

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, NY 10025 ♦ (212) 866-6378

President

Theresa Canter

Judy Wood, Editor

judyw123@verizon.net
(vacation editor – Bob Botfeld)

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

City Council

Phil Reed – 8th District
Gale Brewer – 6th District

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

JULY 2004 PICNIC

DATE: Wednesday, July 21, 2004
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: **Central Park Pond at 103rd Street**
(Entrance on 103rd Street and Central Park West)

AGENDA

212-865-1450 to reserve a bus seat)

CALENDAR (continued)

- 1. EAT**
- 2. DRINK**
- 3. BE MERRY**
- 4. POLITICS**
- 5. MUSIC**

July 13: Tuesday, 7pm
72ND SREET WS HIGHWAY RAMP
CB7 Meeting 1865 Broadway (61st St)

July 21: Wednesday, 5:30pm-8:30pm
**THREE PARKS IND DEMOCRATS
PICNIC**

Central Park Pond near CPW and 103rd Street

July 26 – July 29:
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION,
Boston, Mass

July 31: Saturday
Canvassing and voter registration in
Delaware County

Sept 8: Wednesday, 8pm

CALENDAR

July 10 **PETITIONS DUE**
(date extension from July 6)

July 10 Saturday, 8am-bus leaves NYC)
**CANVASSING AND VOTER
REGISTRATION**, Montgomery Co,
Pennsylvania (Call Lynn 212-666-3129 or Bob

CLUB MEETING
AYH

President's Column

Theresa Canter

We certainly have a busy summer in front of us. It will be hard to find the time to laze in the summer sun when we so much to do to ensure the election of a Democratic president! The big event for the club this summer will be our first annual summer picnic in Central Park! I'm sure it will be a lot of fun and an opportunity to rally around Kerry and our very own kick off for the Democratic Convention in Boston. Don't forget to put July 21st on your calendar!

In addition to the picnic, we will have plenty of volunteer activities to keep everyone plugged into the political loop. Please read all the details in this newsletter on our upcoming weekend tabling, phone banking, and the July bus to Pennsylvania ... And, don't forget to be on the look out for a suitable storefront where we can commandeer our campaign efforts in the weeks before the November election

I hope to have a full report on the Democratic Convention for our August newsletter. Looking forward to going to my first national convention.....Not sure if I will be able to make it onto the convention floor.....but, just being there amid all the excitement of nominating a presidential candidate will be worth the trip!

In the meantime, everyone have a fun and (politically) active summer! Don't forget to email me at ThreeParksDems with ideas and suggestions... See you at the picnic!

THREE PARKS PICNIC

We are having a pot luck picnic – **the Three Parks and Kerry Volunteer 2004 Elect Kerry and a Democratic Congress Picnic** on Wednesday July 21st, 2004 from 5:30-8:30. (There is no regularly scheduled club meeting in July and August.) The picnic will be held in Central Park by the pond near the entrance at 103rd Street and CPW). It's a beautiful spot, there will be good food, friends, talk, and music.

Ernestine Gallagher (212-582-2008) is co-ordinating the food. Please bring food or appetizers for four people. If you know ahead of time what you can bring, call Ernestine and let her know. Bring your friends and neighbors, too. If you are coming from work or it's a last minute decision, bring a snack.

If you can help in setting up – call Cynthia (212-749-4085, Bob (212-865-1450, Ernestine,(592-2008) or Ray 212-222-9029),

District Leader Report

Bob Botfeld

It's that time of year again. Our chance to meet the neighbors, get some fresh air, talk about politics, and while we're standing on that corner (or knocking on our neighbor's door) -- get those petitions signed.

This year the local races and the petitioning effort are overshadowed by the presidential race and our focus on helping Kerry and congressional candidates in the swing states. But, this year, with the excuse of getting those petitions signed, we can tell our neighbors how they can help in the swing states. Inform them about the bus trip to Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 10th and phone banking to Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, etc every Tuesday.

Petition gathering is the one activity that sets us apart from other community service organizations. If Rangel, Schneiderman, Paterson, O'Donnell, et al don't get the required signatures, they won't be on the ballot; if they're not on the ballot, they can't be elected.

