

Club's election draws hefty exec committee slate

by George Morin

Candidates for a spot on the Club's executive committee promises a lively election on January 26.

With 20 spots to fill, 32 Club members have offered their good counsel to guide the Club in 2006.

Seasoned hands and new talent

The slate covers the spectrum from long time members who have previously served as officers or on the executive committee to members who are offering their services for the first time.

The surge of member interest is a sure sign of the health and vitality of the Club in light of our success in keeping the Upper East Side Republican free in the hard-fought November elections.

Officers' slate unopposed

The Club's officer corps, on the other hand, is running unopposed with the president, executive vice president, four vice presidents, treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary seeking re-election.

Meet the candidates

Club members will have an opportunity to meet and hear all candidates for office on January 19, the date of the election for officers, at Brown Gardens, 225 East 93rd Street.

The executive committee is an extremely important body in the functioning of the Club since it has ultimate control of the purse strings and Club policy.

The only way to ensure the best selection is by the informed votes of the members – especially yours.

You're urged to attend the January 19 meeting and election of officers to hear the candidates in preparation for the January 26 election of the executive committee, also held at Brown Gardens.

Candidate Biographies

The candidates' biographies were mailed to members with the notice of the elections.

The biographies are also available on the Club's website (www.lexclub.net). Open Events and click on the link to the bios. **LDC**

Executive Committee Candidates

(Vote for 20)

- Jeff Alexander
- Isobel Aronin
- Mike Asta
- Jackie Brot
- Lewis Cohen
- George Dwight
- Dan Finger
- June Goldberg
- Scott Greenspan
- Glenn F. Hardy
- Paul Hellegers
- Andrea Kaufman
- David Liston
- Mike Marks
- Robin Marsico
- Amy Martinez-Miller
- Shawn McElhenny
- John Mills
- Ken Mills
- Sue Moss
- Mary Odomirok
- Brice Peyre
- Dan Quart
- Alfonso Quiroz
- Christine Roberts
- Bruce Rothman
- Lou Sepersky
- George Spitz
- Niki Stern
- Jane Swanson
- Joan Yagid
- John Wade

Officers and Elected Officials

- President**
Alexander Tisch
- Executive Vice President**
Lillie Balinova
- Vice Presidents**
Jennifer Coyne
James d'Auguste
Cathy Finlayson
Andrea Kaufman
- 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 Garodnick
Jessica Lappin



Leecia Eve, John Mills, Miriam Danar, Paul Hellegers and Alex Tisch enjoy the Club's Holiday Party. More photos inside.

REVIEW:

Is today's press shying away from the truth?

by George Morin

In the second of two articles appearing in *The New York Review of Books*, Michael Massing continues his critical examination of the state of the fourth estate in America. In his first article, reviewed here last month, Massing described "external pressures besetting journalists today, including a hostile White House, aggressive conservative critics, and greedy corporate owners."

In this article, "The Press: The Enemy Within," Massing concentrates on "the press's internal problems ... that keep the press from fulfilling its responsibilities to serve as a witness to injustice and a watchdog over the powerful."

Balanced into obscurity

Massing reports the frustration of an investigative reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* whose story about "real" GOP voter suppression in St. Louis was so watered down by his editors' insistence of reporting far lesser missteps by Democrats that the story lost all meaning and impact.

Fear factor

Massing traces this sad state to fear of appearing "unbalanced" and an ever-growing lack of resources. "As a result of budget cuts ... the [*Los Angeles Times*], recently reduced its

Washington staff from sixty-one to fifty-five...." Despite California's environmental concerns, the paper has no Washington reporter "dealing with problems of the environment".

Network news

Massing also decries the continuing decline of network news, reaching back to Edward R. Morrow's complaint in 1958 that the broadcast industry was "fat, comfortable, and complacent." And the decline continues unabated. In 1970, CBS had a "global network that included fourteen major foreign bureaus, ten mini-bureaus, and stringers in forty-four countries. Today, CBS has eight foreign correspondents and three bureaus."

The war news

Perhaps the most troubling part of Massing's report is the news from Iraq. "Many U.S. journalists feel queasy about quoting [Iraqi] eyewitnesses who offer information that runs counter to statements put out by the U.S. military ... regardless of how much evidence there is to back up the civilian's claims."

You can read the entire article at www.nybooks.com/articles/18555 **LDC**

THE DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

How about an agenda we can remember?

The DNC issued an agenda to lead our party to victory in 2006. Here's an attempt to put it in a nutshell to help you remember it on the street corner when you're trying to win a convert to the cause.

An agenda to remember

1. Keep America safe by protecting our ports and nuclear and chemical plants. And by securing all the unsecured nuclear material in the world.

2. Maintain our strength in the world with strong alliances, mutual respect and shared vision.

3. Honor our troops by telling them the truth, fitting them with the right equipment, and keeping our commitments to them when they come home.

4. Keep the economy strong with good paying jobs, balanced budgets and paying down the outrageous Republican-fueled national debt.

5. Expand quality education by ensuring that our schools have the resources they need and that young people have programs to make a

college education affordable.

6. Secure Social Security by defending it against privatization and improving it for future generations. In addition, fight for pension reform to protect families from Enron-abuse.

7. Provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and leave medical decisions to the doctors and patients, not to the government and the HMOs.

8. Champion honest government and support needed reforms in government ethics standards to hold everyone responsible for their actions.

