

COMMENT ON ECONOMICS:

Class Warfare

I never thought I'd be agreeing with Republicans. In recent weeks they have told us this economic crisis is a result of "class warfare." The president spoke against that characterization. "This is not class warfare," he said. For him it seems we're all one nation, rich and poor, working together. That would be nice, but unfortunately the Republicans are right. Let me explain why.

Early descriptions of class relations in capitalism appear in the works of classical economists such as Adam Smith as long ago as 1776. These economists' analyses correctly captured the idea that as humans we work to produce the things we need to in order to live. Once things are produced, there is a struggle over who gets what and how much. In market economies the things or services we make are sold, and the money we receive in return is used to buy the things we need. The amount of money we receive matters.

The distinction between wages (including benefits and entitlements) on the one hand, and profits, interest and rent on the other, is critical for understanding



by Maarten de Kadt, Vice President, CRDC

what the Republicans might mean by class warfare.

- *Workers receive wages.* Some workers make a lot of money but, as recent reports show, even upper middle managers who received incomes in the hundreds of thousands have found themselves unemployed for a continuing number of years.
- *Entrepreneurs and corporations make profits.* The largest corporate receivers of profits, including G.E., sometimes don't even pay taxes.



"The demonstrators wanting to take back Wall Street have it right: the 99 percenters are hurting while the 0.01 percent continue to take more."

- *Banks receive interest on the loans they make and they, like Bank of America, also often avoid paying taxes.*
- *The receivers of rent own property.* That usually gives them a long-term guarantee of some kind of income. But more important than the individual property owners, small or large, are the banks who, through various debt mechanisms (often mortgages) manage to turn the receipts of property owners into huge profits for themselves.

The receivers of profits and interest manage to get large sums of money. The

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Tony Cannataro's Victory Party

ELECTION UPDATES

Primary Results

Herculean efforts by members of CRDC and Tom Duane's office helped elect Tony Cannataro for the Democratic Candidate for Civil Judge over Sabrina Krauss.



State Senator Tom Duane

Tony joins Paul Goetz on the Democratic Ticket for Civil Court District 3 in the November 8th election!

Also, many thanks to Steven Skyles-Mulligan and Paul Groncki for their perseverance in getting our Club's Judicial Candidates elected. For many of us, it was a learning experience (*read Sandy Marsh's piece on page 3*).

At press time, the CRDC's Judicial Delegate winners were: Sandy Marsh, Judy Richheimer, Doris Corrigan, Steven Skyles-Mulligan. Alternate Judicial Delegates were Lydia Hummel, David Warren, David Cararway, Leathe Vanadore, and John Johnson. — Donathan Salkaln



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

CHELSEA MARKET DEVELOPMENT FORUM

There will be a Community Forum about the Chelsea Market Development at 7pm, Thursday, November 10th. It will be held at the Church of the Holy Apostles, 296 Ninth Avenue (at 28th Street.) Participants include CRDC, Save Chelsea, Hudson Guild, and Community Board 4. It will be moderated by Hon. Karen Smith, Acting Justice, NYS Supreme Court, retired.

Holiday Party

CRDC's Annual Holiday Reception at Hudson Guild, Sunday December 4th, 5-7pm
Complimentary food and drink

Pot luck dishes welcome!

Bring hats/gloves/mittens/scarves for the kids at Hudson Guild to help keep them warm this winter.

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so-called workers at the top of these organizations are often in the top 0.01% of income takers.

When the Republicans argue the rich should not be taxed anymore, they are really saying the rich person's ability to buy things should not be reduced. At the same time they are saying poor and moderate income people should not be able to get more. The Republicans are promoting the rich at the expense of the poor, by managing to get more of the economic output. It really is class warfare. And, right now, poor people are losing.

