



The VID NEWS is published by the Village Independent Democrats.

President: Dan Roskoff

District Leaders: Catherine Abate • Herman Gerson

Editor: Lynn C. Schulman

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

There are busy times ahead. In our May & June meetings we will consider endorsing candidates for the offices of Mayor, President of the City Council, Comptroller, District Attorney, Civil Court Judge and District Leader. As our endorsement is very important we'll be seeing and hearing quite a bit from the candidates. I ask all VID members to question the candidates, study their records, their stands on the issues and their philosophy of government. A VID endorsement is quite an honor and has never been given out lightly. Let's endorse and work for those candidates who believe in and work for those liberal principles that caused VID to be founded and that VID still cares so deeply about.

As everyone knows, Miriam Bockman, our County and District Leader has resigned and Herman Gerson, our other District Leader has decided not to seek re-election. On behalf of the club I want to thank our friends Miriam and Herman for their tireless work and dedication. I'm very glad to be able to report that both Miriam and Herman have assured me that they plan to remain active VIDers.

-Dan Roskoff

IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE CHANGE

On May 18 the Executive Committee voted to switch the endorsements of City Council President and Comptroller from the May 28 General membership meeting to the June 11 membership meeting.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

On behalf of the Children's Theatre to Know About Alcoholism, I would like to thank the VID members who helped to make our benefit dinner (held in Feb.) a success. To those of you who wanted to help in the future, at Sheridan Square on Saturdays beginning May 2 from 1-4 PM, we will maintain a table to increase our membership and support. Also on our agenda this year is the making of our television appeals. Volunteers are invited to participate in this interesting venture as well. For more info call 674-4322 or Joyce Couvares at the table on Saturday afternoons.

-Henry Tompkins President Children's Theatre (Know Alcoholism)

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Congratulations to Catherine Abate on being elected interim Female District Leader in place of Miriam Bockman.

Congratulations to Karla Moskowitz who was recently elected President of the New York Women's Bar Association.

Congratulations (last but not least) to Bill Engler and Leona Freedman VID's two new editions to the Executive Committee.

Anyone who would like to submit personal notices for publication in the VID News may do so by writing to me at the club, 224 W. 4th St.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

-Editor

The coming of Spring not only means the start of warm days and baseball, it also means the start of campaigns. On March 31 the Campaign Committee had its first meeting to map out the endorsement meeting calendar for the 1981 primary election.

In a short time the VID's campaign effort for our supported candidates will get underway. This year, more than ever, everyone's active help is needed. For the first time in many years we will not be running two incumbent candidates for district leader (male & female). As a result, bodies will have to be substituted for immediate name recognition in the community. It is vital to the well-being of VID and our liberal community tradition that our district leader candidates win.

Besides district leader there are many other races for people to work - from Council on. People should also consider running for the County Committee spots which are open this year; if interested contact Ed Ortiz.

I hope to see many club members this summer during the campaign. Check out the calendar for announcements of future Campaign Committee meetings.

-Carol Feinman Campaign Chair

BLOCK PARTY REPORT

VID will be collecting the usual goodies: books, records, and a multitude of other resellable items for its annual block party to be held on June 20 (Rain date: June 21). Please save these as you do your Spring cleaning.

-Betsy Naylor Fundraising Chair

As reprinted from UPDATE/UPDATE/UPDATE, April 1981 Newsletter of the New York Americans for Democratic Action

Merit Selection of Judges in New York by Victor Kovner

It is now nearly 20 years since the Democratic Reform Movement first attempted to reform the system by which judges are nominated and ultimately chosen through the elimination of what had been virtually a barter arrangement among various party leaders. Much of that effort has paralleled a nationwide drive to replace the election of judges with the system generally known as merit selection (i.e., appointment by a chief executive from a list of highly qualified candidates nominated by an impartial and broadly representative panel). The movement for merit selection has not advocated the replacement of the elective system with an unrestricted appointment system.

