

President's Column

By Lynn Kotler, CRDC President

CRDC Welcomes Its New Officers And Executive Committee Members

As you know, CRDC recently held its annual elections for Club Officers and Executive Committee Members. It is with great pleasure that I announce our leadership team, which consists of both old friends and new faces.

Our Club officers are: **Judy Richheimer**, Executive Vice President; **Dave Caraway**, Second Vice President; **Paul Groncki**, Treasurer; and **Linda Longstreet**, Secretary.

Our Executive Committee Members are: **Andrew Berman**, **Maarten deKadt**, **Jesse Campaamor**, **Natasha Dachos**, **Paul Goetz** and **Gloria Sukenick**.

Dave, Jesse and Natasha are newly elected members to our board. They bring energy, fresh ideas and excitement to our Club. I would like to introduce them to you, tell you why they joined our club and what they would like to see us accomplish this year.

Dave grew up on a hog farm in Iowa. After completing law school, he headed east to New York City. He has an active legal practice, specializing in wills and estates, and residential real estate. His favorite hobby is running, and he has been a member of Front Runners New York for 14 years, a top 400 finisher in the New York City Marathon and a top 1000 finisher in the Boston Marathon. One of Dave's goals for our Club is to ensure that our judicial delegates are seated at the Judicial Convention. He will work towards achieving this goal this year as well as in future years. He believes

that our Club has built a solid reputation over decades and that we need to continue to maintain it. Dave strongly believes that our organization should strengthen its voice for equality for all New Yorkers and that we should take a more aggressive stance on environmental issues such as congestion pricing, parks and ensuring that our city is more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Dave would also like our Club to have more social activities.

Jesse is a native New Yorker, born and raised at the Penn South co-ops. Jesse attended Lafayette College and was a member of their football team. Since graduating college, he has been employed at the Healthcare Education Project, a labor management initiative between 1199 SEIU and The Greater New York Hospital Association, as a community organizer. His responsibilities as a community organizer include development and implementation of community based coalitions to protect and defend the right of working families in New York State with a focus on access to affordable, quality healthcare. Jesse's favorite hobby is playing chess. He got involved with CRDC to be the voice for those unrepresented in our neighborhood and community. One of his goals this year is to expand the Club's membership and to establish a housing clinic staffed by skilled attorneys affiliated with our Club.

Natasha has always been politically active working on various campaigns. She worked on the Kerry campaign in Pennsylvania in 2004. After the 2004 election, she flew back to Japan, where she was living, and joined the Democrats Abroad Japan. She so thoroughly enjoyed being part of the community

GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19
7:00 P.M.**

Hudson Guild, 441 West 26th St.
(btwn 9th & 10th Aves)

ON THE AGENDA:

All candidates running for the office of Public Advocate and Comptroller have been invited to address the club and take questions from the audience. The club will be voting for all offices in May.

ALSO

Nomination of club members to run as Judicial candidates in the September Judicial Convention will be taken from the floor. We will elect 12 delegates at our April meeting.

and the political activities that as soon as she returned to New York City, she made a commitment to join a local political club. We got lucky – she joined the CRDC! Natasha has found a warm passionate political community in our Club and is excited about working on many issues this year. She would like us to work on increasing our membership and the environment. In her words, “we are light years behind other industrialized nations.” While she credits the work our Club has done in the past in areas such as poverty, social justice, conservation and health, she is concerned that if we continue on this

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marginal path of change, then NYC is going to continue to lag behind other cities, with detrimental effects on the citizens of the City, as well as the human race. Natasha's favorite hobbies are snowshoeing, hiking and nature. Her educational background is in social work. She is currently employed as a program officer at the Langeloth Foundation.

This is the youngest board this Club has had in its history. I could not agree more with Dave, Jesse and Natasha on the importance of attracting and retaining new members. Please join us at our next meeting on March 19, 2009 to introduce yourself to Dave, Natasha and Jesse, but remember to bring a friend. I look forward to working with all of you in 2009.

Chelsea Demands Fair State Taxation

By Gloria Sukenick, CRDC Housing Chair

State Senator Tom Duane and Assemblyman Dick Gottfried held a forum in December on the upcoming state budget. The good news was that over 100 of our neighbors turned out ... the bad news, we are facing a \$15 million deficit, the worst since the Depression. And, even worse, the Governor's budget cuts are aimed at those who are least able to afford it...students, seniors, the unemployed or under employed. But the Governor's proposal would not raise taxes on the rich!

But ... wait ... there's more! A piece of legislation that would help this dreadful situation, the Fair Share Tax Reform Act (known popularly as the millionaires tax) is being blocked by 3 Democratic State legislators and a Governor who is on the fence! This legislation would bring back a truly progressive tax policy raising only the tax rate on those households with incomes over \$250,000. This would generate \$6 billion (with a b) to plug the deficit. As things are currently, a person with a household income of \$40,000 a year is in the same tax bracket as a \$4,000,000 a year income ... a truly regressive tax policy!

But, never fear, Chelsea is gearing up to have its voice heard. In response to this outrageous situation, a group called Chelsea Outrage Coalition has begun to meet to reach out, educate, and mobilize our community to fight for this truly progressive tax reform. More about this effort later, though the budget should be resolved in April, so time is short.