Here are five examples on how this class warfare is playing out:

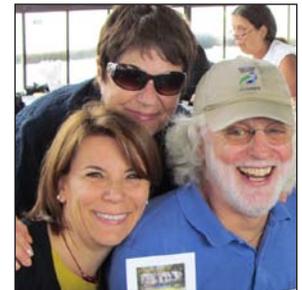
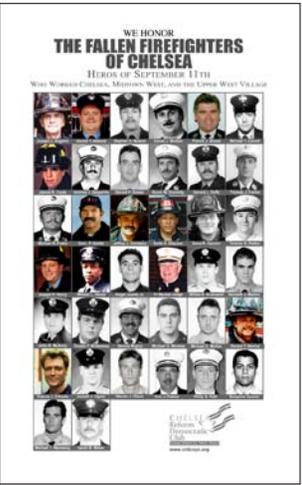
- The political maneuvering around the debt crisis amounts to preventing wealthy people from paying any more to support needed government services while, at the same time, continued foreclosures on the homes of the poor goes on;
- Eliminating the jobs of the less fortunate while profits climb (even the President's needed \$447 billion jobs bill is woefully inadequate, as only \$105 billion of the entire package is directed at infrastructure construction projects that will directly put people to work);
- Reducing the education resources for inner-city kids by directing part of the existing flow of classroom funds to the profits of private corporations operating charter schools;
- Reducing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates, which may lead to further closing of publicly funded hospitals and thereby reduce or eliminate health services;
- Burning off more than 100 million cubic feet of North Dakota natural gas daily (to offer only one environmental example) in order to extract petroleum more easily, thus increasing short term oil company profits at the expense of higher energy costs for the rest of us in the future.

All this directs resources away from the bottom 99%, to the already wealthy. Those controlling the flow of funds certainly are waging class warfare against the rest.

What's needed? A president and a Washington establishment who want to create a society in which people really look out for each other's welfare, but who also see that class warfare not only exists, it is damaging the largest part of their constituents. The demonstrators wanting to take back Wall Street have it right: the 99 percenters are hurting while the 0.01 percent (Gates, Walton family/Walmart, Bloomberg, the Koch Brothers, and the other top 15,000 families) continue to take more. Hopefully the Wall Street occupiers represent a growing movement of people who understand class warfare is real.

Ring of Bells Brings Solace at BBQ

CRDC's September 11th barbecue at the Frying Pan's pier celebrated life, while honoring the local firefighters lost in 9-11 with the circle of ringing bells.



CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS / SEA GATE

LETTER TO MAYOR BLOOMBERG March, 2010

Rather than move forward in planning a sea-gate to protect our city from storm surges along the lines of those already protecting London, Venice, Rotterdam, and St. Petersburg, the recent release of "Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan" reveals recommendations of a different nature. The report calls for flood-proofing of all existing buildings in danger zones and the elimination of all habitable spaces and critical building systems below the FEMA base flood elevation.

No more smelling the roses in the garden apartment?

FIRST PERSON

A Judicial Delegate's Story



by Sandy Marsh, CRDC Executive Committee Member

I am a self-described political novice, having never before run for any political office. Despite being a life-long Democrat with a solid voting record since age 18, I had no idea what Judicial Delegates did, or how they got elected. Running in the Democratic Primary for Judicial Delegate to the Democratic Judicial Convention this past September was a significant undertaking, which I was not entirely convinced I could do. I was coached and encouraged by more experienced CRDC members who provided me with relevant information and advice. When I decided to take the plunge, I actually felt confident and ready.

The Campaign: Some of the best advice I received was to present voters with my personal image — work experience, educational background, social activism, and long involvement in promoting progressive causes. I introduced myself to Chelsea voters in a "Dear Neighbor" letter, sent by email and stuffed under apartment doors. At first, I was nervous about soliciting votes on street corners and in building lobbies, but the positive response I received encouraged me to go for it in a big way. I wanted people to know that I would vote as they would vote, and for only the best candidates for the Supreme Court. I had been involved in petitioning campaigns in the past, but now I was asking

my neighbors and friends to tell their neighbors and friends about my own candidacy as a delegate. From the feedback I got, they did just that. On primary night I was thrilled and a bit surprised to learn that not only was I elected, but with a significantly large number of votes.