The movement towards merit selection in New York was launched -- on a limited basis-- with the creation, by Mayor Robert F. Wagner, of the Mayor's Committee on the Judiciary in 1961. The initial committee was appointed entirely by the Mayor and was limited to a screening role -- that is, a determination as to whether or not a candidate was qualified. In the mid-sixties, the efforts to reform the elective process began in Manhattan with the creation of impartial panels -- designed to replace the traditional selection by district leaders. By the late sixties the focus of court reform efforts had shifted to the Surrogate's Court and the abuse in appointment of attorneys.

The impact of this effort over the past two decades has been dramatic. In the elective judiciary many changes have already taken place. The Court of Appeals is no longer chosen by the electorate, but by a merit selection system which is now part of the State Constitution, pursuant to the amendment adopted in 1977. The system has led to the appointment by Governor Carey of Chief Justice Lawrence Cooke and Associate Justice Bernard Meyer, selections of such distinction as to have won even broader support for merit selection.

At the Supreme Court level, however, the progress has been marginal. The Judicial Convention system, regarded by many as a hoax upon the public, remains the nominating procedure, which, in the City of New York, is tantamount to election. Yet in most counties within the City, and some outside as well, party organizations now seek review by either nonpartisan panels or Bar Associations to evaluate candidates for the Supreme Court prior to the judicial convention. These procedures offer some modest improvement, but become significant only where the panels are authorized to limit the choices of the convention. The use of the impartial panel procedure in the nominating or electing process for other judicial offices (especially Civil Court) has become increasingly widespread, although the hasty organization of some of the reviewing panels has occasionally called the process into question. To be truly effective, the process requires the selection or designation of panelists by independent groups, and sufficient time and resources to ensure an exhaustive and impartial procedure.

The reforms in the appointive portions of the judiciary have been dramatic indeed, although these changes depend entirely upon executive orders issued by Governor Carey and Mayor Koch, and could be rescinded or modified by their successors. At the State level, the Governor has voluntarily instituted a merit selection system by creating nominating commissions empowered to recommend a limited number of candidates for each vacancy to be filled by gubernatorial appointment. These commissions, one in each department and a state-wide commission for state-wide judicial offices, have significantly enhanced the quality of designations to the Appellate Division, appointments to the Court of Claims, and to the filling of interim vacancies in Family Court (outside New York City) and to State Supreme Court.

-continued next page

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1					11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7:30 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 11 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG.

VID NEWS

224 West Fourth Street
New York, N.Y. 10014
CH 3-6555

5/81
Read Victor Kovner article
on Judicial Reform



SUSAN HARWIG
228 EAST 11TH ST.
NEW YORK, NY 10003

Merit Selection - continued

At least as dramatic has been the remarkable improvement in the operation of the Mayor's Committee on the Judiciary under Mayor Koch. This 27-member committee (over half of whom are appointed by the Presiding Justices of the two Appellate Departments within New York City) has for the first time been authorized to limit mayoral appointment to one of three names for each vacancy, and has produced the most nonpartisan merit system ever seen within the City.

Much has been done, but major reforms remain to be achieved. The principal goal for those committed to a vigorous and independent judiciary should be the adoption of the proposed Constitutional Amendment, drafted by the Committee for Modern Courts and now before the Legislature, which would merge the major trial courts of record and provide a system of merit selection for each of these courts.

--Victor A. Kovner

Victor A. Kovner has served on the Mayor's Committee on the Judiciary since 1970, and on the State Commission on Judicial Conduct since 1976.

VID

Newsletter



OCT
1981

The V.I.D. Newsletter is published by the Village Independent Democrats

President: Dan Roskoff

Editor: Meryl W. Berman

Art Design: Camille M. Abate



A Presidential Word . . .

