

Dan Garodnick lays it all out: from illegal hotels to education reform

By George Morin

Dan Garodnick didn't let his bout with food poisoning spoil his presentation to the Club membership on March 21st at Brown Gardens.

After his introduction by President Heather Leifer, the Council District 4 member waded into issues that he supports and those he opposes.

Local Law 11

A law that greatly affects buildings in the city is Local Law 11. It requires that buildings repair their facades every five years.

Dan has introduced legislation to stagger the dates of required repairs so that buildings need not all compete at the same time for the limited supply of contractors. Dan thanked District Leader Arthur Schiff for his help with this issue.

Illegal hotels

Another vexing problem that has developed in the city and on the Upper East Side is the renting out of apartments to transients, in effect turning residential buildings into hotels without the required security, facilities and zoning.

"I'm working with the mayor's office to clean up a whole set of laws that govern this problem," Dan reports.

92nd Street Greenmarket

Dan also supports the reopening of the 92nd Street and First Avenue Greenmarket at the Stanley Isaacs Houses and near the John Holmes Towers.

The market brings affordable and healthy produce to people who need it and connects the two communities with other residents of the Upper East Side.

Out-of-control parking placards

Another issue Dan is tackling is the burgeoning number of parking placards, those pieces of plastic that permit a car to be parked in no-parking and no-standing zones.

The issue touches on the enormous traffic congestion problem we suffer with in Manhattan.

"The New York Times recently reported that 30 to 35 percent of city workers are driving to work today . . . that made me wonder what the

heck is going on," Dan said.

Church needs funds, neighbors peace

Another dispute involves residents living near the Third Church of Christ Scientist at 63rd and Park. The church is looking to raise needed funds by renting out its very beautiful space to individuals, corporations and charitable groups. But faced with events of up to 1,200 people and as often as 150 to 215 days a year, the church's neighbors have expressed great concern.

A trio of East Side elected officials – Dan, Senator Liz Krueger and Assembly Member Jonathan Bing – are trying to bring the residents and the church together to find common ground.

Subway stop at 59th & Lex

The council member also related that the subway entrance on the SE corner of 59th and Lexington has finally been opened after two years of disagreement between the M.T.A. and the property owner. The action alleviates safety concerns about the limited egress in one of the busiest subway stops in the city.

Educational restructuring

Dan expressed concern about the plan to restructure the entire school system that he heard for the first time at the mayor's state of the city address on January 17th. As a member of the city council education committee, Dan believes he should have been consulted and so should have parents, teachers and principals.

The principals are in a very hot spot because they'll need to make decisions by the middle of May based on information they won't receive until April – and, perhaps, without knowing all their options.

Co-op discrimination

Another issue is a proposed law that would require co-op boards to disclose the reason they turned down prospective buyers.

Garodnick believes there are laws already in effect that protect against housing discrimination and the new law would only "create a lot of litigation and not get at the root of the problem." He will not support the legislation. **LDC**

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President Heather Leifer welcomed Council Member Dan Garodnick to the Club's March general meeting.

Calling all candidates for Judicial Convention delegate

With thirteen delegates and thirteen alternates, the 73rd Assembly District will almost double its presence at the 2007 Judicial Convention compared with the 2006 convention.

The rise in our representation is the result of the large number of 73rd AD voters of all parties who pulled the lever for Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line in the recent race for governor – many more than in the two previous governor races.

Spitzer had cross-over appeal to Republican and Independents that has not been seen since the days of Mario Cuomo – the last time the 73rd District had such a large number of delegates.

Delegates at the Judicial Convention will choose Democratic candidates for the New York Supreme Court.

The delegates and alternates will be selected by the Club at the May 31, 2007 endorsement vote and will qualify for election after the requisite number of petition signatures are obtained.

Candidate bios should be received by 11:59 p.m. on May 9th. They will then be mailed to the membership to arrive by May 16th, in time for the Candidate forum on May 22nd and 15 days before the endorsement vote on May 31st.

The Candidate forum will begin at 7 p.m. at the RWDSU Local 3.

The endorsement vote will be at Brown Gardens from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on a drop-in basis.

If you're interested in running in the primary to become a delegate, submit a short bio of 50 words or less to:

- Mary Odomirok:
email odomirokm@aol.com

See the schedule at right for more details.

– George Morin and Alex Tisch

May Schedule

Candidates to be a Judicial Convention delegate or alternate must send a 50-word bio to the

Club's secretary
postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on
Wednesday, May 9th

Mail or email to
Mary Odomirok
112 North 9th St
Brooklyn, NY 11211
email: odomirokm@aol.com

Judicial Candidates Forum
Tuesday, May 22nd

Local 3 of the RWDSU
1010 Third Ave
(btwn 60th & 61st Sts)
3rd Floor
7 p.m.

Judicial Candidates
Endorsement Vote
Thursday, May 31st

Brown Gardens
225 East 93rd St
(btwn 2nd and 3rd Aves)
drop-in vote
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



DEAR **LEX CLUB** **MEMBERS:**

Thank you to everyone who attended our last general membership meeting to hear our Councilman Daniel Garodnick report on his

work in the community and at the City Council. It was great to see so many new faces and of course to see our long-term members. I also hope that the councilman is feeling better, as he was a bit under the weather that day.

