

Tight Exec. Committee race yields new faces and old hands

by George Morin

Brown Gardens swarmed with Lex Club members and Executive Committee candidates as 32 hopefuls vied for 20 seats on the Club's governing body.

The Club's annual Executive Committee election is held a week after the Officers' election so unsuccessful Officer candidates could run as Executive Committee members. This year, however, the seven-day buffer proved unnecessary because all Officer candidates had run unopposed.

Friendly and Convenient

Traditionally, the annual elections are a convenient time for members to catch up on their dues and many took advantage of the opportunity. The informal drop-in format also allowed members to meet and talk with the candidates and renew acquaintances with other members.

Nothing stops Carolyn

The Club's elected officials also voted. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney arrived to cast her vote with a cast already on her wrist – because of a recent accident.

She was joined at the ballot box by Assemblymember Jonathan Bing and newly elected Council Member Dan Garodnick.

The voting ended at 9 p.m and the counting began, led by Club President Alex Tisch. He was assisted by Heather Leifer, James d'Auguste, Meryl Brodsky, David Cohen, Larry Rosenstock and Larry Goodman.

Narrow margins

Many candidates and their supporters waited

for the results nearby. In the end, the hotly contested race was very close: two slots were decided by one-vote margins. **LDC**

New Executive Board

(In alphabetical order)

- Jeff Alexander
- Isobel Aronin
- Mike Asta
- June Goldberg
- Scott Greenspan
- Glenn F. Hardy
- Paul Hellegers
- Andrea Kaufman
- Robin Marsico
- Amy Martinez-Miller
- John Mills
- Ken Mills
- Sue Moss
- Mary Odomirok
- Brice Peyre
- Dan Quart
- George Spitz
- Niki Stern
- Jane Swanson
- John Wade

Officers and Elected Officials

President
Alexander Tisch

Executive Vice President
Lillie Balinova

Vice Presidents
Jennifer Coyne
James d'Auguste
Cathy Finlayson
Lawrence Goodman

Treasurer
Meg Laporte

Recording Secretary
Heather Kim Leifer

Corresponding Secretary
George Morin

District Leaders
Meryl Brodsky
Conrad Foa
Linda Foa
Sally Minard
Lawrence Rosenstock
Arthur Schiff

State Committee
David L. Cohen
Trudy L. Mason

U.S. Congress
Carolyn B. Maloney

State Senate
Liz Krueger

State Assembly
Jonathan Bing

City Council
Daniel R. Garodnick
Jessica S. Lappin



Vote counting team includes (left to right) Meryl Brodsky, David Cohen, Alex Tisch, Larry Rosenstock and Larry Goodman.



The Lex Club will only vote with verifiable paper ballots.



Heather Leifer and James d'Auguste have the vote counting in hand.

OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

Recent news and views from Club's Elected officials

Carolyn Maloney has some good news.

Until new legislation recently passed both houses of Congress, hundreds of members of the National Guard who had been called up to secure Ground Zero and assist in rescue efforts were not given full retirement credit for their efforts.

Representative Carolyn Maloney, working with both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate, helped pass the bill that authorized the full retirement credit for the Ground Zero National Guard.

9/11 assistance

In addition, the bill to keep assistance in force for sick and injured 9/11 responders has also passed. It preserves the \$125 million in assistance that President Bush had proposed to take away.

Sex slave law

Congresswoman Maloney has also worked zealously to help pass a bill against the kidnapping of women and selling them into sex slavery. It is the bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Act and she was pleased to attend the bill signing ceremony at the White House when the measure became law.

Eavesdropping without warrant

Shock and dismay followed reports that the president OK'd a program to eavesdrop on American citizens without notifying the courts. The disturbing revelation is a major blow to our civil liberties.

More teeth needed

Even before these revelations Representative Maloney labored for more civil liberties protections by creating a strong Civil Liberties Board as envisioned by the 9/11 Commission. Along with Republican and Democratic colleagues, Maloney has introduced legislation to give the Board more teeth.

Ms. Maloney said recently, "I hope that the spying scandal has made more Members of Congress realize the urgent need for *more* civil liberties oversight and that we can give the Board more muscle in the future." **LDC**

Liz Krueger targets campaign financing and lobbyists' influence.

Recent federal scandals involving a lobbyist and campaign contributions demonstrate that the two are often interrelated.

Stronger lobbying standards

State Senator Krueger is working to develop stronger standards involving lobbyists and campaign financing in New York State, a state with some of the loosest standards in the country.

Gifts: \$25 max

She has proposed to ban legislators from receiving more than \$25 in gifts from any legislator or lobbyist during a calendar year. But despite the Republican Majority Leader's stated support for such a ban, he has not allowed the rule change to be considered in the Rules Committee or in the full Senate.

Supports free speech(es)

Senator Krueger has also introduced legislation banning paid honoraria to senators for speaking engagements, calling the practice another method that lobbyists and interest groups use to financially reward public officials. Twenty-three states have already recognized the dangers associated with public-official honoraria and prohibit them by law.

