

## New Club president, treasurer and recording secretary take over

By George Morin

THE NEW YEAR was just getting started when the hands of change shuffled key slots among the Club's officer corps as well as some members in the executive committee.

In the only officer race that contained opposition, five candidates vied for four vice president positions. Treasurer Meg Laporte joined the four incumbents Jennifer Coyne, James d'Auguste, Cathy Finlayson and Lawrence Goodman in the race.

The unopposed officer candidates were Heather Kim Leifer for president; Lillie Balinova, the incumbent, for executive vice president; James G. Clynes for treasurer; Mary Odomirok for recording secretary; and George Morin, the incumbent, for corresponding secretary.

In the voting on January 18th the four winning candidates for vice president were the incumbents and Meg Laporte automatically became a candidate in the Executive Committee race on January 30th.

### Executive Committee

With 27 candidates running to fill 20 slots on the executive committee many of those vying for a seat reached out to Club members by mail, email, telephone, literature and warm greetings at the polls.

Newly elected Club president Heather Leifer called the close of voting at 9 p.m. sharp and the vote counters took over.

With 98 ballots divided by three teams of Club members the counting and confirming of the voting went smoothly.

In the end, the Club had an executive committee balanced by many veteran members

with a healthy mix of newcomers.

For helping the elections to run smoothly, President Heather Leifer thanked the volunteers: Lillie Balinova, Jim Clynes, Larry Goodman, Jennifer Coyne, Alex Tisch, James d'Auguste, Cathy Finlayson, George Morin, Trudy L. Mason and Larry Rosenstock – and the 98 Club members who braved the elements to vote.

### New Executive Committee

(In alphabetical order)

Isobel Aronin  
Mike Asta  
David Cohen  
Lewis Cohen  
June Goldberg  
Scott Greenspan  
Glenn Hardy  
Paul Hellegers  
Meg LaPorte  
Mike Marks  
Robin Marsico  
John Mills  
Ken Mills  
Sue Moss  
Brice Peyre  
Dan Quart  
Lou Sepersky  
George Spitz  
Jane Swanson  
John Wade

LDC

### Officers and Elected Officials

**President**  
Heather Kim Leifer

**Executive Vice President**  
Lillie Balinova

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

**Treasurer**  
James G. Clynes

**Recording Secretary**  
Mary Odomirok

**Corresponding Secretary**  
George Morin

**District Leaders**  
Meryl Brodsky  
Linda Foa  
Sally Minard  
Lawrence Rosenstock  
Arthur Schiff  
Alexander Tisch

**State Committee**  
Conrad Foa  
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



Vice Presidents Larry Goodman and Jennifer Coyne welcome voters to the Club



Friendly regime change. President Heather Leifer succeeds two-term president Alex Tisch



Executive Committee member Jane Swanson, State Committee member Trudy L. Mason and Club member Christine Roberts

# Committees make the Club; but *you* make the committees

By George Morin

DAVID OGILVY, legendary adman and founder of the Ogilvy & Mather advertising agency, loved to quote from his book, *Ogilvy on Advertising*, thus: "Search all the parks in all your cities; you'll find no statues to committees."

While always a big hit with Ogilvy's creative staff, the saying really doesn't hold up under scrutiny, for example, the statue honoring the five marines who planted the flag atop Mt. Suribachi during World War II.

While the committees at the Lex Club are not nearly as heroic, they *are* how things get done.

They're also how new friends are made, new ideas are hatched and a smoother running Club is created. You're invited to join in. There's a committee for every taste and talent:

## Dinner Committee

The Lex Club annual dinner is one of the most popular Democratic gatherings in New York City. It's also a great way to get to know who's in the know. The three co-chairs, Trudy Mason, Linda Foa and Lillie Balinova, have plans underway for the May 3rd dinner, but nothing can be completed without volunteers.

## Community Service Committee

As the 73rd A.D.'s Democratic club, we have an obligation to serve this community.