The month of May will be busy for us. We start the month with our annual dinner which will be held at the Yale Club on Thursday May 3rd at 6 p.m. Then we move on to the Executive Committee recommendation vote, a candidate forum (Tuesday May 21st) and our endorsement vote (Thursday May 31st). If that isn't busy enough, we start petitioning in early June.

Please read on to hear about our celebrity Executive Committee Member Sue Moss and how the 73rd Assembly District gained six more judicial delegates and alternates (for a total of 13 delegates and alternates) for this year's judicial convention.

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

All the best,

Heather Kim Leifer
President, the Lexington Democratic Club

Liz Krueger reports disappointment with budget approval process

By George Morin

In her April community bulletin, State Senator Liz Krueger detailed some reasons why she was disappointed with the state budget approval process this year.

"Key negotiations that resulted in over a billion dollars in new spending, and the shifting around of billions more, occurred almost entirely behind closed doors, a continuation of Albany's culture of secrecy and back-room deals. This is not a new situation, but one I had hoped would change more with a new administration," the senator wrote.

Three to six

She went on to observe that the "three men in a room" process of the storied past improved to be six men in a room. And she also acknowledged that she had more access to information and that the governor had introduced his budget

by "bringing 19-million New Yorkers into the room and into the conversation."

Stop the rush

She believes that "to preserve the integrity of our budget the process *must* stop being so rushed."

"Passing revised budget bills with huge changes, without explanatory memos, without time for anyone to review them ... simply cannot be argued as responsible decision-making. It's more like impulse buying – particularly when the clock is striking midnight..."

Senator Krueger's solution is expressed in the legislation she has proposed that requires a 10-day waiting period from the time he budget is printed to the time it is voted on.

This year, the senator reported that the final budget bills were voted on while they "were lit-

erally still warm from the printing presses..."

Start sooner

Krueger also believes that the budget process needs to start sooner – as soon as the new session begins.

Another proposal that Krueger put forth is to change the fiscal year from April 1st to June 1st, thereby providing more time after the April 15th tax deadline for accurate fiscal analysis.

Match reality with rhetoric

"I've been in Albany for five years now, advocating for exactly these types of changes ... [and] that it took a long time for Albany's process to get as bad as it did ... [and] it can't be changed overnight. We will need perseverance ... [to where] reality matches rhetoric," she concluded.

LDC

What's new with Sue?

By Robin Marsico

How many of us know that the Lex Club's Hown Sue Moss, former Executive V.P. and current Executive Committee member, is also a distinguished television commentator?

Sue, an attorney specializing in family and matrimonial law, has recently been appearing on the Nancy Grace show on CNN to offer her expert analysis of newsworthy legal issues.

While her comments on matrimonial law have regularly appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Daily News*, *The New York Post* and other papers, it was a chance meeting with Nancy Grace at a party several months ago that led to Sue's stint on the show. Sue has since appeared on CNN Headline News and Fox 5.



Sue Moss stars as law woman on TV

Hailing originally from Oceanside, Long Island, Sue always wanted to be a lawyer (she says that's why her parents named her "Sue"), and as a kid watched all the legal shows.

She graduated from the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago Law School, and now has her own law practice in Midtown Manhattan.

Her clients have recently included David Gest (former husband of Liza Minnelli) and several

notable sports figures.

Although thoroughly enjoying her day job, Sue always wanted to be on reality television. For her, the opportunity to appear with Nancy Grace is the next best thing.

She says that Grace, herself a former lawyer, "helps people understand and analyze legal issues that affect us all. Typically she will have mental health professionals, attorneys and other interested parties who give their opinions and analysis on all sides of the issue."

Sue is usually called the morning of the show and asked to appear later that same day. That leaves little time to prepare, but her in-depth knowledge of her specialty, combined with a quick wit, never leaves her without a valid point to make.

During her latest appearance (April 24) on the Nancy Grace show, she and other attorneys from around the country discussed the legal implications of Alec Baldwin's telephone tirade to his 11-year old daughter, the subject of a heated custody battle with his ex-wife, Kim Basinger.

Sue discussed this same topic last week with Raul Felder on *Showbiz Tonight* (CNN Headline News program).

So what's next for Sue Moss? Perhaps a pop-up legal book for children? Sue says she is looking forward to watching Jonathan Bing change a diaper for the first time.

Thanks to Sue for talking with us. If you missed Sue on TV, you can view a segment by going to www.youtube.com and entering "Sue Moss" in the Search box. **LDC**

Annual Club dinner promises to be chop-lickin' good

By George Morin

Last year's cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Yale Club's mahogany-paneled library, Eliot Spitzer's surprise visit, Bob Levinsohn's brilliant address, Denny Farrell's stirring tribute and Doug Kellner's informed election opinion, were no match in popularity for –

Lamb chops.

Petite, delicious lamb chops served as hors d'oeuvres at the cocktail reception in the library.

