

Club endorsements kick off petitioning season

by George Morin

A strong slate of candidates for this year's Democrat primary fueled the turnout at the Club's elections on June 6 at Ruppert Community Center.

The races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, State Senate, State Assembly and State Committee had little or no opposition.

The Attorney General race lost some of its drama with the State Committee's strong endorsement of Andrew Cuomo. (Mark Green and two other candidates will petition to be on the primary ballot.)

But Club members' attention turned to the hotly contested Civil Court District 9, Seat 2, race among William Ramos, Robert Reed and Lori Sattler and to the 16 candidates vying for the 14 slots for Judicial Delegate and Alternate.

The voting began at 6 p.m. and ended when Club president Alex Tisch cast his ballot at 9 p.m.

In addition to the Club members who braved the rainy night to cast their votes, the Club's elected officials also faithfully recorded their votes.

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney was on hand as the vote counting began. She told the vote counters how she had started her political career by doing what they were doing – counting votes at the Lexington Democratic Club.

She then displayed her photography talent by taking an outstanding picture of the crew at work. **LDC**

Endorsement Election Results

(Totals for contested races only)

Governor:

Eliot Spitzer (94)
Tom Suozzi (8)

Lieutenant Governor:

David Paterson

Comptroller:

Alan Hevesi

Attorney General

Andrew Cuomo (69)
Mark Green (23)

U.S. Senate:

Hillary Clinton (92)
Jonathan Tasini (5)

U.S. Congress:

Carolyn Maloney

State Senate, 26th Dist:

Liz Krueger

State Senate, 28th Dist:

Jose Serrano

State Assembly:

Jonathan Bing

State Committee:

David Cohen
Trudy L. Mason

Civil Court Countywide:

Jane Solomon

Civil Court, Dist. 4, Seat 1:

Eileen Rakower

Civil Court, Dist. 4, Seat 2:

Michael Stallman

Civil Court, Dist. 5, Seat 1:

Arthur Birnbaum

Civil Court, Dist. 9, Seat 2:

Lori Sattler (83)
Robert Reed (14)
William Ramos (0)

Judicial Delegates:

Delegates

Alex Tisch (82)
John Mills (73)
Heather Leifer (67)
Arthur Schiff (57)
Ken Mills (55)
Robert Levisohn (55)
Larry Rosenstock (44)

Alternates

Conrad Foa (43)
Linda Foa (41)
Trudy Mason (40)
Darren Marks (37)
Scott Greenspan (36)
Meryl Brodsky (35)
Robin Marsico (34)

Amy Gray Piper (24)
Justine Tumolo (22)

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 COUNTERS: (L to R) John Mills, Sue Moss, Heather Leifer, James d'Auguste, George Morin, Cathy Finlayson, Isobel Aronin, Alex Tisch. PHOTO BY: Carolyn Maloney



FRIENDS, FAMILY & CELEBRATION: (clockwise) Andy Tulloch, Michael Katz and Esther, Sue Moss, Micah Kellner, Heather Leifer, Carolyn Maloney, Alex Tisch, Andrew Cuomo, Jonathan Bing and Liz Krueger.

Petitioning: the price of admission to elective office in New York

by George Morin

Getting petition signatures for the Club's candidates is one of the most valuable services we provide.

If you've petitioned in the past then you know how much you're appreciated. If you haven't yet participated, you are encouraged to jump in and collect some signatures.

The rules are simple. To carry a petition you must be a registered Democrat in New York State. Those who sign the petition must be a registered Democrat in the candidates' district.

So with a petition attached to your trusty clipboard, here's what you do:

- Fill in the date

- Get the signature first
- Print the name so it can be read
- Get the street addresses only
- If an error occurs, cross it out and initial it
- Complete the witness statement
- Make sure the number of signatures is correct
- Be certain the dates are sequential
- Sign your name with the address where you're registered to vote

To get your petitions, contact Campaign Committee Co-Chair Heather Leifer at 646 643-8109 or email her at hleifer@nyc.ny.com.

The shot seen 'round the world . . .



Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Lex Club's State Committeewoman Trudy L. Mason after breakfast in Buffalo. (AP Photo/Don Heupel)

. . . or at least around the country.

When the Club's State Committeewoman Trudy Mason discussed issues with Senator Hillary Clinton at the Convention Center in Buffalo last month, little did Trudy know AP photographer Don Heupel was watching and snapping.

The Trudy and Hillary moment went out over the AP wire along with the an article by Marc Humbert about the kick-off of Senator Clinton's re-election bid.

At last count, the photo and story appeared in 52 newspapers around the country, including the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Next month's issue of the newsletter will have the *inside* story of the State Convention.

—George Morin

Young Dems: a growing force in the party

Ah, to be young, determined and a Democratic living in Manhattan!