You're invited to join with Larry Goodman, Cathy Finlayson, Mike Asta and Glenn Hardy in planning and executing projects for 2007.

## Communications Committee

The Lex Club newsletter is a product of the Communications Committee, as are updates on the website, cards announcing forums, elections, parties and other activities.

One area targeted for improvement this year is the Club's website. Communication skills in any area are welcomed, but graphic designers, art directors and web masters are especially needed.

Join George Morin, Robin Marsico, Bryce Peyre and Meg Laporte in this hearty endeavor.

## Membership Committee

This is perhaps the most vital committee of all. It keeps tabs on our dynamic membership, an important task in such things as accurate mailing lists, accurate records for voting eligibility, and receiving and recording the payment of dues.

Join Mike Asta, Lou Sepersky and David Cohen on this all important committee.

## Constitution Committee

Keeping the Club's constitution applicable to our ever-changing needs is the mission of this committee. Join Ken Mills, Paul Hellegers, Trudy Mason, Lou Sepersky, Scott Greenspan and George Spitz in this challenging endeavor.

## Campaign Committee

This committee is in charge of deploying the Club's army, the volunteers who petition, canvass, pass out literature, make phone calls and cover polling places.

It is the reason the Lex Club is such a sought after club for candidates for elective office.

Join the army of Lillie Balinova, Glenn Hardy, Jim Clynes, Lou Sepersky and Isobel Aronin and be all you can be by recruiting and deploying troops for the battles to come.

## Program Committee

The Program Committee plans and arranges the Club's forums and other programs for the membership. Notable programs such as the transportation forum, the Social Security forum, the flu pandemic forum and the VoteVets presentation are a few examples of these informative events.

Join Lillie Balinova, Trudy Mason, George Spitz, June Goldberg, Lewis Cohen and Meryl Brodsky and help develop more excellent programs in 2007.

## Contact Lillie Balinova

To learn more about or to join one or more of the Club's committees, contact Lillie Balinova at [lilliebalinova@aol.com](mailto:lilliebalinova@aol.com) or by phone at (212) 404 5574. **LDC**

# 65th Assembly seat may soon be open

By George Morin

WHEN Governor Eliot Spitzer nominated Assembly Member Pete Grannis to be the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation a gasp echoed through the 65th Assembly District, "Who will replace Pete?"

The popular state lawmaker had represented the district since 1974. In more than three decades of a lawmaking, Grannis racked up an impressive record of authoring laws favoring consumers in a wide sweep of issues, including insurance, housing and the environment.

## Impressive endorsements

One of the first to enter the race to replace Grannis, if in fact he gives up his seat, was Micah Kellner, a former member and longtime friend of this Club. Others also offered themselves as candidates and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney sponsored a 14th Congressional District caucus in February at the N.Y.U. Medical Center auditorium to hear the candidates for the post.

The candidates who appeared were Susan Chamlin, Barry Klein and Kellner.

Subsequently Kellner received the endorsements of Congresswoman Maloney, Assembly Member Jonathan Bing, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Member Dan Garodnick (Dist. 4), Council Member Jessica Lappin (Dist. 5), City Comptroller Bill Thompson and Borough President Scott Stringer.

As it stands now, the other candidates have withdrawn from the race.

## Record of service

Among Kellner's qualities cited by the endorsers were his dedication to public service, grass-roots community support and a proven record of service to the neighborhoods he serves.

However, one small barrier looms: Grannis's appointment first has to be confirmed by the State Senate, still holding a Republican majority.

But that's another story. **LDC**



After the votes were counted Club members gathered at Fetch for a bite and a beer. (L to R) Cathy Finlayson, Trudy Mason talking with Michael Marks, Dan Faizakoff, James d'Auguste, Alex Tisch, Ben Kallos, Nick Moyné and the top of Larry Goodman's head



The re-elected: Vice President James d'Auguste and Executive Committee Member Sue Moss

# Council members take on tough issues

By Robin Marsico

OUR COUNCIL members have been in office a full year, and each has tackled issues of vital importance to our community.

