

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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

President

Theresa Canter

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District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas

SEPTEMBER 2004 MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 8, 2004
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: American Youth Hostel
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street
ROOM: Chapel Room

AGENDA

8 p.m. Call to Order

- 1. President's Report & Announcements**
- 2. District Leader Reports**
- 3. "How to Fight to Win"**
Speaker: Todd Gitlin
(Author and Columbia Univ Professor
of Sociology and Journalism)
- 4. Three Parks ID campaign activity
update**

CALENDAR

September 8 Wednesday 8pm
THREE PARKS CLUB MEETING

September 14 Tuesday
New York PRIMARY

September 18 Saturday
Bus trip for Canvassing in Pennsylvania
(See inside for details)

September 22 Wednesday 8pm
Three Parks Board meeting

September 30 Thursday
First Presidential Debate

October 13 Wednesday
Second Presidential Debate

President's Column

Theresa Canter

When you read this the RNC will thankfully be behind us. Hopefully things will have been peaceful and with damage done only to the Bush agenda! And good riddance to them! Not nice to use New York and the tragedy of 9/11 for their own personal political gain.

I was in the interesting position of having experienced both conventions...one by design and one by default...the DNC in Boston as an eager participant in the festivities, and the RNC as a protester. Cynthia Doty, Bob Botfeld and I were the Three Parks Conventioneers running around Boston together trying to hit as many events as humanly possible. Dan Cohen also arrived later in the week, so the club was well represented in Boston.

Being in Boston was an incredible and exhilarating....and exhausting.... experience. It was non-stop activity starting with the NYS delegation breakfasts in the morning featuring a distinguished array of speakers.... Howard Dean, Barak Obama, Hillary Clinton, Al Franken, to name a few. The rest of the day was filled with caucuses, seminars and special events all over town. Fleet Center was the centerpiece of the evening, but the receptions afterwards were not to be ignored. A note for planners of future conventions - cots in the hospitality suite for all of us not privileged enough to stay in the delegation hotel, the Park Plaza! A little respite in the afternoon would have helped greatly in keeping the energy up through the long evening. I'm sure even the Young Dems could have benefited from a siesta break! As my summer vacation, it wasn't exactly restful, but I loved every minute of it!

Although we were not delegates, thanks to our electeds, we were able to get passes into the convention hall. It was thrilling to be there.....It felt like being a part of history in the making. United we stood, Democrats from all around the country. The night of John Kerry's acceptance speech the hall was filled to the rafters with cheering people, bursting with balloons and shimmering with confetti.... What a spectacle! The RNC can't hold a candle to our fireworks.

I am pleased to say that the standing ovation for Howard Dean at the convention was very gratifying..

We should be proud to have supported a candidate who did so much to energize the Democratic party this past election season. These are days when it is good to be a Democrat. The sense of energy and the feeling of unity was very inspiring and instilled confidence that we will indeed win in November.

It has certainly been an active summer what with petitioning, tabling, bus trips and phonebanking. Many thanks to all the club members and Kerry volunteers who have given their time to our campaign activities . The highlight of July was the first annual Three Parks picnic in Central Park! It was a great turnout with a fabulous spread and a banjo picking sing-along! Lots of fun....and lots more to come in the next couple of months in our march to victory in November!

It is very exciting to have Todd Gitlin, currently a professor of journalism and sociology at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, as our keynote speaker for our September meeting. Todd's political activism goes way back, as he served as the third president of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a radical student-led organization that played a leading role in opposing the Vietnam War. I look forward to hearing his insights in how to win the fight for the White House!

BUS TO A SWING STATE

September 2004

CANVASS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Get on the bus and talk to Pennsylvania Voters
Face-to-Face!!.

We will be trained and talk to PA voters about the issues most important to them – the environment, social security, special interests, Iraq, big oil ...

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

District Leader Report

Cynthia Doty

Thank You W and the Republicans!

Thank you to all those Republican invaders who took over our town for their political games-- because finally we have come together! The more they partied, the more we mobilized! The more they showed their “moderate face,” the more we took to the streets! The more they boasted of conservative compassion, the more we rallied and flew the Democratic colors!

Finally after seeing them up close and in our faces, we have come together in one common pursuit: TO SAY *NO* TO THE BUSH AGENDA! And this week has gotten us really fired up and ready to walk, write, talk, shout—do whatever it takes to defeat George W Bush and elect John Kerry and John Edwards!