They count on us. This year I am especially pleased to be able to help Rep. Rangel because of his outspoken and eloquent opposition to the Iraq war both in congress and in the media.. State Sen. Eric Schneiderman has consistently opposed the west side stadium. Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell has been a thoughtful representative for our district and was particularly helpful in the effort for Suba Pharmacy to remain in our neighborhood

Petitions were distributed at the June club meeting. If you haven't received yours, there is still time to collect a few signatures. Additional petitions may be picked up from Brenda Morgan (212-866-8688). Completed petitions will be accepted until July 10th.

THE WEST SIDE STADIUM

The West Side Stadium is such a flawed proposal and overall bad idea for so many reasons. At the city council hearings, we learned that there has been no independent study of the overall proposal. The Jets paid for the only study that both the city and state are using to evaluate the project.

The city council review of this huge project at the hearing on May 3 was not reassuring. Nearly a third of the city council members attended the Economic Development committee meeting hearings on the project. These seventeen members listened dutifully for over three hours

to four proponents of the project -the Jets president, Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff, Pataki's representative, and the Javits' management, **but** except for Christine Quinn and one other, **they all walked out.** when it was the opposition's turn to testify. Those testifying against the

DISTRICT LEADER REPORT: Bob Botfeld (cont.)

Stadium included nationally known experts on sports financing as well as local opponents. The council members care to listen to or question them.

When is \$800,000,000 not really \$800,000,000?

Throughout the argument over the stadium, the governor's and mayor's representatives have had one uncontested assertion. "That the city is leveraging \$800mm in private investment that would not otherwise be made." But at a Citizen's Union panel discussion last Monday, former MTA head Richard Ravitz asked this question for the first time, "Is this money in cash or credit. What do the Jets mean when they say they guarantee \$800mm? Where are the assets behind the *guarantee* of the famous \$800mm". Doctoroff had no clear answer to this question. The city council members had collectively neglected to ask this basic question.

Dan, what would Park Avenue look like today with the Jets Stadium in the middle of it?

Franz Leichter

Did you know that Park Avenue was also built over rail yards in a manner similar to the proposed stadium? Doctoroff presented a persuasive slide show documenting how the upper east side Park Avenue area has dramatically improved after a platform was built over the Harlem/Hudson Line rail yards. It was interesting to view pictures from the early 1900's of the Park Avenue area from 45th Street to 80th Street before it became the Park Avenue we know today. At that time it was also just railroad yards and it was impressive to see how Park Avenue had developed with hotels such as the Waldorf Astoria, international corporate headquarters, and coveted residential apartment addresses.

At the CU meeting, this Park Avenue development story was the heart of Doctoroff's argument for the stadium. Until our former State Senator, Franz Leichter, stepped to the mike and asked this question: "Dan, what would Park Avenue look like today with the Jets Stadium in the middle of it?"

I look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic on July 21st.

DISTRICT LEADER REPORT

Cynthia Doty

**HOW CAN I HELP THE DEMS WIN?
NY IS A SAFE BLUE STATE.**

First we must be sure that we are a "Safe Blue State." Ask your neighbors if they are registered. Then urge them to send a message to the Republicans, both in Washington and here in NY, by voting Democratic. A large Democratic turnout will warn Republicans who want to run next year, too.

Help us register more young people and get them involved in voting and the Democratic Party, as well as Three Parks. Anyone who will be 18 in November should register. Join us as we register voters at the ballfields, playgrounds, and concerts this summer. Any other suggestions for outreach activities are welcome.

Phone, email, write all your family and friends who live in swing states and tell them how important voting Democratic is this year. Try to persuade any undecided or Nader voters to not let Florida happen again and to vote for Kerry.

If you are vacationing in a swing state, plan to volunteer in that state. We can put you in touch with local Democrats or with any groups in the coalition of America Votes. Talk to those you meet and push Kerry. Wear your buttons; display your bumper stickers!

Join us on our bus trips to PA in July. Join the phone banking every Tuesday night as we call swing states. Sign up to table on weekends.

Hold a house party. It can be a fundraising party, a cellphone party where you call swing states, a letter-writing party, or just a political meet-up to share ideas and talk politics. Enlist friends to join the Club and our get out the vote activities.

