

## President's Column *By Lynn Kotler, CRDC President*

Why does summer always go by too fast? As excited as I was about summer BBQ's in June, I am now planning my end of summer get together with friends. I hope that many of you utilized the summer to get rejuvenated and re-energized because we have much to do and accomplish.

**We kicked off this fall with our street fair** on Saturday, September 6th to register voters, to promote the Obama-Biden ticket and our club. If anyone is interested in getting involved with *CRDC for Obama*, please e-mail Andrew Berman at [andrewpberman@gmail.com](mailto:andrewpberman@gmail.com) or Robert Trentlyon at [Robert.trentlyon@verizon.net](mailto:Robert.trentlyon@verizon.net) for more information. *CRDC for Obama* will be organizing other events such as voter registration, phone banking and canvassing.

**Our General Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2008**, not Thursday, at Fulton Center this month. Longtime CRDC member and housing activist Michael McKee, from the Tenants Political Action Committee,

will address the Club about the importance of the upcoming New York State Senate race and our involvement with this effort. Please make every effort to attend to show your support.

**Mark your calendar—our 50th Anniversary Celebration** will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at the Chelsea Art Museum. This event will be a celebration of 50 years of activism and democracy while honoring those who have diligently worked for many important causes and issues. We are honoring our very own Doris Corrigan. Doris has been a mainstay in politics for many years. She is a former CRDC President and a District Leader, and is currently our State Committee member. The Esther Smith Award will be presented to Laura Morrison, the Chief of Staff for NYS Senator Tom Duane. Laura has consistently and vigorously been involved in many worthwhile causes over the years and is extremely deserving of this award. The Chelsea Waterside Park Association, a local civic group, will also be honored for

## Fall Forum And Debate Calendar For Candidates For President Of The U.S.

Debate plans and apparent agreement between Senators John McCain (R) and Barack Obama (D) to take the stage, separately, at a forum in New York on Sept. 11, the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Subject is services and civic engagement, and will be moderated by Richard Stengel, Managing Editor of Time Magazine.

The debate schedule is as follows:

Sept. 26 at the University of Mississippi, on foreign policy and National Security, moderated by Jim Lehrer of PBS.

Oct. 7 at Belmont University in Nashville, with questions from the audience and internet, moderated by Tom Brokaw of NBC News, in a townhall-style format.

## GENERAL MEETING

**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE AND CHANGE OF VENUE**

**WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
Fulton Center Hudson Guild  
119 Ninth Avenue

## ON THE AGENDA:

Michael McKee of Tenants PAC, speaking on efforts to win back the State Senate from the Republicans this November.

**Club Business Will Follow**

its dedication to the revitalization of the waterfront in the Chelsea area. Lastly, Steven Skyles-Mulligan will be recognized for his many years of service to CRDC.

See you in September ... isn't that a song??

*AS REPORTED BY KATHARINE Q. SEELYE  
OF THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Oct. 15 at Hofstra University on Long Island, NY, domestic and economic policy, moderated by Bob Schieffer of CBS News.

All debates will begin at 9:00 p.m. and last 90 minutes.

There is one Vice President debate scheduled for Oct. 2 at Washington University in St. Louis, moderated by Gwen Ifill of PBS.

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## State Budget Struggle

*By Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried*

As the recession gets worse, New York's declining tax revenues are creating a deficit in the state budget.

Back in April, the Legislature and Governor Paterson enacted a very good and balanced budget, especially for health and education. But in August, the Governor proposed a long list of budget cuts to close the growing deficit.

I believe we should only consider cutting essential services like health care as a last resort. We have been cutting taxes on the wealthiest New Yorkers for years. If we would undo just a little of that, we would not have to cut important programs to close the budget gap.

Unfortunately, neither the Governor nor the State Senate would consider tax actions. However, I am relieved that the package we enacted does much less damage than what was originally proposed.

Gov. Paterson is already talking about further cuts in the budget next year and "even more difficult choices." I believe we make those choices much more difficult than they need to be when we refuse to require the wealthiest New Yorkers to pay what for them would be a small amount more.

### *Part 1: State Budget Adopted in April*

**Health.** As chair of the Assembly Health Committee, I lead the Assembly's work on the health budget each year. This year's budget puts more funding into primary and preventive care, expands eligibility for Child Health Plus, creates a new program to get more health care practitioners to work in underserved urban and rural areas, creates a program of home visits by nurses for low-income first-time mothers from pregnancy through birth, and streamlining enrollment in Family Health Plus, Child Health Plus and Medicaid. We increased and restored funding for HIV/AIDS services, family planning, school health clinics, and other programs. Overall, it is the best health budget I have ever seen.