Newly Elected Duties: Once elected, I began receiving bundles of mail and telephone calls from

judicial candidates asking for my vote. In order to make an informed decision I had to read through tons of resumes, position papers, prior decisions and other forms of background information on each candidate. I also prepared questions to ask at Q & A forums, and attended a host of wine and cheese receptions where I got to talk privately with the candidates.

2011 State Supreme Court Judicial Convention: On September 21, 2011, I, along with all the other newly elected Judicial Delegates and Alternates, met at the auditorium of Harlem Hospital Center to select candidate-Judges to appear on the November ballot for the State Supreme Court. I sat in the area designated for the 75th Assembly District, and was immediately swept up in the excitement of the occasion.

At first, I was nervous about asking people to vote for me. But, the reception I received was tremendous and encouraged me to increase my efforts.

The bright lights, loud voices, smiles, hugs, displays of camaraderie and real affection felt more like a college reunion than a political convention. I was really enjoying the sights and sounds of this visually diverse and good natured crowd. Was this genuine ... was this the real Democratic Party, having a party? My CRDC colleagues and I made small talk while we waited for the formal proceedings to begin. Just as we were running out of things to say, the convention was called to order.

In record time, official announcements and introductions were made, followed by a roll-call of judicial delegates. The names of Supreme Court judicial candidates were placed in nomination and seconded, short speeches were made, and even a few jokes were told.

The mood remained upbeat. All in all, things ran pretty smoothly. The crowd applauded enthusiastically when Supreme Court Judicial candidates Analisa Torres, Deborah Kaplan, and Ellen Gesmer accepted their respective nominations. Those who had not garnered enough delegate votes, and therefore would not be on the November ballot, graciously declined their nominations.

I am happy to report that Justices Torres, Kaplan and Gesmer are the judicial candidates that I supported, because I believed them to be the best, and they will be on the ballot this November.

To my CRDC colleagues, and to those of you who voted for me, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as a judicial delegate, and to have participated in this process. In addition to the three splendid jurists that were nominated, please remember to also vote on November 8th for incumbents Joan Madden, and Laura Visitacion-Lewis.

**ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL
RESOLUTION** FEBRUARY, 18, 2010

On October 20th, Community Board 2 voted 40-1 to oppose all zoning changes needed for Rudin Org./Global Holding's plans for redevelopment of St. Vincent's Hospital into condos, stores, a garage, and a 24 hour Emergency Medical Center. This vote tags a negative recommendation on the project as it moves on to Borough President Scott Stringer for his recommendation, then on to the City Planning Commission and then City Council. As reported in dnainfo.com, the board didn't address the Northshore LIJ Emergency Care Facility, because "it's up to the State Department of Health to determine whether the medical facility is enough." Also heard at the meeting was the chant for the "jobs" that the project would create. —D.S.

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Chelsea, Madison Sq., Flatiron, Rosehill



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 8th: Election Day
Please Vote for Judges:

For Supreme Court: Joan Madden, Laura Visitacion-Lewis, Analisa Torres, Deborah Kaplan, Ellen Gesmer

For Civil Court: *County-wide:* Erika N. Edwards, Salianna Scarpula. *District 3:* Paul Goetz, Anthony Cannataro. *District 9:* Barbara Jaffe.

Thursday, November 10th, 7-9 pm:
Chelsea Market Development Forum
Church of the Holy Apostles, 296 Ninth Avenue
(at 28th Street)

Thursday, November 17th, 7-9 pm:
Meet 'Team Obama'
Elliott Center, 441 West 26th Street,
(between 9th & 10th Avenues)

Sunday, December 4th, 5-7 pm:
CRDC Holiday Party
Food, drink, and cheer at the Elliott Center,
Dan Carpenter Room, 2nd Floor
441 West 26th Street, (between 9th & 10th Avenues)

Executive Committee Meetings:
Nov. 3rd, Dec. 1st, Jan. 5th

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