Lex Club member Kristina Hoke heads up the Manhattan Young Democrats and is always on the lookout for new members. If you, a family member or a friend are 16 to 36 and live in Manhattan, Kristina's club could serve you well. The club combines both political activism with social events and community service.

It's a perfect place for young progressive New Yorkers to meet, do good and have fun.

High school students are on top of Kristina's most-wanted list.

The Manhattan club is a chapter of the New

York State Young Democrats that have chapters in 30 counties in the state with over 15,000 members.

The club's activities include:

- recruiting new Democrats
- registering voters
- training members for field work
- leading campaign invasions to help win close elections,
- educating young voters on the issues that matter to them.

For more information contact Kristina at hokek@rockefeller.edu or visit the club's website at www.manhattanyoungdems.org

—George Morin



DEAR LEX CLUB MEMBERS:

The Lex Club has had an exciting few months since I have written last.

We had a wildly successful dinner which was attended by a host of candidates for office

including Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

We have had events which have given our members and the community an opportunity to meet and question elected officials and candidates for office. We also had our endorsement meeting and vote for 2006.

As the campaign season unfolds there will be numerous opportunities for our membership to help out our endorsed candidates.

Currently the Club is circulating petitions for Congresswoman Maloney, Senators Krueger and Serrano, Assemblyman Bing, state committee members, judicial delegates and judicial candidates. I encourage everyone to carry these petitions. This is essential grass roots political work which qualifies our candidates for the ballot.

As we head towards election day we will be out on the street campaigning for these same candidates plus our statewide endorsees: Spitzer for Governor, Paterson for Lieutenant Governor, Cuomo for Attorney General, Hevesi for Comptroller and Clinton for U.S. Senate.

With the country turning against Bush and the Republican party, it is an exciting time to be a Democrat and I look forward to working with all of you to ensure a Democratic victory in November at all levels.

Sincerely yours,

Alex Tisch

President, the Lexington Democratic Club

Contact
Heather Leifer
at 646 643-8109
for petitions and
candidates'
schedules

City Council focuses on quality education

by Robin Marsico

The City Council continues to focus attention on improving the quality of education for the city's schoolchildren.

Full-day for pre-K kids

At a visit to a Chinatown day care center last month, Council Speaker Christine Quinn detailed a proposal to expand the 34,000 half-day slots in the Department of Education's Universal



Robin Marsico

Pre-Kindergarten program to full-day slots, noting that early childhood education is one of the most critical factors in determining future success.

Approximately 40,000 children are enrolled in the City's Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. Children who attend pre-kindergarten are less likely

to become drop-outs, repeat grades or require special education, and according to the National Education Association, full-day pre-kindergarten is more beneficial for students and meets the

needs of working families in ways the two- or three-hour programs cannot.

Real savings

A study of Universal Pre-Kindergarten in New York found that providing pre-kindergarten to every New York family would save the state up to \$828 million over the course of the children's education because of reduced need for remedial services and grade repetition.

The speaker's April 6 budget response proposed that all existing pre-kindergarten half-day slots be extended to full-day over the next three years.

Real need

In a recent *Our Town* editorial, Speaker Quinn and the Council's Manhattan delegation – which includes Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin – reiterated the need for a full-day pre-kindergarten, citing a recent study of students in a low-income, urban public school district, which found that those attending a full-day pre-kindergarten outperformed those who had only a half-day.

School breakfast & summer meals pay off

The City Council also recently introduced a city-wide campaign to increase the number of children participating in the school breakfast and summer meals programs.

It's simple: eat well, do better

Currently, every one of the approximately 1.5 million students in the system is eligible for free school breakfast and summer meals, yet barely two students out of ten participate in either program.

"We are here to support a simple, common sense idea: when kids eat well in the morning, they do well at school all day long," Speaker Quinn said.

As part of the campaign, over half the council members visited schools in their districts and spoke with parents and students about the benefits of eating school meals.

High schoolers to promote program

The Council will also enlist high school students to enter a competition to create a school breakfast promotion. The winning promotion will be posted in public schools across the city.

LDC

OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

Recent news and views from Club's elected officials

Jonathan Bing announces that three more of his bills have passed the Assembly.

Assembly Member Bing has added three more Assembly-passed bills that he has authored to his credit during his three and a half years in office, making a grand total of 18 – eight of which became law.

The most recent bills would 1) exempt Social Security income from the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption calculation to expand eligibility in the program; 2) would create a check-off on State income tax returns for the NYS Council on the Arts; and 3) would end illegal practices that threaten the safety of workers, such as employers locking employees inside the business.

Stopping Medicaid fraud

In addition, Bing announced that the Assembly has passed legislation that he sponsored to combat Medicaid fraud by creating a Medicaid Inspector General, imposing stricter penalties and providing incentives for prevention. The legislation could recover millions of taxpayer dollars.