Campaign contributions

Another way to influence legislators is through campaign contributions. New York State doesn't even require lobbyists to report their campaign contributions to the state lobbying commission. Senator Krueger is drafting legislation to reform these practices because the public has a right to know about the relationship between the lobbyist and the legislator. **LDC**

Jonathan Bing helps seniors make sense of Medicare changes.

Assemblymember Jonathan Bing urges seniors to take the time to understand their options in the new Medicare prescription drug program. While the new program is complex and confusing, it may save seniors money.

Medicare brochure

One can obtain the brochure "Making Sense of Medicare" by visiting Bing's governmental website at www.assembly.state.ny.us. Select Bing's webpage from the "Select a Member" menu and navigate to the brochure under "publications."

Stem cell research

Mr. Bing is also co-sponsoring a bill to create the New York State Institute for Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine. The institute would fund and foster stem cell research in New York to find treatment and cures for afflictions such as Alzheimer's, cancer, spinal cord injuries, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's and diabetes.

Bing believes that with the absence of federal action on this issue, New York must help lead the way in developing these treatments.

Tougher gun control

The recent shooting deaths of two NYPD officers underscores that guns have taken the lives of 7,000 New Yorkers since 1999 and must be stopped. To kick off 2006, Assembly Democrats passed nine tough gun control bills. **LDC**

Newsletter 2006 Schedule

	Material Deadline	Mail
Feb	2/8	2/16
March	3/3	3/11
April	4/3	4/11
May	5/1	5/9
June	6/1	6/10
July	6/29	7/11
Aug-Sep	8/18	8/29
Oct	9/22	10/3
Nov-Dec	11/5	11/29

The Club's members, elected officials and candidates are invited to submit articles for publication. "Where I Stand" and "On A Personal Note" are featured sections with a maximum length of 500 words. Other articles should be between 150 and 300 words. Submissions accepted for publication may be subjected to editing for clarity, brevity and LDC newsletter style. Changes will be submitted to the author for approval as time permits. Materials will not be returned unless postage and self-addressed mailers are provided.

George Morin, Editor
(212) 831-0221 • GMorin@aol.com

WANTED: LEX CLUB MEMBERS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY COMMITTEE

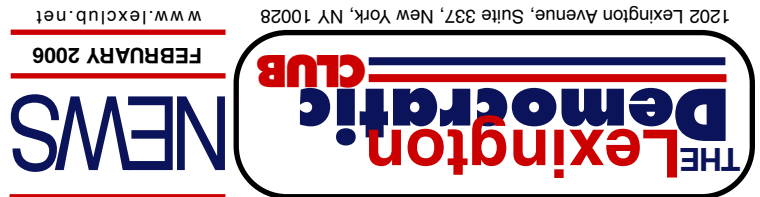
If you vote in the 73rd A.D. you can get more involved in the political process by volunteering to run for the Democratic County Committee. For more information email your name and contact information to info@lexclub.net

See current and past newsletters plus event updates at www.lexclub.net

**GET MORE INVOLVED:
JOIN A CLUB COMMITTEE, RUN FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE (SEE INSIDE)**

INSIDE:

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
- INAUGURATIONS REPORT
- OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - Carolyn Maloney
 - Liz Krueger
 - Jonathan Bing
- New York County dinner
- 2006 newsletter schedule
- PRESIDENT'S LETTER



DEAR LEX CLUB MEMBERS:



The new Executive Committee of the Club has been elected. We are lucky to have had so many active members run for the board this year: 32 members ran for the 20 open at large positions.

I welcome new executive board members Mike Asta, Scott Greenspan, Glenn Hardy, Amy Martinez-Miller, George Spitz and John Wade. Some of them have served previously.

I also want to thank outgoing board members Jackie Brot, George Dwight, Dan Finger, David Liston, Mike Marks and Alfonso Quiroz for their dedicated service to the Club during the past year.

Larry Goodman is a newly elected Vice President and former Vice President Andrea Kaufman has taken a seat as an at large member of the board.

I invite all of you, together with the rest of

the membership, to continue participating in the Club's activities this year.

The State of the Union address by President Bush reminds us what is at stake in every election.

What was said in that speech and what a President Kerry would have said shows the immense gulf between the parties.

The 2006 midterm elections are extraordinary important to this country.

The Democrats have a real shot at taking back the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate. If either body switches control it would be the end of fiscally irresponsible tax cuts to the wealthy, budget cuts to education and health care and a new beginning for ethics reform.

More importantly, it would be the first sign that the American public is demanding accountability from this President and his party. With their complete control of Washington, Republicans have been able to cover up their wrongdoing.

This can't continue if we are to have an effective Democracy. Republicans spent years investigation Bill and Hillary Clinton

on trumped up charges.

Nobody is suggesting that Democrats should abuse investigatory powers, but that we simply give the American public a fair hearing on a number of things, including White House use of the intelligence that led our nation into Iraq, the government's response to Hurricane Katrina, the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, possible Patriot Act abuses and the use of warrantless wire-taps.

I, for one, will enjoy watching the news a lot more come next January if the Democrats are in control on the Hill.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year to help ensure this victory as well as victories here at home in New York State.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Alex".

Alex Tisch,
President, Lexington Democratic Club