

# New York State turns *Bluer*. Get ready for 2006.

by David L. Cohen,  
Member of New York State Democratic Committee.

Election Day now seems like a lifetime ago, but on the Upper East Side, the Lex Club is still savoring the part we played in Dan Garodnick's and Jessica Lappin's resounding victories.

### The Democratic tide

Dan and Jessica were part of a trend of Democratic victories sweeping across New York State – from Brookhaven to Buffalo and many cities and towns along the way.



On Long Island Democrats won control of both Nassau and Suffolk counties with two Democratic county executives and Democratic majorities in both legislatures.

Up in the Hudson Valley, Democrats took control of the Ulster County legislatures for the first time in 25 years. Democrats now outnumber Republicans in the county and hold an edge in seven of 12 legislative district.

### Virginia & New Jersey

In the biggest contests outside of New York State, Tim Kaine's win for Governor in Virginia and Jon Corzine's win in New Jersey show that if you have good candidates and a strong agenda – and are willing to ask for the vote in Republican-leaning areas, not just Democratic areas – you can win.

### Democrats build for the future

Back to New York, these local Democratic victories (and there were hundreds of them) will help produce a farm team to take on Republicans in races for higher offices. Remember, Senator Chuck Schumer was once a member of the New York State Assembly and our own Member of Congress Carolyn Maloney had been a member of the New York City Council.

The campaign organizations that candidates built for this year's election will soon be reactivated for 2006.

### Governor and Senate

New York Democrats are well positioned to take back the Governor's seat in Albany and send a few more Democrats to Congress and the State Senate and Assembly.

Look at our 2006 bench for open seats – from Governor to Attorney General – Democrats have top-tier quality, well-funded candidates that have begun to articulate their vision for New York's future.

### Keep in touch

I urge Lex Club members to keep up to speed on the activities of the Democratic State Committee and Democratic National Committee at [www.nydemocrats.org](http://www.nydemocrats.org) and [www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org) and I look forward to working with you over the coming year to make 2006 an even bluer year than 2005.

### LDC

*David Cohen is a member of the New York State Democratic Committee representing the 73rd AD. He also represents New York County on the State Committee's Executive Committee.*

## DNC Chair predicts Democratic House and Senate victories in 2006.

In an article in *The Hill*, a D.C. newspaper for U.S. Senators and Members of Congress, Democratic National Committee Chair, Governor Howard Dean, predicts that the elections of 2006 will return Democrats to the majority in both the House and Senate.

Dean cited the DNC fund raising success, widespread organizing and the development of cohesive Democratic policies and strategies to restore honest government and fiscal responsibility to America.

"We will offer the American people a government that is honest in preparing for any deployment of American troops," Dean said.

He also cited Democratic values such as feeding hungry children, providing health insurance for all, reduction of national debt, balancing budgets and restoring a sense of community among all Americans as reasons why the Democratic party will prevail in 2006. **LDC**

### Officers and Elected Officials

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Carolyn B. Maloney

**State Senate**  
Liz Krueger

**State Assembly**  
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**City Council**  
Gifford Miller, Speaker  
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## 2006 Club Elections

**Officers:**  
**January 19**  
**Exec Committee:**  
**January 26**

## REVIEW: A sobering, chilling call to action.

by George Morin

In the December 1st issue of *The New York Review of Books* Michael Massing paints an American mass media that has overwhelmingly sagged to the Right.

In the first of two articles titled "The End of News?" Massing takes readers from Spiro Agnew's 1969 attack on TV networks and newspapers as "liberal and elitist" to today's conservative talk-radio monopoly and right-wing news conglomerates.

### Spreading lies

Massing details how Far Right talking points migrate from neocon think tanks to a nationwide mass market of listeners and viewers.

He writes: "As became plain in the Swift Boat campaign against John Kerry ... an unscrupulous critic can spread exaggerated or erroneous claims to thousands of people, who may, in turn, repeat them to millions more on talk radio programs, on cable television, or on more official 'news' Web sites. This kind of recycled commentary has become all the more effective because it is aimed principally at a sector of the population that seldom if ever sees serious press coverage."

