

Why am I so Involved in Democratic Club Politics?

By Paul Groncki, CRDC Treasurer

That's a question that has come up many times over the years. I'm now in my 7th consecutive term as CRDC treasurer and I previously served as club president and as district leader. Before that, I was involved with VID. Obviously, I'm not seeking political office, so what am I doing?

The simplest, most personal answer I can give is that I am a junkie. I first got hooked on the political process when I was in college. During those dark days of the Vietnam War, many of us saw glimmers of light in our ability to change things through political action. It was an intense, heady experience. But like a lot of young people who get involved, I quickly got distracted by my own life. Then came that bizarre day in November 1980 when I woke up to discover that we had elected an artificial creation of Hollywood as president. Sometimes the price of not being involved is far too high to pay.

Because I was connected to the banking industry, the first logical involvement for me was raising money. I did

so well, that I earned a floor pass to the 1984 Democratic National Convention. Watching the first woman accept the nomination of a major party for the second office in the land got me hooked all over again. I couldn't wait another four years to get involved, so I started working with VID on local political campaigns, which got me hooked on local politics. A few years later, after moving from the Village to Chelsea, I got a call from Esther Smith inviting me to run for president of CRDC. Before long, I took Tom Duane's place as District Leader when he was elected to the City Council. That experience got me hooked on club politics. Somewhere along the way, I found out about Hudson Guild and got involved there, too; I was hooked on community organizations.

When I get hooked, it tends to be an enduring experience (just ask my wife Michelle, on whom I've been hooked for 30 years). But this doesn't begin to explain why I got hooked – or what makes political clubs relevant today. I cannot say that I have an easy answer for those questions. I think, though, that it lies in something I discovered when I first went to college – and got hooked for the very first time on liberal policy analysis. In studying economics, I observed that markets only truly work where equality of opportunity exists. Looking at the real world I saw myriad barriers preventing that equal opportunity, including discrimination of all types,



Paul and Michelle

Be advised that the club will not be having an August membership meeting. We wish you a happy August and hope to see you all at our annual BBQ on August 30 on Pier 66A, 5:00 to 8:00pm. An invitation will be forthcoming ... save the date!

CRDC Tours the Rubin Museum

In lieu of our July membership meeting, join other CRDC members as we tour the Rubin Museum of Art, located at 150 17th Street at the S/E corner of 7th Avenue. It is America's largest museum devoted to Tibetan and other Himalayan art.

CRDC's guided tour of the museum is on Wednesday, July 22 at 5:00 PM. Please note the tour is limited to 20 people, and will cost \$7 for members residing in zips 10011 and 10001. Other will pay \$10.

skewed distributions of wealth and power. Political clubs like CRDC exist to tear down these barriers — stone by stone — and open opportunities. Sometimes we are very effective, and sometimes less so, but we need to keep working. The other side often seems faster at rebuilding the barriers than we are in tearing them down. Every time we make an opening someone slips through and the world becomes a slightly better place.

That's why I'm hooked — and why my "addiction" is more than personal. What about you?

Paul Groncki has been a member of CRDC since 1988. He was honored for his many years of service at our recent brunch. This article is excerpted from his acceptance speech.

**POLICY RESOLUTION:
New York State
Same-Sex Marriage**



WHEREAS, the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and Maine all recognize or shall soon recognize marriage equality for same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, same-sex marriage equality votes have taken place in the New York State Assembly in 2007 and 2009, showing convincing majorities in favor of equality; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1,000 Federal and New York State rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities that are denied unmarried couples; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of gay and lesbian couples in New York State, many of who are raising children, who do not have the same financial and legal protections from which heterosexual married couples benefit; and

WHEREAS, voters are entitled to know how their legislators stand on this important issue; and

WHEREAS, polls now show that a majority of New Yorkers support marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, a vote has not been allowed by New York State, Senate Majority Leader, Malcolm A. Smith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club call on New York State, Senate Majority Leader, Malcolm A. Smith and the New York State Senate to immediately schedule a vote on Marriage Equality as passed by the New York State Assembly.

*Submitted by David Caraway, CRDC 2nd Vice President
Chelsea Reform Democratic Club
Approved by Membership May 21, 2009*



Carolyn Maloney & Lydia Hummel



Richard Gottfried & Robert Trentlyon



Janice McGuire and Honoree Paul Groncki



Estelle Katz, Carla Nordstrom & Jerrold Nadler

CRDC BRUNCH PHOTOS!



Jane Boisseau, Cynthia Kern, Tom Duane



Paul Groncki accepting award from Tom Duane for his years of service to CRDC



Mary and Chris enjoying a good laugh with friends



Carla Nordstrom presenting award to Chuck Zlatkin for Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War



A good time was had by all



Scott Stringer presenting Esther Smith award to Florence Dent-Hunter for her life long work in the community.

PO Box 1120
Old Chelsea Station
New York City, NY 10113-1120

Chelsea, Madison Sq., Flatiron, Rosehill



Be The First ...

... to get your monthly copy of the CRDC newsletter! Sign up to receive it by Email when it is hot off the press. Read it on line or print it in color or black and white. No more receiving your copy tattered and torn (as many have been by postal delivery.) We emphasize the choice is yours! If you prefer, we gladly will send it as usual, through the Post Office.

If you want newsletter by email PRINT your name and email address and email it to: info@crdcnyc

In This Issue...

Why am I so Involved in Democratic Club Politics?

By Paul Groncki, CRDC Treasurer

Policy Resolution:

New York State Same-Sex Marriage

Submitted by David Caraway,

CRDC 2nd Vice President

Chelsea Brunch Photos

CRDC celebrates together!

Join CRDC Today!

It is time to pay your 2009 dues, and remain a member of CRDC, New York City's most progressive Democratic Club. Please fill out the coupon below and mail to our postal box, or you may renew by going to our website www.crdcnyc.org.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone (Day): _____

(Evening): _____

Email: _____

Send monthly newsletter by: Email or Postal delivery

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

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

Make checks payable to CRDC and mail to:

PO Box 1120, Old Chelsea Station

New York City, NY 10113-1120

Questions? Call 212-924-5433, email us at info@crdcnyc.org, or visit our website at www.crdcnyc.org