

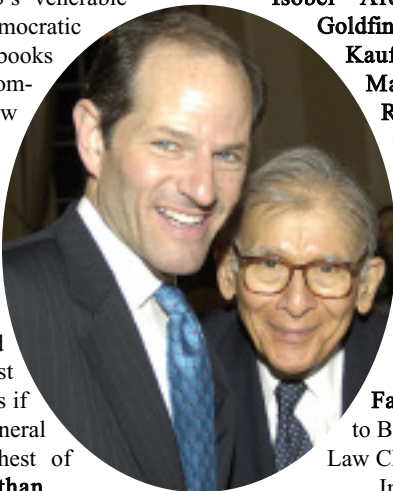
Lex Club throws a dinner to remember

by Meryl Brodsky

A host of members, political pundits, luminaries and old timers arrived at the Yale Club on April 8, 2006 for the Lexington Democratic Club 56th Annual Dinner.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres opened the evening at the Yale Club's venerable library. More than 190 Democratic faithful milled among the books enjoying the fare in the company of old friends and new acquaintances.

Dinner was served in the Grand Ballroom. State Committeewoman **Trudy L. Mason**, a chair of the dinner, moderated and announced that in addition to our honored guest and speakers, a surprise guest would soon join us. And, as if on cue, State Attorney General **Eliot Spitzer**, at the behest of Assembly Member **Jonathan Bing**, entered the room beaming and shaking hands as he



NYS Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Honoree Robert J. Levinsohn

Lex Club President **Alex Tisch** then introduced party officials, judges and candidates and recognized the many Club members who made the evening possible: **Susan Avery, Lillie Balinova, Meg Laporte, Jeff Alexander, Isobel Aronin, Mike Asta, Lynn Goldfine, Andrea Kaufman, Hilary Kaufman, Amy Martinez-Miller, Mary Odomiok, Christine Roberts, Arthur Schiff and George Spitz.**

Minna Elias, on behalf of Congresswoman Maloney who had been detained in Washington, presented Honoree **Bob Levinsohn** with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol.

County Chair **Denny Farrell** then delivered a tribute to Bob Levinsohn, Senior County Law Chair.

In his remarks, Bob Levinsohn recalled much of the Club's history and detailed the events that led

made his way to the podium where he launched into a speech that, in part, recognized the Lex Club as the Democratic powerhouse of the Upper East Side. In his remarks Jonathan Bing also commended the Club for its hard work in helping to make the district Republican

to our extraordinary success.

Douglas Kellner, New York State Election Commissioner, took the podium and gave an update on why the paper trail is more important to clean elections than having the latest technology.

Linda Foa, the other chair of the dinner, arrived from working late hours at her day job and graciously closed the evening. **LDC**



Herman "Denny" Farrell, Jr. Chair, New York State and County Democratic Committees.

free (except for the mayor).



Douglas A. Kellner New York State Elections Commissioner

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U.S. Congress
Carolyn B. Maloney

State Senate
Liz Krueger

State Assembly
Jonathan Bing

City Council
Daniel R. Garodnick
Jessica S. Lappin



Standing ovations greeted speakers, the surprise speaker and the entire dinner committee.

MORE DINNER PHOTOS INSIDE >>>



TOP ROW: Andrea Kaufman, Lynn Goldfine, Mary Odomirok, Christine Roberts, Jeff Alexander, Conrad Foa, Linda Foa, Trudy Mason, SECOND ROW: Martin Schulman, Susan Avery, Adam Leitman Bailey, Meryl Brodsky, Doug Kellner, William Thompson, Scott Stringer, THIRD ROW: Sally Minard, Linda Foa, Bob Levinsohn, Liz Krueger, Alex Tisch, FOURTH ROW: "Oldtimers" table with George Spitz, Leecla Eve, Trudy Mason, Andrew Cuomo, BOTTOM ROW: Pete Grannis, Arthur Schiff, Denny Farrell, Leslie d'Auguste, James d'Auguste, James Chou, Ryan Laffey, Cathy Finlayson, Larry Rosenstock, Jose Serrano, Mark Green and Jonathan Bing.

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

John Murtha tells it like it is.

by George Morin

War was the subject of the Town Hall meeting on April 10th at the East Side Community Church of New York.

The invited guest was John Murtha, a Pennsylvania member of congress and a 37-year veteran of the Marine Corps. Murtha stunned the nation on November 17, 2005 when he called for an immediate withdrawal of U.S.



Carolyn Maloney presents fellow Member of Congress John Murtha

troops from Iraq.

troops from Iraq.

Here's the plan

At the Town Hall meeting Murtha forcefully presented his three-step plan:

1. Redeploy the troops from Iraq;
2. Reallocate the money for security needs at home; and
3. Re-engage the world in the struggle against terrorism.

It's time to come home

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney arranged for Murtha's appearance and described Murtha as "a champion" for America's fighting men and woman. To the military families with members fighting in Iraq, Ms. Maloney said, "It's time for your sons and daughters to finally come home."



John Murtha explains his plan to redeploy troops from Iraq and reallocate the money for security at home

Diverse views represented

The meeting attracted a standing-room-only crowd of diverse political views. Some who opposed Murtha's call for "redeployment" interrupted his presentation with shouted statements and contrarian questions.

Questions encouraged

The audience had been requested to submit questions in writing. Brice Peyre, Maloney's political director, combined similar questions into one and put them to the congressman.

In his responses, Murtha maintained that we have lost the minds and hearts of the Iraqi people and that there is no clear definition of success.

Weak signs of stability

Murtha also pointed out that signs of stability have not improved:

- Electricity and oil production are below pre-war levels
- Unemployment remains at 60 percent
- And insurgent incidents have increased steadily.