## 4th Council District

### Tenants' Rights

Council Member Dan Garodnick has successfully advocated on behalf of rent-stabilized tenants. In December, he testified against five proposals from the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal that would have allowed landlords to double new tenants' security deposits, eased eviction proceedings, permitted landlords to increase rent to pay for lead paint removal and allowed luxury decontrol in buildings currently receiving 421a or J51 tax benefits.



Council Member Dan Garodnick

permitted landlords to increase rent to pay for lead paint removal and allowed luxury decontrol in buildings currently receiving 421a or J51 tax benefits.

Dan testified that each of these proposals would unfairly shift the balance of power to landlords over tenants, and Governor Spitzer responded in his first days in office, shelving these proposals.

Dan also introduced legislation in the City Council to establish much-needed regulations on electronic keycards, which can be used not only to gain entry into an apartment or building, but also to collect information on tenants.

A growing number of buildings (e.g., Waterside Plaza, Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village) now uses key cards, necessitating the city to establish standards regulating this potentially invasive technology.

Dan's legislation requires landlords to, among other things, purge any information collected by key cards within 30 days and notify tenants as to what information is being stored and who can access it.

### Transportation

Dan recently announced the long-awaited opening of the subway entrance at the southeast corner of 59th Street and Lexington Avenue. The entrance had been closed since its construction two years ago because of a dispute between New York City Transit and Vornado Realty Trust, owner of the building where the entrance is located. As the two sides neared an understanding, Dan urged them to come to an agreement by the end of January.

In response to the gridlock problem faced on the East Side, Dan co-sponsored Int-199, which

would require the Department of Transportation to set new targets in the way it evaluates its own performance, such as reducing commute time, reducing the number of cars coming into the busiest parts of the city and increasing the use of mass transit.

He also testified recently on the need for pedicab regulations, maintaining that if pedicabs have a place in the overall traffic scheme of the city, there must be licensing and safety standards, as well as caps in place to prevent them from congesting areas such as the Theater District and entrances to Central Park.

## 5th Council District

### City and Suburban First Avenue Estate

Council Member Jessica Lappin announced that the Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to designate 429 East 64th Street and 430 East 65th Street as landmarks. Now all 15 buildings in the City and Suburban First Avenue Estate are protected and will be saved from demolition.

The City and Suburban complexes were built at the turn of the century as housing for the city's working poor. Wealthy investors agreed to limit their profits to provide comfortable, safe and clean affordable housing, a revolutionary idea at the time.

As Chair of the Council's Subcommittee on Landmarks, Jessica had urged the Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold a hearing to designate and protect these buildings.

After the vote took place she said: "The Landmarks Preservation did the right thing and wisely voted to right a wrong, to save a part of our city's history."



Council Member Jessica Lappin

### Bus Rapid Transit

Jessica, a long-time advocate of Bus Rapid Transit (B.R.T.), urged the M.T.A. to implement B.R.T. on First and Second Avenues in her first week in office. Responding to the M.T.A.'s decision a few months ago to heed her request, she said she hopes that B.R.T. – which will include dedicated bus lanes and computer-controlled traffic lights to allow buses to move quickly through intersections – will "ultimately improve the quality of life for many East Side residents." **LDC**



## DEAR LEX CLUB MEMBERS:

I'm very excited about being selected to be the Lex Club President.

I definitely realize I have some big shoes to fill. Congratulations to

all of the Officers and At-Large board members on their election or re-election and welcome to all new Club members.

This year will be a time for our Club to continue to grow in numbers and provide support to candidates whose values reflect that of our membership.

To continue on this path, I'd like to encourage all of our members to join one or more of our club's committees. Please see the information in this issue about how to get involved with our committees.