9. Make every vote count and let every voter vote. Make poll access easy, lines shorter and votes verifiable.

10. Protect the environment for the health of our families, the strength of our economy, the security of our nation, and the fate of the world.

11. Support equal opportunity for all Americans by expanding availability of jobs, health care, and education. Vigorously enforce civil rights laws. **LDC**

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS.

Thursday, January 19, 2006,

7 p.m. Speeches by candidates for all positions

6 to 9 p.m. Secret ballot drop-in vote

BROWN GARDENS, 225 East 93rd Street (between Third and Second Avenues)

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT LARGE

Thursday, January 26, 2006,

6 to 9 p.m. Secret ballot drop-in vote



DEAR LEX CLUB MEMBERS:

Watching portions of the Samuel Alito hearings I can't help but think of how much our party and our causes lost when

John Kerry was defeated in 2004. We can all be happy when we see President Bush's approval ratings on the decline but we must remember that he is still President and is regularly using and abusing the powers that come with the office. His regressive policies are being implemented at all levels of the federal government and his appointments to both the executive branch and the judiciary are swept in with barely a protest. One party rule is a drag, especially when it is not our party ruling.

There is something we can all do about it. This year is an election year and a very important one at that. There are Senate and House races all over the nation at stake. Democrats have a great chance of making inroads on the Republican majority and even have a shot of recapturing one or both chambers. The impact of taking either chamber would be huge. Our party would have the platform to set an alternative agenda and also expose the wrong doing by this administration in Iraq, wiretaps, Patriot Act abuses, Abramoff-scam and the rest by holding public hearings. The party also has a great chance of emerging after this year with a majority of the nation's governorships. This would give the party an opportunity to test our ideas at the state level and groom leaders for the national stage. For those of us under the age of 40 the only Democratic Presidents elected in our lifetimes were once governors.

In our State we have a number of opportunities as Democrats to make a difference. After twelve years of Pataki we have a chance to elect a Democrat to the governorship. We need to hold the attorney general and comptroller seats. We need to re-elect Senator Clinton. We need to assist Senator Krueger in her efforts to seize control of the State Senate. Closer to home we have the re-election campaigns of Congresswoman Maloney, Senator Krueger and Assemblyman Bing to work on. We also have an open judicial seat to fill as Judge Lippmann retires. We can't rest easy after our successes last year. There is so much to do and I look forward to working with all of you to make it happen. It is an important step towards ensuring that we will not have to sit by and watch more Alito's get promoted.


Alex Tisch,

President, Lexington Democratic Club

It wouldn't be the Holidays without a party.



Happy faces abound at the Club's Holiday Party on December 14 at the Ship of Fools! From the top, left to right: Miriam Danar, Lewis Cohen and Bernadette Evangelist; Tanya Kennedy and Larry Goodman; Mark Green, Jonathan Bing and Alex Tisch; Cathy Finlayson and Micah Kellner; Jessica Lappin; Heather Leifer and Scott Stringer; Dan Garodnick; Trudy L. Mason and Amy Martinez-Miller; Julie Hendricks; Eve Rachel Markewich and Larry Rosenstock.

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NEWS

THE Lexington Democratic CLUB

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS LAY OUT AGENDAS

Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin get down to work *by George Morin and Robin Marsico*

The Lex Club's winning city council candidates turned in their campaign flyers and buttons for a stack of thorny issues that will consume their waking hours from now until their next primary challenge.

Dan Garodnick

In the 4th Council District Dan Garodnick's agenda includes the redevelopment of nine-acre site of the Con Edison Waterside Plant between 38th and 40th streets, kick-starting the Second Avenue subway line and implementing an interim transportation system to relieve the jammed-to-capacity Lexington line.



At the Con Ed site the developer wants to create a series of buildings of Chrysler Building and Trump Tower proportions.

Dan believes the developer must maximize open public space, allow easy access to the waterfront and create the affordable housing units so needed by residents in the city.

And while the long awaited Second Avenue Subway is being built, Dan proposes that an interim transportation system, known as Bus Rapid Transit, be developed on First and Second avenues.

Dan also proposes to make better use of our waterfront by expanding ferry service to lesser-served communities in the city.

Dan's permanent district office will open in early February, but in the meantime mail can reach him at 250 Broadway, NY, NY 10007, Attn: Dan Garodnick.

He also can be reached at (212) 818-0580 or garodnick@council.nyc.ny.us.

Dan has been assigned to the Rules Committee of the Council.

Jessica Lappin

In the 5th Council District, Jessica Lappin, succeeding Speaker Gifford Miller, has hit the ground running, having already toured an elementary school and senior centers, and met with local police and firefighters.

Near the top of her agenda is the Solid Waste Management plan to deal with the 50,000 tons of garbage the city produces

every day. While she general approves of the goals of the plan, she has "serious concerns" about building and expanding marine transfer

stations in densely populated residential neighborhoods and believes the East 91st Street Marine Transfer Station is a mistake.

Another issue of great concern is the water supply shaft that will connect the East Side to the city's new third water tunnel.

Jessica believes the selection of the shaft site and water main route must be done carefully, with a thorough review of potentially adverse impacts.

Her other priorities for the district include improving the education system, maintaining and expanding affordable housing, and improving the transportation system for East Side residents. Jessica can be reached at (212) 535-5554; her temporary district office is at 336 East 73rd St., Suite C. **LDC**