Everyone wants them back.

But, in truth, the succulent morsels are only a warm up for this year's dinner honoring Assembly Member *Jonathan L. Bing*.

Our guest speaker will be Public Advocate *Betsy Gotbaum* and a special presentation will be made by Congresswoman *Carolyn B. Maloney*.

Plus, a dinner will be served that everyone will be raving about next year.

It's all there for you to enjoy at The Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue at East 44th Street, Thursday, May 3, 2007.

If you have not received your invitation, call Trudy L. Mason at 212 744-8841 or 917 443-3315. Or email her at TLMpr@aol.com

Special election in 65th AD to fill Grannis's shoes set for June 5th

June 5th has been selected as the date to elect a replacement for Pete Grannis who served the 65th AD as its Assembly Member for over 30 years and has accepted his appointment to become the Chairman of the New York State Environmental Council.

Seeking to fill his shoes is Micah Kellner, a former member and long-time friend of the Club.

Micah is currently campaigning in the 65th AD to introduce himself to and ask for support from those he would serve. He is also preparing for a possible Republican challenger.

Kellner is the only candidate now known who is currently seeking the Democratic nomination. He received wide support from elected officials and others in the 65th AD.

Any Club member who would like to assist Micah in his campaign should contact Jake Dilemani, Campaign Coordinator, The Kellner Committee at (203) 770-0467 or by email: volunteer4kellner@gmail.com. – *George Morin*

All smiles 2006!



Club members and luminaries at Club dinner last year. TOP: Eliot Spitzer and Bob Levinsohn. BOTTOM (L to R) Trudy L. Mason, Andrew Cuomo, Sally Minard and Linda Foa.

**LEX CLUB
ANNUAL DINNER
YALE
CLUB
THURSDAY**

MAY 3, 2007

**HONORING
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
JONATHAN L. BING**

**GUEST SPEAKER
PUBLIC ADVOCATE
BETSY GOTBAUM**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY
CONGRESSWOMAN
CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

50 VANDERBILT AVE
AT EAST 44TH ST.
RECEPTION 6 P.M.
DINNER 7 P.M.
FOR MORE INFO CALL
(212) 744-8841 OR (917) 443-3315

INSIDE: Dan Garodnick reports to the members; Sue Moss's TV gig; a call for Judicial Convention delegates; the Club dinner; Krueger on the budget; the 65th AD special election.
ABOVE THE FOLD: News and views of the Club's elected officials.

**LEX CLUB
ANNUAL DINNER**

**YALE
CLUB**

THURSDAY
MAY 3, 2007

HONORING
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
JONATHAN L. BING

GUEST SPEAKER
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APRIL 2007



OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

RECENT NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CLUB'S ELECTED OFFICIALS

WITH ELIOT SPITZER's first budget passed, the Second Avenue subway project underway and new Zip Codes on the Upper East Side, there's a lot to talk about.

Jonathan Bing believes the new budget will go a long way toward helping New Yorkers.

Assembly Member Jonathan Bing reports that the new budget will increase statewide education by \$1.7 billion and require New York City to create a plan to reduce class size.

It also includes \$600 million for stem cell research to create 21st century employment opportunities.

The budget also –

- Provides \$43.4 million for pre-kindergarten programs
- Authorizes 100 more charter schools
- Increases aid to CUNY by \$6 million.
- Provides \$1.3 billion property tax relief
- Restores \$355 million in medical facility funding

Bing was particularly involved with three health care initiatives:

- \$250,000 for the N.Y.U. Mobile Dental Care Program
- \$6.3 million for the United Fund 2-1-1 grant program
- \$4.6 million for palliative care education and training.

The Assembly Member also acknowledged that the budget process did not meet the improved standards of open debate that the Legislature had set for itself during the past two years. Bing reports he was disappointed that the sincere effort to meet the state's budget deadline of April 1 resulted in greater closed-door discussions than in the past two years of on-time budgets. Bing hopes that next year's budget process returns to more open discussions.

Second Avenue Subway

With the groundbreaking of the Second Avenue subway on April 12th, the first signs of the construction are already showing up on Second Avenue. In 2005, Bing co-sponsored legislation that became the Transportation Bond Act that provided \$450 million for the new line.

Working with other elected officials on the

Upper East Side, Bing has attempted to mediate the conflict with residents regarding the proposal by Third Church of Christ, Scientist at Park and 63rd to rent its facilities for social functions. (See article on page one.)

New Zip Codes

Assembly Member Bing also reports that the Postal Service has plans to add new zip codes for many business and residences located in 10021:

- E. 61st through E. 68th becomes 10065
- E. 69th through E. 76th becomes 10021
- E. 77th through E. 80th becomes 10075

If you have question about these issues, please call Bing's District Office at 212 605-0937.

Liz Krueger congratulates Pete Grannis.

Having seconded his confirmation on the floor of the Senate, Senator Liz Krueger lauded the selection of her colleague Alex "Pete" Grannis the veteran Assembly Member from the 65th AD who was nominated by the governor to become the Commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation. **LDC**