The club is involved in a wide array of activities evidenced by our committees. The Campaign committee is busy gearing up for the November 3rd General Election. The Housing committee has scheduled a seminar on rent stabilization and will soon have another forum on co-oping. This is in addition to the committee's regular Monday night tenants' clinic. Our Legislative committee is planning an Albany lobbying trip. The Environmental committee is working diligently against Westway, Secretary Watt, and Con Edison. The Membership committee just sponsored a very successful Open House. Fundraising is holding a Thank You Brunch for Miriam Bockman and Herman Gerson. The Human Rights committee is very active and arranging an upcoming forum. Judicial Reform has scheduled a discussion on Roommates and the Law for the community. The list could continue--but not here,

We have been very busy and everyone's help is needed. If you are not already involved with a committee, come on up, and we'll introduce you to the chair of your choice. You will meet good people and be involved in the exciting world of the V.I.D. And You are needed.

Dan Roskoff
President

→ District Leader Talk ←

Everything in life should be as pleasurable as running for District Leader in Greenwich Village under the banner of the V.I.D. The most difficult aspect was explaining to inquiring Villagers that Catherine and I weren't opposing Miriam and Herman, but were succeeding them, with their endorsement. I wish to thank Miriam and Herman for maintaining the V.I.D.'s strength with their fine record of accomplishments. Catherine and I will continue the longstanding V.I.D. tradition of community involvement and dedication to the humane liberal principles upon which the club was founded.

Tony Hoffmann

I welcome this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all those who contributed their time and effort to make September 22nd a true V.I.D. victory. Your dedication and enthusiasm helped get me through some very long days.

Miriam and Herman have left a strong and honorable legacy which Tony and I hope to both follow and build upon. I believe that the V.I.D.'s reputation as the leader in progressive politics will continue to flourish as we move forward into the 1980's.

Catherine M. Abate

A Thank-You Party will be held for Miriam and Herman on Sunday, November 22nd, from 1-4 p.m. at the Horn of Plenty, 92 Charles St. Please R.S.V.P. quickly when you receive the invitation.

The N.D.C. Annual Dinner will be held on January 31 at Tavern on the Green. For more information call 349 3690.



The Caring Community will sponsor a Children's Dinner in December. This is important and you will be hearing more about it.

Congratulations to Jonathan Pelzer, John Mark and Lynn Schulman, who were elected to fill Executive Committee vacancies.

It's a



Heartfelt congratulations to four people who interpreted the campaign newsletter's admonition to be a born-again Democrat in a lively fashion. It can also be filed under the coincidence department.

Lyn Peters and Phillip Schwartz proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann Schwartz, on Tuesday, October 13, 1981 at 12:03 p.m. Weight 8 lbs., 3 ozs..

Mary Dickas and Andy Baum proudly announce the birth of their son, Jeffrey Dickas Baum, on Tuesday, October 13, 1981.

Lyn and Mary are both past Presidents of the V.I.D., in consecutive years. They were in the same hospital, had the same doctor, and their children share the same birth day. In unity there is strength.

1981 has proven to be a disastrous year for the environment. On the national level, Secretary of the Interior James Watt has spearheaded the Reagan administration attack on our nation's natural resources. On the local level, Con Edison's Indian Point Power Plant continues its chronic breakdowns while presenting an ongoing safety threat to the city.

The Sierra Club has launched a nationwide petition campaign directed against the Reagan administration's anti-conservation program. New York Public Interest Research Group is coordinating a political and legal campaign aimed against the continued operation of the Indian Point plant.

On October 21st, the VID joined these efforts when it launched its petition campaign against the Reagan anti-interior program and the Indian Point power plant. Members are invited to participate by attending the next meeting of the Environmental Committee.

Neil V. Getnick
Chairperson, Environmental Comm.

For All Tenants

A seminar on the rights of tenants under the Rent Stabilization Law will be given by Joan Beranbaum, VID member and Supervising Attorney at Municipal Employees Legal Services of D.C. 37, and by Gary Connor, Director of Litigation at Williamsburg Legal Services. It will be held on Tuesday, November 17, from 8-10:30 pm, at NYU's Loeb Center, on the fifth floor, This is 576 LaGuardia Place. Club members are invited to bring their questions and their friends, to what should be an extremely informative presentation.

