held at Three Parks' club meeting on Wednesday evening, May 24. Each candidate will have an opportunity to speak for 2 minutes before voting begins. Voting will take place from 8:30-9:15.

### Alan Flacks

Having served many times as a judicial delegate, he is conversant with the procedures and delegates seek his guidance. He is committed to the merit screening panel process which he helped to establish, and after each convention, writes and circulates a report of the proceedings to club members and others. Alan has also served as the club's corresponding secretary

and membership director. His community and civic activities include his block association, the 24th precinct Community Council, the NAACP, and the St. Lukes-Roosevelt Community Advisory Board.

#### **Audrey Isaacs**

Served as Alternate Judicial Delegate for past five years. Goes to the courtroom of each judge seeking elevation to Supreme Court Justice to see him/her presiding in judicial proceedings. Does charts comparing qualifications of candidates for elevation. 1975-2000: attorney in private practice. Administrative Law Judge between 1996-2008. Promoted in 2008 to supervise an administrative courthouse with four to five administrative judges.

#### **Bruce Markens**

Served seven years on the Three Parks board including one year as recording secretary. Also served as a judicial delegate or an alternate on five different occasions. He is committed to using his independent judgment to nominate judges who are highly qualified and understand the different perspectives of New York City's diverse population.

#### **Abigail McGloster**

Board member of Three Parks and is interested in being a Judicial Delegate/Alternate; she's worked in the legal field as a paralegal and understands the legal process. In the screening process of choosing judges, she believes it's important that the candidates possess an excellent grasp of the law, maintain calm, be respectful to all parties appearing before them, and have the ability to balance justice.

#### **Al Placeres**

His wife, Effie, a retired Supreme Court interpreter, and Al are longtime Three Parks members. Received a BA from Fordham and Juris Doctorate from Penn Law. Admitted to the NY Bar in 1976; a former Three Parks Judicial Delegate (1983/1984), a former member of Community Board 7, a Harlem Legal Services attorney from 1975-80, and a recipient of the 2010 NYC Neighborhood Achievement Award.

#### **Stephanie Tegnazian**

A Three Parks member for over two decades, she has attended county meetings for the planning stages of the Panel and gotten to know the judges by going to court to witness them "in action." She hopes that she will gain enough club support to become a judicial delegate and have an opportunity to vote at the convention.

#### **Lauren Williams**

Served as president of Three Parks Independent Democrats in 2015 and 2016 and was co-manager for the Clinton/Kaine Campaign Center in the fall of 2016. Also served as Three Parks' membership director, corresponding

secretary, newsletter editor, recording secretary and board member at large. She welcomes the opportunity to serve as a Judicial Delegate, especially given the Trump administration's attacks on our judicial system and the importance of the judicial selection process.

#### **Voters Eligible May 10 & 24, 2017**

Marilyn Ackerman	Deborah Keehn	Carol Siegel
Jennifer Altman	Elizabeth Krob Kellner	Calvin Snyder
Susan J. Baldwin	Erl Kimmich	Mildred Speiser
William Baldwin	Warren Kishner	Ann Lee Spiro
Emily Baldwin	Andrea Kishner	Allan Spitz
Robert Bardin	Norman Lafond	Tori Altina Spoerner
Margaret Beels	Adrienne Lawler	Eric Spoerner
Amy Belkin	David Lazarus	Roschel Holland Stearns
Sam Beller	Barbara Lee	Michael Stearns
Shoshannah Benmosche	Gail Leinwall	Stephanie Tegnazian
Genora Bennet	Robert Leuze	Deborah Thomas
Paul Bifani	Batya Lewton	Jane Thompson
Bob Botfeld	Marie Lin	Ashley Pate Toth
Vincent Brancato	Marie Lunn	Barbara Trelstad
Lynn Braswell	Susan Maderer	Susan Tucker
Marla Bruner	Betsy Malcolm	Ken Tulloch
David Camacho	Mary Ann Marks	Arlene Tyrkko
Theresa Canter	Lynn Bender Max	Ruben Vargas
Robert Chausow	Steve Max	Christine Verzar
Daniel Marks Cohen	Merle McEldowney	Helene Victor
Corinne Constantine	Abigail McGloster	Cecilia Villabona
Allison Curran	George McGuiness	George Voorhis
Tara Dahill	Alex Medwedew	Charles Wall
Mimi Daitz	Arlene Mehlman	Jonathan Weil
Wendy Dannett	Minda Meister	Edith Weil
John Davenport	Bayta Miller	Lauren Williams
Maxine DeSeta	Brenda Morgan	Kitty Williston
Irene Dess	Charles R. Morgan	Judy Wood
Wendy Diller	Annie Muir	Vernita Worrell
Robert Donohue	Derrick Mullins	Lorraine Zamora
Cynthia Doty	Barbara Nelson	Gloria Zeche
Elisa Dunn	John Newell	Tamar Zucker
Gerry Ann Fifer	Adele Niederman	Ariel Zucker-Brull
Alan Flacks	David Ochoa	
Ellen Flax	Joan Ogden	
Alicia Fleming	Dorothy Papo	
Arlene Geiger	Mary Pasley	
Mary J. Geissman	Chris Peralta	
Daniel Gelb	Geraldine Phillips	
Daniele Gerard	Judy Pierre	
Lizabeth Gewirtzman	Alfred Placeres	
Robert Ginsberg	Elliot Podwill	
Pilar Gomez	Carmen Quinones	
Judy Gray	Miriam Rabban	
Jacob Gross	Ann Redpath	
Robert Gumbs	Carol Reisner	
Jessica Haberstock	Patricia Rowe	
Prince Haigood	Lois Safian	
Marnie Hall	Katherine Samuels	
Elaine Hazzard	Carl Sealise	
Michael Hilkin	Doris Schreiber	
Ray Hoobler	Gerald Schultz	
Jacqueline Huey	Hilary Schumer	
Judy Hummel	Nathan Schumer	
Audrey Isaacs	Michelle Semler	
Emma Jenkins	Jacob Sher	
Russell Jenkins	Fredrick Sherman	
David C. Kaplan	Irene Shrier	