The camaraderie and wonderful creative energy of this past week has been exhilarating. I was a marshal on the symbolic Unemployment Line, where 5000 people stood in the middle of the sidewalk for 15 minutes along Broadway from Wall Street to Madison Square Garden holding large Pink Slips to spotlight the 8.1 million people without work. A truly powerful image! Then I listened to a reading of the US Constitution by many actors and officials at Cooper Union. I watched the pulling of a granite tombstone honoring the war dead into Union Square and observed the AFSC exhibit of boots and shoes honoring US soldiers and Iraqi civilians who have died in the Iraq war. The Ring of Hope around Manhattan, the ringing of bells at Ground Zero, and the many plays, concerts, readings, and comedy routines all around town—New York came alive in creative protest!

And we walked the talk, too. Marching across the Brooklyn Bridge for Pro-Choice, marching with half a million people in the sweltering sun passed the Garden with United for Peace and Justice, rallying in Central Park with NOW, rallying with Labor—we got our exercise this week! (Protest marches are the new exercise workout for the No CARB Diet : No Cheney, Ashcroft, Rumsfeld, Bush...and no Rice on the side).

So now it's on to the final campaign swing. Let's keep this energy going and really work hard for the next two months until we win. I look forward to celebrating with everyone at our Kerry Victory Party on Nov 2nd!

District Leader Report

Bob Botfeld

It has been just four weeks since the Democratic convention in Boston but it seems like it happened in another political era. Kerry's polls have fluctuated but 500,000 marchers remind us that the energy and voters are there if we organize and reach out.

The Republicans are simply using their major allies - fear and paranoia. The Republican speeches during their convention were reflected in what my neighbor overheard a city policeman tell a couple of tourists who were about to stroll into Central Park, “Don't walk into the park – there are terrorists in there”. I almost hope the cop was having his fun scaring tourists - I am sure there were no terrorists in Central Park – just Americans exercising their constitutional rights - but I am not sure he knew that..

What a contrast to the convention in Boston. The convention and the official Democratic party events were a four day non-stop party. It was exciting to be there at the nomination, surrounded by the local and national press, and sitting in the CNN box during the roll call. On Tuesday, our walking tour guide to the convention center was Michael Dukakis.

And in Boston, the public events surrounding the convention included dozens of fascinating conferences. Former senator Gary Hart talked about how pre-Bush, the United States was not isolated, but instead had a president who was popular throughout the world – and that made us safer. For years before 9/11, Hart had warned about Al Qaeda and similar groups. It was refreshing to hear Hart, former national security director, Richard Clarke, Ambassador Joe Wilson, and others speak about how the weakening of nation-states such as the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and others are leading to instability – not simply “the US vs. the evildoers”. Because these are real problems, there are real potential solutions - not simply invade and bomb.

We only have sixty days left until the election . In our own way, we Three Parkers must continue to contribute to the solution and we must contribute one to one. The Republicans dominate the radio stations and cable television . While station surfing as I drove to Boston, it was obvious that even in New England, the vast majority of news and talk stations are right wing.

We must communicate one to one and use our superior numbers. I believe we can convince voters that “US

vs. the evildoers” is dangerously simplistic.

Three Parkers have previously canvassed in Montgomery County, PA collecting survey forms on voter issue interests.. We will returning to Montgomery for the next and more interesting stage. On subsequent trips, we will use walk lists and talk to the identified swing voters in an effort to persuade them to switch from their traditional voting pattern. The PA organizers have identified those voters whose preferences on specific issues such as Iraq, the environment, health care, or special interests give us a good opportunity to convert them. Sign up at the club meeting or call the trip organizers listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

PETITIONING

In addition to this years extraordinary effort of weekly tabling, bus trips, and phone banking, Three Parks club members again strongly supported our local elected officials in the 2004 petition drive in June and July.

We gathered well over a thousand signatures to qualify our local candidates for the September primary. Included in these totals were sufficient signatures to qualify the Club endorsed candidates for state assembly Daniel O-Donnell; to help qualify State Senators, David Paterson and Eric Schneiderman; and Congressman Charles Rangel. Along with the other clubs, our totals also helped qualify the civil court candidates and our own judicial delegates.