Also, save the date of Thursday May 3rd. We will be holding our annual dinner at the Yale Club that evening and hope that you will join us. Details will follow in the mail.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or comments. My email address is [hleifer@nyc.rr.com](mailto:hleifer@nyc.rr.com)

All the best,

Heather Kim Leifer  
President, the Lexington Democratic Club

SAVE THE DATE

YALE CLUB

THURSDAY

MAY 3, 2007

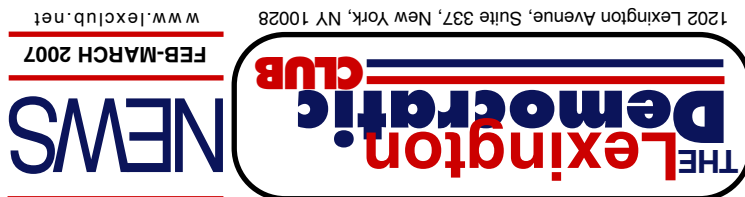
THE LEXINGTON DEMOCRATIC CLUB DINNER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT TRUDY MASON AT (212) 744-8841 OR (917) 868-2699

**INSIDE: The results of the Club's election, how committees make the world go round, the possible open seat in the 65 AD, and the way our City Council members are earning their keep.**

**ABOVE THE FOLD: News and views of the Club's elected officials.**

**GENERAL MEETING**  
SPEAKERS  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**DAN GARODNICK**  
&  
**BOROUGH**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**SCOTT STRINGER**  
WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 21  
7 PM  
BROWN GARDENS  
225 EAST 93RD STREET  
(between 2nd and 3rd Avenues)



## OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

### RECENT NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CLUB'S ELECTED OFFICIALS

WITH ELIOT SPITZER now the governor of New York, the complexion of Albany lawmaking has changed for the better – but it's not perfect yet.

#### Liz Krueger lauds much of Spitzer's budget proposal.

Noting that the governor's "education proposals are the easiest to like," Senator Krueger reports that the new budget proposal exceeds the requirements of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court decision and also proposes an additional \$7 billion for education over the next four years. At the same time, it introduces accountability measures to ensure that the funding is spent as intended.

"The combination of the carrot of new money with the stick of actual standards ... has the potential to alter ... educational funding ... for the better," Ms. Krueger states.

In the realm of health care, Krueger observes, "The need to address Medicaid costs is undeniable, given the huge impact on ... budgets ... but it must be done in a way that protects ... our healthcare delivery system."

The governor proposes \$1.29 billion in

health care savings and, at the same time, wants to expand Child Health Plus to insure 400,000 children in New York who are now without insurance.

Other highlights of the governor's budget proposal in the senator's report include a) closing corporate loopholes by imposing reporting requirements and eliminating some tax exemptions and b) providing \$50 million to create and preserve affordable housing.

"I am impressed by the clarity of [Governor Spitzer's] vision and his commitment to confronting the major issues facing New York State," she said.

In another matter, Senator Krueger reports that Section 8 Voucher list for affordable housing for very low income families has opened for the first time in 12 years. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 14, 2007. Details at the Manhattan Borough office at 55 W. 125 St., (212) 531-1609.

Other affordable housing opportunities for seniors in Manhattan are available through the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty. Call (212) 453-9500 for details.

#### Jonathan Bing works to preserve affordable Mitchell-Lama Housing.

Jonathan Bing is fighting to save affordable Mitchell-Lama Housing in a citywide conference, at hearings, in meetings and in the State Legislature.

The author of two bills passed by the Assembly in 2006 aimed at preventing abuse by landlords of Mitchell-Lama Housing, Bing is a leader in the struggle to keep middle-income working families living in Mitchell-Lama apartments at rents they can afford.

Bing also introduced legislation to reduce the risk of infections in state hospitals.

The Assembly Member is also joining in the effort with Governor Spitzer, Senator Krueger and others in the Legislature to forge significant changes to the state budget process and ethics reform.

One package Bing sponsored will curtail gifts from lobbyists to legislators and create a vigorous ethics watchdog agency.

And, on another front, Jonathan and his wife Meredith have been named a New York "Political Power Couple." Woo hoo! **LDC**