Rick Braun
Housing Chairperson

A city agency for abused and battered children is in special need. Please send toys, clothing and books, new or used, to Special Services for Children, 80 Lafayette St., 11th floor, New York. The ages range from infancy to sixteen years.

The Feinman Report

*Carol Feinman
Campaign Chair*

VID's campaign effort, having almost reached a hiatus between the end of one election and the uncertain beginning of the Council race, is presented an opportunity to report and reflect upon the past political events.

On the local level, Tony Hoffmann and Catherine Abate resoundingly defeated their opponents for District Leader, reflecting Village support of liberalism and community related activism. VID's other endorsed candidates also won their primary challenges and we will again be working for them on November 3.

At the October 3rd meeting VID overwhelmingly rejected the proposed Frison Bond.

Not to be forgotten is the upcoming Council race. VID's candidates, Miriam Friedlander, Carol Greitzer and Ed Wallace, will need all of our help to defeat their opponents.

I thank everyone who worked during this election. Your help made my job easier and made certain our victories.

Issues Forum

Americans for Common Sense is a nonpartisan progressive group, founded by former Senator George McGovern, to counter the forces of the New Right. The New York chapter is holding an issues forum to commence its operations. The keynote speakers will be City Council President Carol Bellamy, discussing the family, and Howard Samuels on common sense economics. This free forum will be held on Sunday, December 6th, at 4:30 p.m. at Grace and St. Paul Lutheran Church, 123 West 71st St., between Columbus and Broadway. It should be a very informative event, and let us all show our support to this new group by attending. All are welcome. They need volunteers, so if you can help or if you have questions, please call Nina Rosen at 663-7261.

Rick Braun

Liaison to Americans for Common Sense

NOTE

Ilene Zucker thanks all of you who helped make the Open House A SUCCESS!

THE GREENWICH VILLAGE COMMUNITY

The V.I.D.'s main task as a political club is to involve itself with the issues and elections on the City, State and Federal levels. However, what distinguishes the V.I.D. is its social and cultural identification with the community it represents. When one thinks of the Village as a community, one should associate it with the V.I.D.

Many of the VID's members are active in the community. Several members serve on the Community Board. Our District Leaders appear frequently before the Community Board to speak out on important local issues. It is important to reach out on a local level. Efforts to save the Village Nursing Home and to repeal the fees collected from Block Associations are only two of the community issues in which we have been involved.

All members are asked to participate in the Community Affairs Committee. We will be meeting at the club on October 29, November 12 and 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Ed Ortiz
Community Affairs

** Next General Membership Meeting is Wednesday, Nov 18*

ONE SLANT

There is an old saying. "May you live in interesting times." It is a curse. And then there was Solidarity Day in Washington D.C. An 'interesting' town these days.

The V.I.D. very nearly filled a bus. Several members chose other modes of transportation but were there. The V.I.D. owes Bill Van Felix our thanks for arranging with District 65 what had to be the best deal in a town emptied of Orange and Black buses. Five dollars bought round-trip transportation, lunch and dinner, and a sense of grass roots organizing which reminded many of us of the sixties. As bus captain I am pleased to announce we only lost two people. We managed to pick up seven. It was wonderful. It was a start. It was necessary and will be again. It would be nice to become obsolete.

I would also like to thank all contributors to this newsletter. However, I do request, if humanly possible, that future submissions be typed. There will be an open letter forum in the next issue. Two articles were submitted which editorialize in a manner that warrants the possibility of answers by interested parties. The next newsletter deadline will be November 18. There will then be a one week period of time when all open letter articles can be viewed at the club by the membership and rebuttal or response articles written. This is the VID Fairness Doctrine .. as of now. Thank you.

Meryl W. Berman

Question:

How much energy does it take to destroy the environment?

Answer:

ONE WATT.

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