The strong Three Parks effort was led by club members : Lynn Max with 164 signatures, Bob Botfeld,126, David Crowley,114, Steve Strauss, 59, Marion Kaplan, 57, Jock Davenport, 52, Bessie Givens 45, Janet Harvilchuck 45, Lynn Thomas 45, Ralph Andrew,45, Robert Bardin,44, Cynthia Doty,37, Gerald Schultz 37. Olga Gueft ,Doris Schreiber, Ellen Flax, , Mary Jane Thompson, and Jennifer Conovitz each contributed over 25 signatures. Completing the Three Parks effort was Sheila Yablon, Theresa Canter, Milivoy Samurovich, George Voorhis, James Rauchman, Kathy Egmont, Brenda Morgan, Stephen Max, Alan Flacks, Josh Pepper, Douglas Kellner, Lorraine Springer-Scott, Robert Ginsberg, Rochelle Stearns, Annette Ginsberg, and Lauren Kellner.

Congratulation and many thanks to all for a job well done. For those of you who didn't petition and missed chatting with your neighbors about city politics, there is

always next year.

Observing During the RNC David Kogelman

Like many lawyers and law students from the Three Parks area, I wanted to march on Sunday and at the other demonstrations during the RNC, but I decided that our right to free speech and to demonstrate would be better served by my using my skills to work as a Legal Observer for the National Lawyers Guild. So, I joined several hundred others as roving witnesses to document police abuses, demonstrator actions and arrests, and most important, to obtain the names of arrestees and report them to the NLG, so it could provide lawyers to defend them. You might have seen us in our bright green hats.

Happily, there was little need for us at Sunday's march, which about 500,000 attended, including most of the Three Parks leadership and many of its members.

A very different situation prevailed on Tuesday, when it sometimes seemed that perhaps the strain was getting to the police. Don't get me wrong. For the most part, the police just let people protest and chant, and they were both courteous and friendly to me and others, but when they decided to act if often seemed like there was little reason for it and like a tense overreaction.

In Union Square, I observed and reported the arrests of a few young people for no apparent reason, and then watched as the police acted as if they needed to assert their authority by demanding that a chanting crowd disperse from a walkway running from west to east across the park. When the crowd didn't comply, the police marched through, the crowd moved off the sidewalk and onto the grass. But then, the police crossed back, went down the steps to the outer sidewalk and the crowd returned to the sidewalk and its chanting. Overall, to me it seemed like a pointless exercise in futility.

That evening, I found myself on 6th Avenue at 32nd Street, where a crowd filled the street from 6th Avenue to 5th Avenue and chanted for some time while perhaps an almost equal number of police looked. After more than one half hour of this, the police again suddenly and inexplicably moved into that street and dispersed the crown.

Then things took a new and exciting but disturbing turn. The police who had just cleared the street, as well as motorcycle cops, detectives cars and police vans swarmed out of several surrounding streets and rushed to Park Avenue and 28th Street. I and other Observers arrived shortly afterwards, huffing and puffing, and occasionally being confronted by overexcited individual police, only to find that nothing was going happening, and the police were milling about or just hanging out, looking confused as to why they were there.

As I looked around, I discovered about 20 late teens and twenty-somethings handcuffed and sitting on the sidewalk. I obtained their names and listened as they told how the police suddenly came out of nowhere, pushed them down, and arrested them, even though they hadn't been doing anything. Their appearance supported what they said, since they were dressed neatly and casually, and they were not wearing a single political button, carrying a sign or a banner.

After that, tired and having been on my feet for several hours, I called it a night. It was a rewarding day, and I went home feeling I had at least done something to help protect the rights guaranteed to us by our constitution.

"Do the Right Thing" *by Alan Flacks*

This year at our Party's judicial nominating convention for the First Judicial District, (New York County), there are expected to be ten (10) candidates vying for the one "open" seat for the State trial bench. [There are also four incumbents seeking re-election, but they do not anticipate being challenged.] In 1977 the Reform Democratic movement established a merit screening panel mechanism in our party's rules with the aim of ensuring high quality candidates. This independent screening panel is to report out the three "most highly qualified" of the applicants per vacancy for the Reform-affiliated delegates to chose among at the convention.