### The end of "Fairness"

A central root of the imbalance, Massing reports, was the abolition of the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 during the Reagan Administration. The doctrine was established in 1949 so TV and radio stations would allow both sides of "controversial issues" an opportunity to air their views.

### The rise of Rush

A year after the doctrine was abolished, Rush Limbaugh hit the airwaves, proclaiming that the eternal enemy is "liberalism." Limbaugh's success spawned a "list of the top twenty talk radio shows nationwide" with hardcore conservative hosts.

### The Democrats' challenge

Add to that the conservative media empires of Rupert Murdoch, the National Religious Broadcasters, the Sinclair Broadcast Group, Internet blogs (eight of the top ten blogs are conservative), and lavishly funded neocon think tanks and it's clear – there's a lot of grueling work ahead if Democrats are to restore media equilibrium for the national debate.

To prepare yourself, read the article at [www.nybooks.com/articles/18516](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/18516) **LDC**

## Dear Lex Club Friends and Cohorts:

"Thank you" does not begin to express what I want to say to you.

You were among my strongest supporters and my most steadfast friends.

As a result of your incredibly hard work, and your street smarts, I won the East Side against all odds.



I will always be grateful to each and every one of you who tirelessly handed out my literature, stuffed your buildings, talked me up and, in fact, made me feel OK after

the election.

And, it is not lost on me that without your support it would have been unlikely that I would receive the truly gratifying endorsements of your Congressional Representative Carolyn Maloney, or your Assemblymember Jonathan Bing.

Eve Rachel Markewich

*Eve Rachel Markewich was our candidate for Manhattan Surrogate and is a Partner at Blank Rome LLP. She may be contacted at [emarkewich@blankrome.com](mailto:emarkewich@blankrome.com)*

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

We can do even more to help Democrats win. by Robin Marsico

Indeed, this was a great election season for the Lex Club, as we were able to maintain a "Republican-free" East Side, and saw all of our endorsed candidates elected to office. (Okay, almost all; but Bloomberg doesn't really count as a Republican, does he?)

### Should the Lex Club do more?



All well and good. But anyone reading the papers these days will agree that we could do with a bit more "Republican-free" districts in other parts of the country.

My question is: should we, as members of a Democratic club, broaden our efforts beyond local races?

### A painful memory

I'm reminded of one of my first political activities, a voter registration drive in Washington Square Park in 1984. I remember being energized in meeting so many fellow Reagan-haters, and was sure he'd be denied a second term.

Imagine my shock when Mondale lost everything to Reagan, except his home state – and New York City (even the State went to Reagan). I felt my efforts had been a total waste of time. Was I living in some kind of bubble?

### Think out of the district

Thus, I wonder whether we should continue to limit our activities to local races. A good argument can be made that that's the purpose of the Club. But at a time when our Council candidates embarrassingly trounce their opponents, and our Borough President and Comptroller candidates do not even have a Republican opponent, perhaps we can afford to spread our efforts around.

We're preaching to the converted here. How about, next time, "Dear Neighbor" letters on behalf of Rick Santorum's challenger? Blast e-mails into Jean Schmidt's district? Phone banks? Bus trips? Surely there's something more we can do for fellow Democrats in other parts, beyond just writing checks to them or to the DNC. **LDC**

*Robin Marsico is a member of the Club's executive committee and serves on the communications committee.*



LEX  
CLUB'S  
HOLIDAY  
PARTY

Wednesday, Dec. 14

6 to 8 p.m.

Ship of Fools

1590 Second Avenue  
(btwn 82 & 83)

Food, Drink, Friends and Frivolity  
plus Toys for Tots

Bring an unwrapped toy for a kid  
and share the joy.