Have a Convention party in July. Have an anti-Convention party in Aug. Protest the Republicans by joining an activity that you feel is symbolic and safe.

Think of ideas for September and October. We want to have teams of people to go to or contact swing states and really help pull out every possible voter for Kerry and other Congressional candidates.

3 Parks is growing stronger every day with dozens of new members who are excited beating Bush. Let's keep the momentum going! **Let's all join in so we can have a huge Victory Party in November!**

LANDLORDS WIN RENT INCREASES

On June 17th, the Rent Guidelines Board voted to allow rent stabilized apartment leases that renew this year

to increase by 31/2 % for a one year lease and by 61/2 % for a two year lease. Last year the increases were 41/2% and 7%.

Hundreds of tenants testified against such an increase, telling how devastating they would be to them, especially since the cost of living in NYC has gone up in so many ways, from subway fare hikes to health care costs. Many cited a recent report that NYC is one of the most expensive places in the world. Seniors especially told very powerful stories of how hard it is to make ends meet and how few options exist if they are evicted.

Only 30 or so landlords testified this year, most of whom were owners of small buildings. They talked of increasing expenses. They did not mention that all landlords have access to relief through "hardship legislation." This relief, however, requires opening their books for review. Most are afraid to undergo such exposure, many because it might show profits and partnerships that they would prefer to keep hidden.

And, as I testified, most landlords are more like my landlord: a multi-millionaire who owns many buildings, gets additional rent from renting his basements to cable companies and his roofs to cellphone companies, has unregulated commercial apartments and retail leases, and has decontrolled market- rate apartments that go for \$8000/ month.

To hear the landlords, one would think that owning real estate in New York City is the worst possible business investment anyone would ever think to make! The truth, of course, is that thousands of people are rushing to buy coops, buildings, and land, preferring real estate to stocks, wanting to get a piece of the Big Apple while it's hot and while interest rates are low. Millionaires are moving in by the dozens and low-income renters are being evicted by the thousands.

And yet the Guidelines Board responded to the landlords. Most of the Board members follow the mayor's direction. Ironically, the next week, Mayor Bloomberg issued a plan to address the homeless crisis in the city in which he claimed that he would work to build more low rent housing and provide more housing subsidies. Too bad that he did not release that report to his Board members and ask them to help prevent homelessness by helping people stay in their rent-stabilized apartments.

There was one good vote: SRO tenants did win a freeze on their rents. Small help for the few who are left.

**A VICTORY
FOR COMMUNITY ACTION:
SUBA PHARMACY GETS NEW LEASE
by Cynthia Doty**

A few months ago, Mr. Suba of SUBA Pharmacy received an eviction notice from his landlord who wanted to combine the pharmacy site with the

adjoining small stores to increase the retail rental income. The landlord wanted to take advantage of the current market rents that are skyrocketing. With all the new building for high-rent residents in our neighborhood, the current rents are hovering around \$150/square foot (4 years ago the Associated Supermarket lease at 102nd St. and Broadway jumped from \$45 to \$85. Rents have doubled since then!). Most small local businesses cannot make a profit at these rates. Only chain stores can afford them. Since there are no commercial rent regulations to protect small stores, many are forced to close down and move away.

When we in the community heard that we might lose one of our last remaining independent pharmacies, we sprung into action. Having joined forces 4 years ago when CVS took over the Associated Supermarket's lease and began its drug store war against Duane Reade and Rite Aid, we knew what to do. We were prepared to fight again. Over a thousand people signed petitions and wrote letters in support of Mr. Suba. We called the landlord, the Co-op Board, the elected officials, and the potential new tenant, Independence Bank. We started picketing in front of the store and called the media.

Our reputation as a community that cares about the commercial stores in its neighborhood and a community that is capable of boycotting unwelcome businesses was very persuasive and powerful. The bank didn't want to antagonize its future customers, so it pulled out of the deal for that site. And the landlord heard the outpouring of support for Mr. Suba, changed his mind, and gave him a new lease.

Congratulations to Mr. Suba and all who fought on his behalf. Special thanks to Danny O'Donnell for all his support and negotiations.

