

Big Primary Victory for CRDC

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club celebrated a near sweep of its candidates in the September 18 primary election. This was considered an “off” year election as party positions were the only races contested.

CRDC faced opposition for its slate of delegates and alternates to the Democratic Judicial Convention as well as for 17 seats on the Democratic County Committee.

When the votes were tallied, our delegate and alternate slates swept to victory and we won 14 of the 17 contested county committee positions. With those victories, CRDC has 131 members out of a total of 134 that comprise our part of the 75th Assembly District.

*By Tom Schuler,
CRDC District Leader*

The county committee selects the Democratic candidates for congress and the state legislature should an incumbent resign or die before his or her term expires.

Over the past years we have seen several special elections take place in Manhattan, with the county committee playing a crucial role in this process. With this in mind it is vital that we continue to make sure that CRDC remains an integral part of that process when ultimately needed. To everyone who ran, a big thank you!



CRDC's Own Paul Feinman Nominated for State Supreme Court

The New York County Democratic Judicial Nominating Convention, which took place last month, saw CRDC's own Paul Feinman selected as the party's choice for a vacant Supreme Court seat from Manhattan. Currently an Acting Supreme Court Justice and an elected Civil Court Judge from the 1st judicial district, Paul was first elected to the bench in 1996.

In addition to Paul, Justices Sheila Abdus-Salaam, Fern Fisher and Charles Ramos were all renominated

*By Tim Schuler,
CRDC District Leader*

for 14-year terms. Delegates and other party officials gathered at the Anshe Chesed School on the upper west side. Seven candidates were nominated for the open seat, delegates were fortunate of the caliber of candidates before them all having been approved by the independent screening panel.

Paul and the three incumbent justices will all be on the ballot for the November 6 general election.

GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 18, 2007 • 7:00PM**

Hudson Guild
441 West 26th Street
(btwn. 9th and 10th Avenues)

AGENDA

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 2007?

The Impact of the Lengthening Campaign Cycle

Join us for a panel discussion
and public dialog with

**Norman Adler, Political and Public
Affairs Consultant, Bolton-St.
Johns, Inc.**

**Kenneth Sherrill, Professor of
Political Science, Hunter College**

CRDC Has A New Website

The insert you will find in the middle of this newsletter tells you all you need to know to understand, use and enjoy www.crdcnyc.org.

The club wishes to thank Paul Groncki for learning the website's ins and outs with the help of designer Gamalier de Jesus. We also wish to thank Leo Genn who has stepped up to serve as our news editor, helping us share interesting stories and keep the site current.

Let Paul know that you think of the site and what additional items you would like to see included.

St. Vincent's Land Deal: Now Health Care Depends Upon Real Estate Speculation

by Andrew Berman, CRDC member

In case you haven't heard, St. Vincent's Hospital went bankrupt, and is now emerging from bankruptcy. As we all know, health care in our city and our country are in a crisis, and while the hospital closings recommended by the Berger Commission are supposed to address some of these problems, some would argue they have actually made them worse. Case in point: the forced closure of St. Vincent's Midtown (formerly St. Clare's) last month, as mandated by the Commission.

Now St. Vincent's says it needs to build a new hospital to address 21st century health care needs. Since St. Vincent's is the sole remaining hospital on the west side from 59th to the Battery, those needs are great. No one would argue with that. But what is the subject of controversy is how St. Vincent's insists it must proceed. St. Vincent's wants to take its facilities, now spread among 8 buildings on two city blocks, and essentially stack them into one huge new tower on one site, so the remaining 7 sites can be cleared and sold off to a private developer for luxury housing to help pay for the new hospital.

What's wrong with this picture (and why does it sound so much like the General Theological Seminary situation)? Why is necessary public health care now provided only if a real estate development deal can be concocted to fund it? Why aren't the City and the State covering the costs of a new hospital if the West Side needs one, instead of saying a ton of new luxury housing needs to be shoehorned into an already overbuilt area if healthcare needs are to be met? And why aren't the City and the State providing new land for the new hospital, like at the Hudson Yards, instead of selling that off for real estate development as well?

I think one of the most disturbing trends we have seen in New York over the last couple of decades is relying upon private developers to fund what have long been considered public needs, rather than having government pay directly for it. Hospitals. Parks. Schools. Subway entrances. All now too often must rely upon real estate deals to get built.

Meanwhile, if you haven't heard, the City will soon be going to court and using taxpayer dollars to defend the

new Trump "Condo-Hotel" in SoHo against a lawsuit from community groups. This is a development which opens the door to similar super-luxury high-rises for the jet-set in manufacturing zones (like parts of Chelsea) where they were previously prohibited. Something is definitely wrong with this picture.

September 20, 2007 General Membership Meeting

by Carla Nordstrom, CRDC member

Moving A Rock, A Community Forum on What We Can Do to End the War in Iraq was the topic of the September 20th general membership meeting. This panel discussion was organized and moderated by Carla Nordstrom and included local anti-war and community activists. Chuck Zlatkin of Chelsea Neighbors United spoke about a weekly stand-up which takes place in Chelsea.

Sarah Durand spoke about organizing a meeting of 8th Congressional District constituents with Congressman Jerry Nadler to encourage his support for impeachment. Dave Robinson, who is active in Brooklyn, recounted meetings with local members of Congress to sign onto HR 333.