Free to Club's friends,  
members and guests

# CELEBRATION TIME!

Photos courtesy of the Garodnick campaign



After months of campaigning at subway stops and supermarkets, Club candidates Dan Garodnick (above, left) and Jessica Lappin had overwhelming reasons to celebrate and thank their armies of supporters. They won their contests by 2 votes for every 1 for their opponents.

## Flu forum: wary optimism

by George Morin

Instead of just worrying about the possibility of a world wide flu pandemic, Lex Club member George Dwight teamed up with Program Chair Arthur Schiff and gathered experts on epidemics and influenza to shed light on this crucial subject.

### Expert panel

The panel included Peter Palese, Ph.D. and David Calfee, M.D. of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; and Dr. Elsie Lee, M.D., M.P.H., of the New York City Department of Health.

The panel began with an overview of influenza, a.k.a. the flu, by Dr. Calfee.

The flu – a more serious and longer lasting respiratory illness than the common cold – has an incubation period of one to three days. People who are infected usually become contagious about a day before symptoms appear, allowing them about 24 hours to spread the virus without knowing they have it.

### A serious disease every year

In the course of an average flu season from 10% to 40% of the population becomes infected, adding up to as many as 14,000 hospitalizations and about 46,000 deaths a year – making the flu a significant disease even in an average year.

### Counter measures

Dr. Lee explained some of the counter measures people can take to defend against getting and transmitting the disease.

Wash hands thoroughly and frequently. Sneeze into the crook of your elbow instead of into the environment to prevent infected droplets from contaminating the air. Keep hands and fingers away from the mouth and eyes.

And, most importantly, get a flu shot every year.

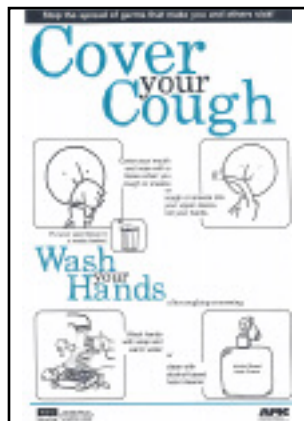
Dr. Palese, the chair of the Department of Microbiology at Mt. Sinai, compared the

“Spanish” flu pandemic of 1918 with flu epidemics of “Asian” flu in 1957 and the “Hong Kong” flu of 1968.

### 1918 devastation

The 1918 pandemic resulted in up to 40 million world-wide deaths compared to up to four million in 1957 and in 1968.

In each case, the flu was more deadly because a new strain of influenza had developed and was transmitted through airborne particles from person to person around the world. Because the strain was new, antibodies had not been present in the victims to fight it.



NYC Dept. of Health poster shows everyday ways to avoid the flu.

a totally new strain of flu virus without antibodies present in the world’s human population to fight it.

### Today’s situation

So far, the new strain has not been transmitted in the air from human to human – only by direct contact with an infected bird or person.

But, if avian and human influenza viruses were to infect a person at the same time, the result might be a new airborne virus against which humans would have no immunity.

Today there are two “Avian” flu vaccines in preliminary testing. If one proves safe and effective, it would take almost a year to manufacture and distribute it in significant quantities.

So you better wash your hands – a lot. **LDC**



## DEAR LEX CLUB MEMBERS:

Election day was a great day for the Lex Club and the Democratic party on the Upper East Side.

We succeeded in keeping the Upper East Side Republican free.

Both Jessica Lappin and Dan Garodnick won landslide victories over their Republican opponents. Jessica beat Joel Zinberg with 65% of the vote and Dan beat Patrick Murphy with 63% of the vote.

The Democratic party and the Club were strengthened because we kept the seats in Democratic hands despite well funded opposition vigorously supported by a mayor who won the neighborhood by a huge margin.

Both Dan and Jessica are enormously appreciative of the support we showed in the primary and in the general election.

Betsy Gotbaum, Bill Thompson and Robert Morgenthau won overwhelming mandates.

Scott Stringer was elected Manhattan Borough President with 76% of the vote.