The Democratic County Committee rules also require that both the Executive Committee, which consists of the District Leaders, and the County Leader must only endorse for County-wide Civil or Supreme court judgeships those individuals who were reported out of the screening panel set up by the county's Judiciary Committee in that year. Five years ago, at the County Leader's behest, the County Committee passed

an amendment to that rule which stated that both the Executive Committee and the County Leader could also endorse any candidate for County-wide judicial office, who was reported out by a screening panel at least twice in the last four consecutive years. [The rule change was not favored by all; it passed 60% in favor and 40% against.] Note that the district leaders have never endorsed a candidate for State Supreme Court, but only for Civil Court.

Now, most delegates to the Judicial Nominating Convention believe that these County Committee rules are applicable to them. They are not. The County Committee can not make rules for the Judicial Convention. Indeed, the convention may nominate any legally qualified candidate, whether or not he/she came out of a panel (as it did in recent years with Stephen Crane and Harold Tompkins). It is certainly pleasing that most delegates today, whether Reformers or Regulars, feel bound to support only panel- screened candidates.

Therefore, at this year's Judicial Convention, there will be 10 candidates presented for designation for the "open" seat: the three to be reported out by the screening panel on Sept. 9th, and seven who have cleared two prior panels within the last four years. This dilutes the Reformers' original intent of having a limited number of "most highly qualified" to chose among. The most principled position of Reform delegates would be to vote for the open seat on the State trial bench only for one from among the three candidates reported out by this year's county independent, merit screening panel. I intend to do so.

A forum to hear all the candidates who intend to be presented at our party's Judicial Nominating Convention is scheduled for Monday, September 20th, 2004, at 6:30 P.M. at the Hargrave Senior Center, 111 West 71st Street, between Broadway and Columbus Avenue, and the Judicial Convention is Thursday evening, September 23rd at P.S. 75 on West End Avenue at West 96th Street. These are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend. For further information, please call me at 212-840-1234.

FIRST ANNUAL THREE PARKS PICNIC

On the perfect summer evening, July 21st, Three Parks held its 'First Annual' Three Parks Picnic by the Pond in Central Park. We had an scrumptious, enormous feast. It seemed like everyone brought enough food for ten others. Three Parks is a most prodigiously culinary talented club. Over 100 members and volunteers enjoyed the wonderful food, talk, music and folk songs.

Thanks to everyone for helping and contributing to the potluck picnic. Extra thanks for those who helped set up and clean up including Lorraine Springer Scott, Kathy Egmont, Catherine Cole, Rosetta Williams, Odessa Steward., Marlene, Zucher, Lynn Max, Sheila Yablon, Jock Davenport, Cynthia Doty, Bob Botfeld, Lynn Max, Sheila Yablon, David Kogelman, Alan Carey, and Jock Davenport. Special thanks to Ernestine Gallager for co-ordinating the food effort.



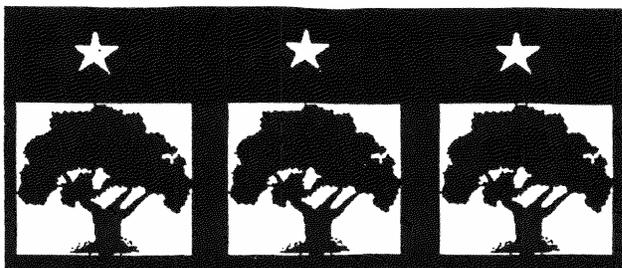
NARAL Pro-Choice NY trips to Pennsylvania:

September 18th Saturday

October 3rd Sunday

October 17th Sunday

Call Christian Tenuta at 212-343-0114, ext. 25 to reserve a seat.



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-6378

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

2004 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 _____

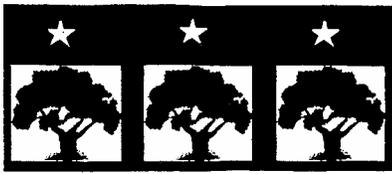
Address _____ Apt. # _____

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



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

This Month's Speaker

TODD GITLIN Author and Columbia Univ Prof of Journalism and Sociology
on "Learning How To Win"

Three Parkers taking a break from campaigning at the wonderful first annual picnic by the Pond in Central Park



Over one hundred club members and volunteers attended the feast and enjoyed the folk music and songs.