#### **Voters Eligible if Paid by May 10 & 24, 2017**

Cyrus Adler  
Patricia Barrera  
Samuel Bartos  
Manuel Casanova  
Christian Cordova  
Susan Dess  
Lisa DiCaprio  
Samantha Evans  
Ernestine Gallagher  
Barbara Goldwyn  
Timothy Greene  
Adam Haridopolos  
Janet Harvilchuck  
Anna Lewis  
Bruce Markens  
Michael Oliva  
Hank Perlin  
Milvoy Samurovich  
Ahmad Shirazi  
Tim Walsh



## Voting Eligibility

*In order to vote in club elections, a member must have paid dues for 2017 and attended at least one meeting in the past six months. Members who were paid up for 2016 and who meet the attendance requirement may become eligible to vote upon payment of 2017 dues. New memberships become effective 30 days after dues are paid. To be eligible to vote, a new member must attend at least one meeting after the 30-day period and within the 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.*

## Phone Banking to Republican Voters

By Chuck Wall

Calling upstate Republican voters to tell them about their own Congressman's threats to popular benefit programs is a great way to lay the groundwork for the 2018 elections—and that's just what the Three Parks Take Back Congress phone banks are doing!

At our third phone bank on March 29, we logged scores of positive conversations with Republican senior citizen voters in the 19th Congressional District, an upstate area stretching from Dutchess County in the south to Otsego County in the northwest. We drew their attention to Administration proposals to cut funding for Social Security and Medicare, and we urged them to call their Congressman John Faso, who sits on the House Budget Committee and who has expressed support for funding cuts, to tell him not to harm those two popular programs.

Our fourth phone bank on April 19 was just as successful. Again we logged numerous positive conversations with upstate Republican senior citizen voters in the 19th District. By this time, Republican efforts to cut benefits by rolling back the Affordable Care Act were no longer an issue, but Republicans continue to float plans to reduce Medicare benefits and cut Social Security funding, so there was no shortage of issues that could impact seniors.

The Republican voters we reached were often unaware of the threats to the programs that many of them rely on, and of Congressman Faso's willingness to support cuts. They are as protective of their benefits as anyone else, and when told what has been proposed, many gain a new perspective on the issues and are impelled to call Faso with their concerns. This new perspective may well carry over to election time.

Once the campaigning season starts, we will be making trips to Faso's district to join forces with progressive groups there. We are also looking at New York City's only Republican congressional district on Staten Island.

Our phone banks are ongoing, so please join us for

upcoming events. Watch for announcements by email and on the Club web page [www.threeparksdems.org](http://www.threeparksdems.org). No computers are needed, but please bring a cellphone. Scripts and training are provided.