Our Mayoral candidate, Fernando Ferrer, fought the good fight standing up for Democratic values. He faced long odds during the campaign but showed great dignity and honor until the end. He did us proud.

I want to personally thank our campaign committee co-chairs who worked tirelessly during both the primary and general election.

Heather Leifer, Larry Goodman and Lillie Balinova all did magnificent jobs. It simply could not have been done without them.

I also want to thank all members who petitioned, phone banked and street campaigned.

These efforts made the Lex Club a force to be reckoned with this year. And we’ll continue that momentum as we look forward to 2006.

All the best,

Alex Tisch,  
President, Lexington Democratic Club

## TOYS FOR TOTS

The Club is collecting toys for kids of all ages. Bring an unwrapped toy to the Holiday Party and share the joy with a kid who’ll appreciate it.

See all newsletters and event updates at [www.lexclub.net](http://www.lexclub.net)

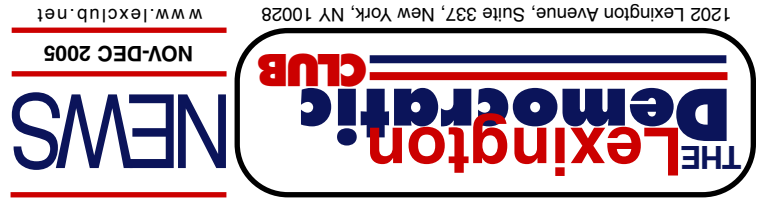
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**ABOVE THE FOLD:**

OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

News from elected officials



## OFFICIALS' ROUNDUP

### Recent news and views from the Club's elected officials

#### Liz Krueger issues marching orders for Mayor Bloomberg.

At the request of City Limits magazine, our State Senator created a "to do" list for the Mayor's second go-round at City Hall:

*Get Tougher with Albany* and get back a fairer share of the \$10 billion NYC sends to Albany each year.

*Repeal the Urstadt Law* and return home rule over rent regulation to NYC.

*Reduce Class Size* to enhance learning.

*End Tax Giveaways to Corporations*, making them the exception, not the rule.

*Build the 2nd Ave. Subway and Improve Bus Service* with greatly improved bus route speeds.

*Maximize Income Support and Health Benefits* for low-income unemployed and underemployed people.

*Improve Compliance with Housing and Building Codes* to better protect the health and safety of all residents.

*Protect New Yorkers from Financial Usury* by cracking down on high-cost loans made in anticipation of tax refunds.

*Support Same-Sex Marriage* by withdrawing the City's appeal of the Court decision that would allow it.

*Improve Community Planning and Zoning* for more affordable housing and other community needs.

*Demand Greater NYC representation on the MTA Board* to make the MTA accountable to City's voters.

*Comprehensive Sexuality Education* to better understand the subject and avoid disease, unintended pregnancies and abortions.

#### Jonathan Bing sponsors a bill to protect the health and safety of New York State workers.

Assemblymember Jonathan Bing is introducing legislation to put an end to illegal practices that threaten the safety of employees, including locking employees inside the workplace.

Modeled after a New York City law, Bing's legislation will enhance the safety of workers and increase penalties for obstruction of exits. The bill will also require

employers to post notices that locking doors is illegal and would create a penalty for employers who do so.

#### Carolyn Maloney charges that Fire Grant Program continues to shortchange the FDNY.

Carolyn Maloney reports that the one homeland security program meant to prepare firefighters for terrorist attacks still shortchanges the Fire Department of the City of New York.

The grants are capped at \$750,000 per fire department, helping rural departments enormously, but is barely a fraction of the FDNY budget. The City receives just 12 cents per person while Montana gets \$7.84 per person.

Sixty percent of the grants go to Republican districts, while only 40 percent go to Democratic districts.

As the city with the nation's largest fire department and the number one terror target, the imbalance simply cannot be justified under the terror threat that exists. **LDC**