***SOMETIMES COMMUNITY ACTION
DOES WIN!***

**BUS TO A SWING STATE
SATURDAY, JULY 10TH, 2004
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO DO
SOMETHING THAT REALLY COUNTS
and TO HELP BEAT BUSH --**

**CANVASS IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA**

On Saturday, July 10th, get on the bus(2.5 hrs) and talk to Pennsylvania Voters Face-to-Face!!.

On July 10th, we will be registering PA voters and talking to them about the issues most important to them! The bus will leave from the West Side at 8am.

Call Bob Botfeld (212-865-1450) or Lynn Max (212-666-3129) ASAP for details and to save a bus seat.

Central Park Pond

Entrance at 103rd St & CPW

JUDICIAL COPS

By Alan Flacks

Elected or appointed (anointed) judges; that is the current question. In my January column in this newsletter, I wrote a lengthy article on why elected judges, chosen by independent, merit screening panels, generally make better judges. Consider Queens and Brooklyn. In Queens county, Supreme Court Justice Laura Blackburne, a continuing center of controversy (recall her pink leather couch and \$310,00 office renovation at the Housing Authority), has been removed from her current assignment and transferred to less taxing duty. She became a Civil Court judge and then a Supreme Court justice both times in unopposed elections thanks to her county leader, Tom Manton, and her district leader husband. In Kings County, we have the Garsons: Gerald and Michael. Gerald has been charged by the D.A. with bribery to fix cases, and Michael has been "charged" by the press with mishandling his aunt's estate.

In New York City, it is unusual to become a State trial judge (Supreme Court) without having served a term as a lower court judge (usually Civil Court), but both Garsons became Supreme Court Justices, also unopposed, directly from private practice thanks to county leader Clarence Norman (and with help from Tony Genovese, the boss of the Thomas Jefferson club in Brooklyn). The Chief Judge's commission has just announced its preference for elected judges. And, we Manhattan Reform Democrats might add, with a screening panel such as ours.

**The Three Parks and Kerry
Volunteer 2004 Elect Kerry and a
Democratic Congress**

PICNIC

Wednesday, July 21st, 5:30pm

SUMMER BOOKS AND MOVIES

(Compiled by Cynthia Doty)

Suggestions for oneself, family, friends, undecideds, or Republicans. Or for a video night or a political book club party. And take a teenager to see Fahrenheit 9/11!

Movies/Videos

Fahrenheit 9/11, Michael Moore

The Day After Tomorrow

Strong at the Broken Places, Max Cleland

The Jesus Factor, PBS

Books

My Life, Bill Clinton

Living History, Hillary Rodham Clinton

Cooking With Grease, Donna Brazile

House of Bush, Kevin Phillips

House of Bush, House of Saud, Craig Unger

The Politics of Truth, Joseph Wilson

Plan of Attack, Bob Woodward

Perfectly Legal, David Cay Johnson

The Price of Loyalty, Paul O'Neill

Against All Enemies, Richard Clarke

Worse Than Watergate, John Dean

Red Sky At Morning, James Gustave Speth

Exception to the Rulers, Amy Goodman

Tour of Duty, John Kerry and the Vietnam War, Douglas Brinkley

The Working Poor Invisible to America, David Shipler

The Faith of G.W. Bush, Stephen Mansfield

The Buying of the President 2004, Charles Lewis

50 Ways to Love Your Country, MoveOn

Surprise Security & the American Experience, John Lewis Gaddis

What We Stand For, The New Democracy Project, Mark Green

The Book on Bush, Mark Green and Eric Alterman

Imperial Hubris, Anonymous

Radio

Air America

Democracy Now

W IS WRONG FOR WOMEN

Cynthia Doty

The Bush Campaign has an ad saying: “W Stands for Women.” Nothing could be further from the truth. Since he took office, Bush has attacked women’s rights and health at every possible chance. We must fight back and spread the truth about his record!

TOP TEN REASONS WHY

“W” IS WRONG FOR WOMEN

From the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee, the DNC, and Planned Parenthood

10. ***Wrong on Equal Pay***

The White House has erased facts from the US websites about equal pay for women. Bush is vs. the Equal Pay Initiative and has dropped sex discrimination lawsuits.