**Education.** The Legislature kept its promise on education funding with a record-setting \$1.75 billion increase, bringing the total to \$21.4 billion. The State will continue the four-year Campaign for Fiscal Equity plan, which is especially important for New York City schools.

The budget also increased and restored funding for libraries, adult literacy programs, and universal pre-kindergarten.

**Higher Education.** The Legislature rejected a tuition increase for CUNY and SUNY students. Funding levels for TAP, EOP, HEOP, SEEK, Liberty Partnership, and College Discovery were protected.

**Housing.** The budget includes an additional \$303 million dollars for housing; \$200 million over the Governor's proposed budget, including an additional \$100 million for capital programs for low- and middle-income housing.

**Environment and Parks.** The Legislature expanded the Environmental Protection Fund and provided \$95 million in infrastructure improvements for New York's State Parks. This includes \$21 million for Hudson River Park, which will be matched by New York City.

### *Part 2: Emergency Deficit Actions in August*

Gov. Paterson cut 7% — \$630 million — from state agency operations. He did not need legislative approval to do that.

We cut over \$400 million from programs funded by the state for this fiscal year, and another \$600 million for 2009-10. Almost half is cuts to Medicaid payments to providers. We did not cut school aid, but the City University was cut \$51 million, a 7% cut in the aid it gets from the state, to match the Governor's cut to the State University.

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## The REAL Estate Story!

*By Gloria Sukenick, Chair, CRDC Housing Committee*

Now you may think that this story I'm about to tell you has nothing to do with housing, but you would be very wrong.

So to begin ... a few weeks ago I received a phone call from someone asking whether I was one of the 'Dead Sea Scrolls' Sukenicks! Now, strange as that might seem, I am! My grandfather, on my father's side of the family and who was born in Poland, had a cousin who discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)!

Now this gentleman, after his great discovery, moved to Israel and there went the Sukenick name in favor of one reflecting his adopted country.

Now the story gets more complicated. Lately I have been subject to our Chelsea cinema pre-trailer advertisements on the screen (only seen when the lights aren't high enough to allow cheating by scanning the day's New York Times.)

And, much to my annoyance and irritation, I've been subjected to an ad by someone who calls himself Darren Sukenik! And, to my horror, this is a Sukenik, who bills himself as a real estate person, sells "luxury" condos and coops and is a broker for Prudential Douglas Elliman. If I am accompanied by anyone, I always, hurriedly, insist that this person couldn't possibly be a Sukenick because his name is spelled Sukenik!! No 'c', no connection!!!!

The plot thickens! The phone call previously referred to, was from another DSS Sukenick (a Sukenick on his mother's side) and this person was attempting to create a family tree for his children and has been tracking every Sukenick, or Sukenik, he could find on the web. A laudable intention! This Half-Sukenick, it seems, owns an Orchard Street Hotel with suites named "The Al Jolson Suite," "The Eddie Cantor Suite," "The Duke Ellington Suite," and more, all reflecting early 20th century New York City history, and it is certain to be a destination site for me in the near future. This branch of the family had contacted Darren S. and was certain that we were all part of the same DSS Sukenick family tree.

I have just returned from a 10-day trip to the Adirondacks and when I picked up the latest *Chelsea Now*, to my amazement, I see, as I am scanning the paper, the words..."Sukenik says.....". Now I know I haven't been around for 10 days and couldn't have possibly have said anything of interest, or of no interest, to *Chelsea Now*. Further investigation revealed that the Sukenick, or Sukenik referred to was the "luxury" coop /condo branch of the (I hesitate to say it) family.

My concern is with the fact that the name Sukenick is not Smith and there ain't a lot of us around. I have been a long time affordable housing activist ... how does that look? The name Sukenick or Sukenik operating in downtown New York and on such opposite ends of housing issues can lead readers and viewers to mistaken assumptions! If Darren makes a statement that is inevitably pro-landlord and is referred to as 'Sukenik,' which after all is his name ... I am in danger of being associated with his position on housing. And of course, we would probably be poles apart on almost any issue at all ... but especially on housing!!!

So you see it's a long stretch but this is a housing issue. If anyone has suggestions as to what the remedy might be, speak up ... and keep fighting!