Opponent from Scarsdale

Bing also notes that his Republican opponent this November will be imported from the wilds of Westchester County and has lived in the 73rd District for only a year and a half.

However, the opponent has helped to return George Bush to the White House and has been a supporter of national Republican candidates.

Liz Krueger recommends *All Together Now ... for your summer reading.*

Having been inspired by the ideas contained in the book *All Together Now: Common Sense for a New Economy* by Jared Bernstein, Senator Krueger circulated an essay by the author to her constituents that included some eye-opening ideas about the "You're On Your Own" (YOYO) conservatives and the "We're In This Together" (WITT) progressives.

Bernstein concludes the essay with, "The YOYO's chickens are coming home to roost, and many of us await with great hope the arrival of the much more optimistic, can-do WITT agenda.

"The only question: who has the vision to lead

the way?"

More Affordable Housing Opportunities

Senator Krueger is informing constituents about more affordable housing in Manhattan.

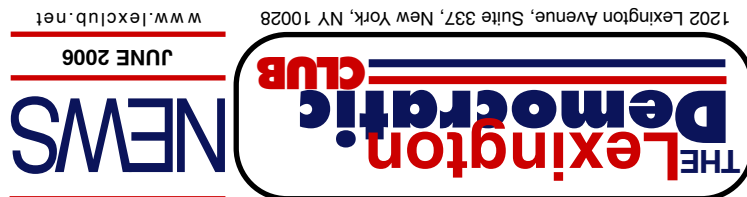
Cooper Square II and III is now accepting applications for 63 units, including studios and one and two bedroom apartments. Rents will be \$452 to \$744 per month depending on income and unit size. Eligible applicants must have incomes between \$16,950 and \$35,450 depending on unit and family size. Other conditions apply. You may request an application by mail from Cooper Square II and III Affordable Housing, 303 Park Ave. South, PMB 1122, New York, NY 10010. Include a S.A.S.E. Applications must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2006.

Subsidies for foie gras?

Senator Krueger has introduced legislation to increase accountability for corporate subsidy deals such as the \$420,000 grant to a farm that force-feeds ducks to expand their livers 10 times normal size to mass produce the delicacy *foie gras*. A process that is extremely inhumane. **LDC**

INSIDE: Report on the Club's endorsement elections, petitioning, education, Young Democrats, the Trudy & Hillary moment and officials' news and views. ABOVE THE FOLD: Carolyn Maloney speaks out on New York security cuts.

General Meeting
Jessica Lappin
 City Council Member, District 5
and
Scott Stringer
 Manhattan Borough President
 will report on the issues that
 affect our community
Tuesday, July 18, 2006
 7 p.m.
Brown Gardens
 225 East 93rd Street
 (btwn 2nd & 3rd Avenues)



Homeland Security cut for New York is as bad as you think.

Adapted from Representative Carolyn Maloney's eNewsletter 6/19/06

If you've read or seen the news over the past few weeks, chances are you couldn't miss the stories about the ridiculous decision by the administration to cut homeland security grants to New York City by 40%. The pork-



Representative Carolyn Maloney

barrel distribution of homeland funds has shortchanged New York ever since 9/11, and I've spoken loudly against it for years. I never thought it could go from bad to worse, but that seems to be the case.

Makes no sense

Now that we've had a little while to digest the funding announcement and the explanations for the decision, you would think that it would make more sense, but it truly does not. Secretary Chertoff and his underlings have spent a lot

of time on the air and in the papers, giving a variety of explanations that often contradict each other.

The truth seems to be that the Department of Homeland Security devised a far-too-complicated funding system that put New York at a disadvantage and that those inputting information into the new formula were simply incompetent.

Formula weighted against New York

By endorsing funding by "need" in addition to "risk," by funding regions instead of cities, and by relying on peer review panels that may have been sympathetic to low-risk cities, DHS's formula was weighted against New York.

No NYC national icons?

On top of that, the people running the show showed incredibly poor judgement. They accounted for exactly zero national monuments and icons in New York City. (They categorized the Empire State Building, for instance, as a "large office building"

instead of an icon. Isn't it both?) They also punished New York based on the quality of its application. They just didn't show common sense.

Swift response

The response from the New York delegation has been swift and loud. The entire House delegation joined Peter King and me in requesting a face-to-face meeting with the Secretary, and we expect that to happen soon.

Set in stone

Though I believe Mr. King will tackle this problem in his committee, our immediate legislative options are somewhat limited because this year's distribution is essentially set in stone.

Money that could be solidifying our security here in New York and Washington will instead be spent on fancy and unnecessary equipment in places like Omaha, Louisville and Jacksonville. All this the result of a bad plan and incompetent execution. **LDC**