Bob Martin asked what we as citizens can do to end the war. The following Iraq War Funding Resolution was introduced and passed. While the language used to describe the conditions in Iraq was not as strong as many in the meeting would have liked, the resolution reflected the sentiment of the audience that Congress should stop funding the war and provide for the safe return of military personnel.

IRAQ WAR FUNDING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The war in Iraq has caused the death of more than 3,781 U.S. soldiers, the injury of 27,848 U.S. soldiers, the death, injury and displacement of thousands of Iraqi civilians,

WHEREAS, The increase of troop levels for the "Surge" did not meet the eighteen established benchmarks with only three being met and four being partially met,

WHEREAS, The administration's current attempt to put a positive spin on events in Iraq cannot and must not be allowed to obscure the truth about the war, and

WHEREAS, Public perception across the country is now that Democrats in Congress have fallen short in carrying out the mandate from the American people to end the war, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club call on Senators Charles Schumer, Hillary Clinton, Representative Jerrold Nadler, and Carolyn Maloney to stop funding the War in Iraq by voting to refuse to provide money for military action in Iraq, and to provide money for the safe return to the United States of all U.S. military personnel.

Submitted and endorsed by CRDC, Steven Skyles-Mulligan, President on September 20, 2007

Cranes On The Horizon

*By Gloria Sukenick
CRDC Housing Committee Chair*

But unfortunately those cranes are creating more luxury high rises. And according to *The New York Times* in a September 13th article, many renters are now paying 50% or more of their incomes for their housing. Something's wrong with this picture!

These grim statistics come from the latest census data. A study by the Community Service Society of New York found that, "the city's low-income families, after spending much of their income on rent, are left with only \$32 a week per family member." Try living on that little anywhere in New York!

More bad news—the Salvation Army, which supplied women-only, single room-occupancy residences in Manhattan at affordable rates, has decided to evict its tenants and go for the big money. There is a currently a dispute over this matter at the State Supreme Court.

New York University continues to eat up Greenwich Village and environs and recently has taken over the old Provincetown Apartments building and wants the long time tenants out!

According to the newspapers, the terrible shortage of affordable housing is a national crisis. From coast to coast, housing costs have skyrocketed. According to housing advocates, there are 9 million low income renters and only about 6.2 million units that they can reasonably afford.

However, all the news is not bad. There is a plan afoot to create housing above the Morgan Annex Post Office building that occupies a full city block at 9th to 10th Avenues and from 28th to 29th Streets. Common Ground would build and manage the building and it would include a mix of studios and one, two and three bedroom apartments for low-income persons and families. It would contain 342 apartments in a 20 story building. Common Ground does a commendable job of managing buildings. The Single Room Occupancy facility at 24th Street and 7th Avenue that Common Ground manages (the old McBurney site) is an example. I regret to report that the presentation of this plan at Community Board 4 Land Use Committee that was attended by many Penn South residents was not met with the enthusiasm one would have thought would be forthcoming. There was a bit of "not in my backyard" attitude on the part of some!

But I have high hopes that this plan will come to fruition. More about this as the plan moves forward.

Hot Flash! 9/20 *NY Times*, "Subsidized (state Mitchell/Lama programs) Housing Plagued by Neglect and Corruption, Report Says". State agency Department of Housing and Community is guilty of "deep and systematic failure to properly oversee the rapidly dwindling supply of middle income housing leading to deterioration of the buildings, an increase in rents..." Let's all fervently hope the new head of DHCR, Deborah Van Amerongen, proves able to deal with the situation she inherited from the Pataki Administration.

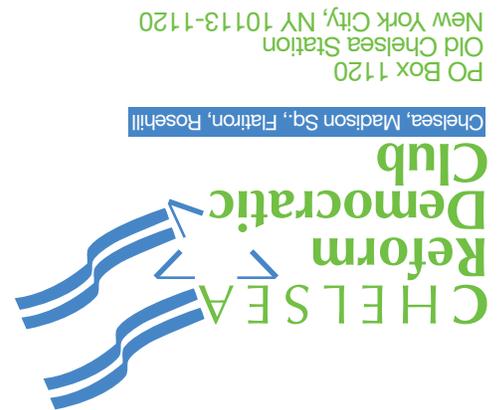
So as we all view the cranes littering the skyline let's all remember that it takes a watchful community that keeps demanding that we get more affordable housing. Let's go, folks! Keep fighting.

A Big Thanks from New Orleans!

Last month the Club received a thank letter from the New Orleans Library Association for all the people who donated books to their library system.

The Sept. 24, 2007 edition of *The New York Times* included an article on page one concerning problems with the New Orleans school system. One of the good things mentioned was the fact that the Crescent City's largest high school library is now well stocked with books.

Everyone who donated books on their own or at our last CRDC Holiday Party can feel proud that the book(s) you contributed were appreciated and will now be enjoyed by the people of New Orleans.



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A Big Thanks from New Orleans!

Join CRDC Today!

If you haven't already, become a 2007 member of CRDC, New York City's most progressive Democratic club. Just fill out this form and return it to us.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone (Day): _____

(Evening) _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual \$40 H'Hold \$50 Patrons

\$10 Ltd. Income \$15 H'Hold Limited Income

Make checks payable to CRDC and mail to:

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Questions? Call 212-924-5433 or email us at
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