## Local Action Over Two Wars— One Hundred Years Apart

*By John (Jay) Stockman, Jr., CRDC Club Member*

Remember the Vietnam War, the one that lasted from before President Kennedy's election through President Johnson's, Nixon's and Ford's administrations? It resulted in an uneasy "peace" for Southeast Asia.

Back then, the U.S. military draft for young men with its varied exemptions held sway. My exemption came from an injury in a car accident that left me disabled. Other students (mostly white and middle-class) crowded into colleges for an "academic deferment." Many even fled to Canada to avoid the draft.

This brought to mind a situation in New York City during our own Civil War, one that made little lasting news in our histories. New York and Boston were chief arrival sites for Irish immigrants fleeing a barren country plagued by the potato famine.

From a book written by Joseph Tyler Headly in 1873, I read tales of the four-day Civil War draft riot in New York City. The riot began in 1863 when President Lincoln started a draft for the Union forces. However, a \$300 payment, a lucrative sum at that time, could set you free from serving, if you paid a substitute to take your place. Other readings of that period had given me no inkling of the North's neediness for manpower. Lincoln may have thought it provident to take precautions by building up the Union forces. New York City and Boston were prime sites to lure Irish immigrants fleeing their home country.

For the Irish, flight to a new country most certainly didn't turn them into wealthy people, especially to afford the \$300 cost to avoid the draft. The jeopardy of being drafted into the Union forces or the privilege of buying out for \$300 was for them little or no choice. So, after 4 days of local rioting, the New York Council set aside \$2,500,000 to pay for those wanting their freedom from conscription, but who could not pay the price!

These two times of civil unrest, a hundred years apart, are parts of America history that should be noted.

## September and October Events

Despite the feeling of many people, Labor Day is not the end of outdoor activities to enjoy. Below is a list of many in our area to enjoy this September and October. All are free and open to the public.

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### **Shakespeare on the Hudson: Saturday, Sept. 13 & 20, and Sunday, Sept. 14 & 21 at 3pm & 7pm**

Enjoy the Holla Holla production of *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's timeless tale of the sweet passion of first love. Lawn seating only. Bring your own picnic and enjoy these free open-air performances come alive beside the Hudson River in Clinton Cove at 55th Street. For more information call 212-757-0981 X201.

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### **Fall Equinox Celebration: Hudson River Park's Pier 84 @ 44th Street, Sunday, September 21, 3-8pm**

Come join Friends of the Hudson River Park and Friends of Pier 84 as we celebrate the season with our 3rd annual Fall Equinox Celebration! This community event will include live music, fishing and

activities for all ages, as well as exhibits from Floating the Apple, Hudson River Park Trust and others. It is free and open to the public.

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### **Clinton Concert Series: Monday Evening Music on the River**

Enjoy an evening of free live music performances while watching the sun set on the Hudson River! Sponsored by the Hudson River Trust and Friends of Pier 84 on Monday, Sept. 15 & 22. Concerts start at 6 pm and offer lawn seating only. Bring your own picnic and make a night of it. Call 212-757-0981 for exact location.

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### **Pet Parade: Hudson River Park's Pier 84 @ 44th St., Saturday, October 18, 1-4pm**

Friends of Hudson River Park and Friends of Pier 84 invite you and your pet to join in the festivities. All pets are welcome. Events include contests for best dressed pet, best pet trick, most obedient pet, and pet/owner look-alike. This



is your pets' chance to win a great prize. Free and open to the public.

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### **Say Goodbye To Summer With Friends Of Hudson River Park**

Friends of Hudson River Park is having their annual FALL FLING fundraiser on Monday, Sept. 22, 6-10pm. It will be held on the Frying Pan, now on Pier 66A at 26th Street and the Hudson River. Cost is \$75 for all, or \$175 if you wish to sponsor. As usual they will have a continuous RAW BAR as well as a BBQ to please all tastes. All this washed down with free wine, beer and musical entertainment. It is a event not to miss! Questions call, 212-757-0981.

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### **Hudson Guild Theatre**

The Hudson Guild's next production is in keeping with the times — *Abe Lincoln: Road to the White House*. I am told it is a provocative piece for anyone passionate about the political process. The price is certainly right at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The play dates are: Fri. 9/26, Sat. 9/27, Sun. 9/28, Fri. 10/3, and Sat. 10/4. For further information call HG at 212-760-9800.