The congressman also noted that a poll showed that 80 percent of the Iraqi public are "strongly opposed" to the presence of coalition troops and 45 percent believe that attacks against Americans are justified.

In wrapping up he said, "The Iraqis are smart and proud people and must take control of their country. My plan motivates them to take control sooner rather than later." **LDC**

Dan Garodick updates the Club

by Robin Marsico

On March 21, new District 4 Council Member Dan Garodnick kicked off the first Lex Club meeting of the year with a discussion of the latest City Council developments of issues important for both his district and the city.

Transportation

The Council recently held a hearing to determine if the M.T.A. had entered into contracts to effect the safety and security of mass transit.



City Council Member Dan Garodnick

Dan explained that the M.T.A. had only spent the \$600 million allocated for this purpose in the last couple of months and reported that another \$100 million has been allocated for subway security.

Dan also discussed "Bus Rapid Transit," where buses run in dedicated lanes and passengers prepay fares before boarding, thus allowing the buses to move along more like the subway.

The system would be an interim measure while the Second Avenue subway is being constructed. The city's Department of Transportation are studying fifteen appropriate sites that include First, Second, Third, Lexington, Madison and Fifth avenues. Dan is pushing for the department to choose the East Side sites to develop first, noting that 40 percent of all subway riders are packed into the Lexington Avenue line.

Education

And the Council continues to pressure the Pataki administration to allocate the funds for city schools that the state is obligated to pay according to the court rulings in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (C.F.E.) lawsuit, first initiated over ten years ago.

Dan said the city has a five-year capital program to improve the schools, the current year being year two. The city was forced to contribute the state's share of the program for year one because of the state's failure to pay the funds awarded in the C.F.E. lawsuit. Fortunately, the city will have enough money this year so it will not need to cut funds to the program.

Waterside Development Project

Dan spoke about the forum he co-hosted about the development of the Con Ed site on First Avenue between 38th and 41st streets, which is described at length in last month's newsletter (visit www.lexclub.net/newsletters).

The project proposed by the developer, Sheldon Solow, is now in the uniform land use review process and must be presented to Community Board 6, the Borough President's Office and the City Planning Commission because a zoning change is sought to erect residential buildings. Dan will continue to advocate for reasonable development at the site.

Dan also described a full plate of committee assignments: chair of Planning, Dispositions and Concessions; co-chair of Rules, Privileges & Elections; member of Education; Land Use; Public Safety; Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations; Standards & Ethics; and Transportation.

He also was elected co-chair of the Council's Manhattan delegation that positions him to better represent the borough in budget negotiations. **LDC**

**Statewide
Candidates
Forum**

Sunday, May 7 at 4:30 p.m.

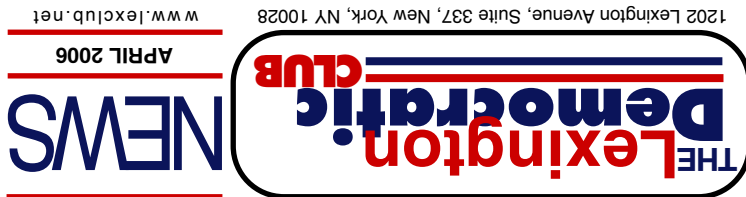
NYU Medical Center
550 First Ave at 31st Street

All candidates for
**Governor and
Attorney General**

have been invited to attend

Co-sponsored by the Lexington
Democratic Club and six other East
Side Democratic clubs.

INSIDE: Read and see all about the Lex Club dinner
ABOVE FOLD: See how you can apply to be a Judicial Convention delegate



OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

Recent news and views from Club's elected officials

State Senator Liz Krueger and Assembly Member Jonathan Bing both played important roles in passing the second on-time Legislative budget in a row. Now that both houses of the legislation are functioning as they should, isn't it time for the governor's office to follow suit? Maybe next year, huh?

Liz Krueger announces senior housing opportunities in Manhattan.

Senator Krueger is informing constituents that Met Council/33 West End Senior Residence is now accepting applications for 119 affordable one bedroom rental apartments now under construction at 33 West End Avenue. To be eligible for the \$616 a month units applicants must be 62 or older with incomes between \$24,640 and \$29,760. Applications must be postmarked by May 27, 2006. To receive an application send a S.A.S.E. to Met Council/33 West End Senior Residence, 80 Maiden Lane, 21st fl., New York, NY 10038. Selection will be made by lottery.

Ovarian Cancer Hotline

Woman diagnosed with Ovarian cancer, or those with suspicious symptoms, can call 1-866-537-4237 to receive peer support, information and access to state, regional and local resources. The hotline was established by SHARE in cooperation with the American Cancer Society.

Jonathan Bing supports bills to help small businesses and startups.

Assembly Member Bing has informed constituents about several bills that recently passed the Assembly to help small businesses raise start-up capital or expansion capital by providing the same level of access to vital financial support as larger companies.

Timothy's Law passes Assembly

In addition, legislation that Bing sponsored would provide insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and chemical dependency comparable to coverage provided for other medical care. **LDC**

Judicial Convention Delegate Candidacy

Anyone who wants to run in the September primary to be a delegate to the Judicial Convention should send a brief bio of 35 words or less **no later than 11:59 p.m. May 5, 2006** to Heather Leifer. On endorsement night, June 1st, the Club will select 7 delegates and 7 alternates to run in the primary.

Heather Leifer
e-mail: hleifer@nyc.rr.com
FAX: (646) 619-4023

Upcoming Events

Local Candidate Forum

May 25th
and

Club Endorsement Vote

June 1st
Details to come