## Suba Pharmacy Needs Our Help

**Suba Pharmacy is one of the few independent, family-owned pharmacies on the Upper West Side. Its prices are competitive with, and often significantly lower than, the major drug store chains in the area. Equally important, Mr. Suba cares about his customers and goes out of his way to accommodate them.**

**In 2004, when Suba Pharmacy's lease was about to expire, Three Parks petitioned to reinstate the store's lease. We were successful. Today, faced with rising drug costs and low prescription drug reimbursements from health insurance plans, Suba's profits are at an all-time low. Please consider expanding your shopping experience to include the pharmacy's broad selection of health, beauty, natural and organic products.**

**It's time to help Suba Pharmacy again.**

**2721 Broadway at 104 Street**

**212-866-6700**

## Moving NYS "Single-Payer" Forward

By Chuck Wall

The campaign to bring single-payer health care to New York State continues to grow, with strong grassroots support from health care professional, labor, and medical student groups, as well as from political organizations including Three Parks Democrats.

The focus of the campaign is the New York Health Act, a bill in the state legislature that would provide comprehensive, universal, single-payer health coverage for every New Yorker. On April 4, Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP), a nonprofit research and education organization of 20,000 health professionals, sponsored a day of lobbying in Albany in favor of the Act. Three Parks members joined hundreds of physicians, medical students, union members, and healthcare professionals in a spirited rally on the Capitol plaza, followed by intensive lobbying sessions with individual state senators and staffers.

The New York Health Act was passed by the State Assembly in 2015 and again in 2016 with overwhelming support. The Assembly is expected to pass the Act once again this spring but, so far, Senate Republicans have blocked it from consideration.

In the Senate, the 22 mainstream Democrats are all co-

sponsors of the Act. The Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), eight Democratic state senators who do not caucus with other Democrats, recently announced that they will join their colleagues as co-sponsors of the Act. That brings the current total of Senate sponsors to 30. Brian Benjamin, Democratic Senate candidate for the 30th District in the upcoming May election, has announced that, if elected, he will co-sponsor the Act. That brings the Act within striking distance of the 32 votes needed for passage. But for now, the 31 Republican senators remain opposed. Joining them in opposition is Simcha Felder, a nominally Democratic senator from Brooklyn, who caucuses with Republicans. Together, they have enough votes to block the Act.

It is critically important to get the Act passed in the State Senate. PNHP, along with Three Parks and other groups, will continue to campaign actively on its behalf and to support legislators and candidates who favor the Act. No matter what happens on the national level, the New York Health Act will give all New Yorkers access to universal health care with a single-payer system allows New Yorkers to go to the doctors and hospitals of their choice.

## Monkey Business: Chimpanzees in Liberia

By Wendy Dannett

I would like to comment on the unethical and lethal treatment of 40 to 60 chimpanzees, which I know pales when compared to war, environment destruction, holocausts, and racism. Nevertheless, treatment of even a small group of animals can be shocking and worth taking a look at. Every life is sacred.

From 1974 to 2004, chimps in Liberia were subjected to tests at a research center called VILAB II, run by the New York Blood Center. The chimps have similar chemistry to humans, so they would be infected with certain diseases and tested. As the chimps' infected blood made them unusable for certain tests, they were placed on islands off the Liberian coast. And when researchers moved on to different diseases, the chimps were brought back to the lab. In the lab, chimps were subjected to painful tests and liver biopsies. According to records, individual chimps were sedated 300 to 500 times, many undergoing 50 to 100 liver biopsies. They were moved from cage to cage, suffered illnesses, and babies died of colds. Of 475 chimps, only 45 survived.

The chimps and staff lived through a coup, massacres, civil wars, hunger and sickness. And they survived the weeks after March 5, 2015, when the New York Blood Center cut funding for food and supplies and wages on the islands. They decided they no longer needed the chimps. Despite having millions in assets (and making millions of dollars from the invasive experiments on the chimps), the NYBC left the chimps to die. One worker spoke out, and pressure was put on the Blood Center to honor their promise of lifelong care. They refused. The Humane Society, which had been contacted, stepped in and set up a GoFundMe campaign; they began feeding the chimps. The HS also is trying to set up a sanctuary for the chimps while continuing to put pressure on the NYBC. "They cannot be allowed to walk away after taking advantage of these animals."



Board Members Merle McEldowney, Cynthia Doty, Bob Botfeld, & Awardees Nieves Padilla, Julissa Bisano, Daniel Altshuler (Make the Road New York) and Congressman Jerry Nadler at the Three Parks Annual Benefit on April 30.



## 2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category—Check One

Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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Board Members at the 42nd Annual Benefit: (left to right) Irene Shrier, Chuck Wall, Marie Lunn, Lynn Max, Merle McEdowney, Corinne Constantine, Lorraine Zamora, Mary Ann Marks, Bob Botfeld, Cynthia Doty, Steve Max & Theresa Canter.

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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**  
**Protecting Our Immigrants**  
**Donna Lieberman, Exec. Dir., NY Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)**  
**Hon. Michael Gianaris, NYS Senator, 12th District**  
**Presentations by Mayoral Candidates (Invited)**