9. ***Wrong on Violence Against Women***

Bush’s budget cut funding for emergency shelters and crisis hotlines for battered women. Bush has opposed efforts to improve databases of stalkers.

8. ***Wrong on Child Care***

Bush’s budget cut nearly half a million children from child care programs for the next five years and cut after-school programs.

7. ***Wrong for Low Income Working Women***

Bush opposes increasing the minimum wage and extending the child tax credit for lower income working families.

6. ***Wrong on Medicare***

Bush’s Medicare Drug program helps drug and insurance companies more than seniors, more than 60% of whom are women.

5. ***Wrong on Health Care***

Bush’s froze funds for Maternal and Child Health and cut access to services such as screenings for newborns and parental care. He opposes stem-cell research.

4. ***Wrong on Education***

Bush refuses to fully fund his own education bills, leaving it to the states and local gov’ts, so children and teachers (most of whom are women) are shortchanged.

3. ***Wrong on the Environment***

Bush has rolled back regulations that protect our air and water from toxins like mercury and slowed down the clean up of toxic waste sites by polluters.

2. ***Wrong on Judges***

Bush has nominated judges who oppose women’s rights in employment, privacy, and reproduction and family planning.

1. ***Wrong on Women’s Right to Choose***

Bush opposes a woman’s right to choose, has cut funding for family planning and emergency contraception, here and abroad, and imposed the Global Gag Rule.

The Bush administration is systematically removing information from government websites and reports on a whole range of women’s issues so that it is harder for women to access information and programs that would benefit them.

Tell your mother, daughter, sister, niece, aunt, grandmother, and friends.

Join FreeChoiceSavesLives.org, a project of Planned Parenthood Federation

Visit the ERLC website at www.elanorslegacy.com

2004 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please pay your 2004 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting or by mailing it with your check to:

JASON MORGAN
Treasurer
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025

New Member ___ **Renewal** ___

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$15) ___

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$20) ___

Student/Senior Citizen/Low Income (\$8) ___

Sponsor (\$30) ___ Patron (\$100) ___

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Email _____

Please make out all checks to "Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2004"

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER GALE BREWER

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your on-going support. It is great to see so many people at our government services information table at West Side street festivals (the next one is August 1st, and we've been at almost all of them for the last 2 ½ years) and at the District Office (563 Columbus Avenue) or at 250 Broadway. Feel free to contact us if you have an issue you want us to follow up on. We also have office hours at the Caribbean Cultural Center on West 58th Street.

Best, Gale

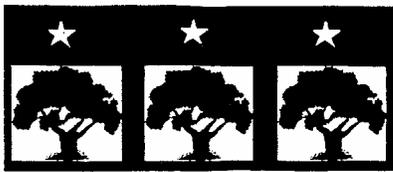
Other Items:

MANHATTAN NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK (MNN) CABLE SHOWS with Council Member Gale A. Brewer, host. Thanks to the wonderful staff at MNN, we are airing monthly shows regarding the West Side and Clinton communities. Called *This Side of Central Park*, they feature local issues and heroes in our midst.

NEW YORK CITY BUDGET: The City Council passed the \$45 billion budget this past week. After a handshake between Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Miller at the beginning of the week, and meetings of the delegations (I co-chair the Manhattan delegation with Council Member Philip Reed), the Council voted for the budget a little before midnight on Thursday night. To obtain a list of the Council restorations, please contact us at 212-788-6975 or gale.brewer@council.nyc.ny.us. Groups that requested funds will automatically be sent a note and the booklet.

Gale A. Brewer

Tel: 212-749-0330



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

Three Parks PICNIC, July 21, 2004

Three Parks Canvassers in Pennsylvania



Front row from left to right: Pilar Gomez, Betty Imbar, Barbara Cutney, Judy Wood, Christine Samurovich
Second Row from left to right: Judy Williams, Mary Vaughn, Milovoy Samurovich, Barbara Lee, Ernestine Gallagher, Batya Miller, Cynthia Doty: Last Row: Jock Davenport, Lynn Max, Bob Botfeld, Larry Hirsch, Josh Pepper. Not shown: Sarah Miller Davenport., Arlene Geiger and Susan Meyer.