Landlords and real estate speculators are particularly worried about Eric Schneiderman's bill, the Fair Share Tax Reform Act. Since there is finally a possibility that state rent laws might finally have a chance at reform and give tenants a much needed break (though the same three democrats say "NO") the lucrative honeymoon that landlords and developers have enjoyed for far too long, at the expense of low and moderate income renters, looks like it may be coming to an end and they, too, will have to share the pain of this depressed economy.

We say, we need a truly progressive tax system — so that those who have benefited by the boom, share the pain of the bust!!!

So Chelsea...let Governor Patterson know, loud and clear, he needs to "Get off the fence and support truly the progressive Fair Share Tax Reform Act!"

No Shout Outs for New York

By Carla Nordstrom, CRDC Member

I happened to catch President Obama's speech to city mayors about the stimulus package. Towards the end, the President gave shout outs to mayors who have led their cities into the 21st Century. Seattle was mentioned for encouraging green technologies to solve urban problems, Charlotte for urban planning, and San Francisco was highlighted for the work that the mayor has done to improve healthcare. There was no shout out for Mayor Bloomberg. New York, with its huge number of billionaires, is behind the eight ball when it comes to new green technologies, urban planning and healthcare advances.

Mayor Bloomberg squandered the surplus of a few years ago by handing the money to the wealthy instead of investing it in green urban technologies; he was more interested in regulating trans-fats than trying to make sure citizens had affordable healthcare, and he built high-priced housing and stadiums without looking towards the needs of New Yorkers. Mayor Bloomberg put all of New York's eggs into Wall Street's basket and with its demise goes the entire city.

Mayor Bloomberg is a very rich man and sees our city as a playground for his people. Ironically one of his newest initiatives is to set up a \$45 million training program in Soho for Wall Streeters who have lost their jobs. According to the Mayor, we don't want to lose these talented people in what will be a competitive market. Really, haven't they done enough damage to the people and the future of our city?

Mayor Bloomberg is a businessman, he never forgets to tell us, and lives in the world of short term gains. He mortgaged our city to a philosophy of making a few rich and the hell with the rest of the people. His approach has not served our city well as we dive into the 21st Century, which for the time being will be an era of unemployment and global warming.

CRDC Wants You!

By Tim Gay, Deputy Chief, NYC Board of Elections and County Committee Member for the 2nd ED of the 75th AD

Imagine being an elected official in New York City representing 500 to 1000 Democrats in your community. Imagine that you are entrusted by those Democrats to represent them on matters ranging from public policy and keeping elected officials in line to, if need be, selecting a qualified candidate to fill a vacancy caused by resignation or death.

Most likely, you are indeed an elected official now -- serving as a County Committee member for an Election District in the 75th Assembly District Part A.

You might be surprised to know that you are in good company. State Senator Tom Duane, District Leaders Mary Dorman and Tom Schuler, State Committee Woman Doris Corrigan and many more also serve as County Committee Members. And if you aren't a County Committee Member, maybe you might want to become one.

The County Committee itself only meets once every two years — unless there is important business that needs attention. For example, in the last three years County Committee meetings were called in the 65th, 67th and 73rd ADs to fill Assembly Member vacancies. And in one of those races, every vote counted in what became a close upset election.

You will soon receive a letter with a stamped post card from Tom Schuler asking if you'd like to run as a County Committee Member. In most EDs there are 2 members, and in a few there are 3.

To get on the ballot, you and your co-member will obtain signatures on CRDC petitions this June and July. Your name will appear with other CRDC-endorsed candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, District Attorney, Borough President, City Council, and Civil Court Judge. Not bad company, when you think of it!

We hope you'll run. It sounds small, but it is an important job. County Committee Members are the basic building blocks of our Democratic Party.

CRDC Is Going Green And Into The 21st Century!

The CRDC Executive Committee has decided that members should have the option of receiving our monthly newsletter by e-mail or by regular postal delivery. It will be less expensive for the Club and easier on the planet if members select e-mail.

We are well aware however, that some of our members have no e-mail access and others simply love to carry the newsletter around with them to show and read it to others. The choice is yours.

Please let us know how you want to receive your newsletter by responding to info@crdcnyc.org with your full name and current e-mail address or by calling me, Doris at 212-924-5433. If we don't hear from you, we will continue sending the newsletter by regular postal service.

You can always change your mind as to how you want to receive the newsletter. Just let me know.

Thank you,

Doris Corrigan
Newsletter Editor

Hudson Guild Theatre Company Presents Chekov's "Three Sisters"

The play *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov will be presented by The Company on the following dates and times:

March 27 @ 8:00pm

March 28 @ 2:00pm

March 29 @ 3:00pm

April 3 @ 8:00pm

April 4 @ 2:00pm & 8:00pm

April 5 @ 3:00pm

For reservations call 212-760-9817

Suggested Donation is \$10.00

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

Chelsea, Madison Sq., Flatiron, Rosehill



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Receive our newsletter in print ... or by email!

Hudson Guild Theatre Company Presents Checkov's "Three Sisters"

March 17 – April 5, 2009

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: _____

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

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

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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