

# The Independent

West Queens Independent Democratic Club

March 2005

## March Meeting

NY State, HAVA, Electronic Voting Machines:  
Implications and Ramifications

### What can we do to have fair and honest elections?

Guest speaker: Teresa Hommel of [Wheresthepaper.org](http://Wheresthepaper.org)

Sunday, March 20  
7:00 pm - Nominations of club officers  
7:15 program

At Dorothy Raymond Morehead's Realty Office  
45-18 Skillman Avenue, Sunnyside



These autumn campaigners look forward to a new season and future victories. Bette Cassaro, Ira Greenberg, Marc Crawford Leavitt, Jimmy Van Bramer, Kate Brennan and Joan Pagan.

## WQIDC.ORG

Now, more than ever, independent, progressive, idealistic, compassionate (read: LIBERAL) thought and action is needed in a world fraught with greed, war, violence, environmental upheaval, fiscal irresponsibility, questionable elections, and way too much negativity: enter <http://wqide.org>.

Yes, West Queens Independent Democratic Club has a web site -- not all the answers, of course, but we're determined to make a positive difference and look forward to using this tool, along with our listserv and its regular WQIDC updates (mailed to non-listserv PAID members) and our occasional newsletters to communicate with you and educate ourselves and others. Join/re-join WQIDC, subscribe to the free listserv, and visit and USE our web site info.

Check it out for Action Ideas, Great Links, News, Member Sites, Communication Tools

-- MORE -- and MORE to come.  
Let us know YOUR ideas.

## His Majesty George W's Loyal Opposition

by Sid Norinsky

Does anyone know why prominent Democrats are repeatedly and constantly falling in behind George Bush in support of his purported campaign to democratize the Middle East? Howard Dean took great pains to reassure the nation that Democrats stand behind Bush in support of his ongoing Iraq war. Both of our New York Senators, Clinton and Schumer, not only voted for Bush's War Powers Resolution and the subsequent hundreds of billion of dollars Bush needed for financing the war, they've also just voted to approve Alberto Gonzalez as Attorney General and Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State. Bill Clinton accompanies pappy H. W. Bush on well-photographed trips to Tsunami disaster territory to raise money without worrying about the hints it gives that Clinton isn't really bothered by being associated with the Bush clan.

Or is there a dirty little secret that nobody dares utter, but that motivates the Democratic leaders, namely that the Iraq war was, in hindsight, appropriate and necessary? That in spite of the blood and suffering and destruction and tragedy the goal of introducing democracy into the Middle East was a legitimate goal of U.S. foreign policy? That it was (and is) a gamble worth taking, an expense to be borne stoically as a dire necessity for future peace and comity among democratic nations; that it was a brilliant move that is now rocking the old feudal Arab world of kings and princes and emirs and mullahs to its shaky desert sand foundation. Were Thomas Friedman and Christopher Hitchens and other pundits correct in

supporting the war from the start? Were we Democrats, liberals, progressives, dissidents, Greens, and assorted devotees of various issue-politics causes (women's, ethnic, environmental, civil rights, media, and many more) just short-sighted, even blind to the international implications of the Bush actions? Will Bush and Wolfowitz become the heroes of this era when historians begin taking stock of what happened these last four years or so? Was Ralph Nader, his uncontrolled egotism notwithstanding, right after all?

Bush's domestic policies are loathsome. He and his corporate sponsors are out to destroy everything that made life better, safer, more secure, and healthier in the course of the twentieth century. There is just no way to rationalize or justify any of the Bush leagues' actions in outright wrecking of the New Deal and Fair Deal. Just as bad is the man's disgusting spouting of reactionary fundamentalist Christian cant and his saddling the U.S. Government with whole-arm embrace of church charities. Everything about the man and his cutthroat crew is repugnant to thinking people of any reasonable persuasion.

So how can he be wrong and reptilian about all of that domestic policy and right and heroic about bringing democracy to the Middle East? Or is he, undercover of those announced goals, up to something else? None of the tv or online pundits have tackled this question. So I hereby raise it.

***Editor's note: we welcome your thoughts.J***

## Community News Notes

by Ruth Javna and Kate Brennan

**Bill Melnick** and wife **Florence** are excited and proud about finally becoming grandparents for the first time to little Edward Frank Smith. Bill was also honored recently by the Queens Federation of Churches as one of the Adult Scout Leaders of the Year. (Yes, Bill has been involved with Scouting for over thirty years -- wow!)

**Frances Gizerian** is recovering from a setback and we wish her a speedy recovery.

**Fran Bauer**, visiting her brother in Florida, escaped one of our big snowfalls.

Back from following the call of art in sunny Spain are artist **Lynne Friedman** and her husband, writer **Sid Norinsky**. Currently, you can see a selection of Lynne's painting, now through April 12th, at **Dorothy Morehead's** restaurant, **Bliss** -- 45-20 Skillman Avenue, corner of 46th/Bliss Street. Hours are 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Phone 718-729-0778 for reservations.

Speaking of **Bliss**, we are so happy that **Dorothy Morehead** and her partner, chef **John McGrath** have opened the restaurant at the site of the former Jaunting Car Pub. Not only is the food wonderful at **Bliss**, but the staff are terrific. Make sure you try their melted chocolate cake -- decadent and delicious! (For those with internet access, there is a permanent link on our wqidc.org links page, should you lose their phone number, but you could go directly to their website -- <http://www.blissgardens.com>.)

Much success, Dorothy and John!! Your restaurant is a welcomed addition to our Sunnyside / Sunnyside Gardens neighborhood! (Close to Woodside, too!) Sunday brunch to start soon -- watch for it! In the meantime, save some calories.



Lining up for the Queens all-inclusive St. Patrick's Parade are Kate Brennan, Diane Capasella (rear), Gaye Fruscione, Jane Levy, Lillian Brooking & Joan Pagan (See Joan's dog Munchkin on our website.)

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 ☉\*☉\*☉\*☉ WEST QUEENS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC CLUB ☉\*☉\*☉\*☉

2005 DUES DUE -- PLEASE (Re-)JOIN AND MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE.

Learn the issues, meet candidates and public officials, get involved. Bring your check to a meeting, or mail it to WQIDC, PO Box 4252, Sunnyside NY 11104-0252. Phone (718) 786-2413 or (718) 482-0683; [wqidc@wqidc.org](mailto:wqidc@wqidc.org)  
 Regular: Individual \$15 Couple \$25 Sponsor \$35 Sustainer \$50  
 Limited Income: Individual \$7.50 Couple \$12.50 Newsletter/Updates only \$5

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**Add you to WQIDC ListServ?** (Moderated) Circle one: YES NO--on it NO--MAIL ME UPDATES  
 My website (if any): \_\_\_\_\_  
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## IN MEMORIAM -- Amy Bobrow and Ruth Levy

WQIDC members and friends continue to mourn the loss of two of our dear friends and active members:

**Amy Bobrow** and **Ruth Levy**.

Amy, a former WQIDC president and current treasurer, was brave during her illness. She had a spirit and optimism we all admired. She worked for NY State as a manager in their bureau of Alien Certification. Sympathy to her mom **Alice Sigmund** and sister **Debbie Bieber**.

Ruth Levy was a staunch supporter of our club and always active in the community. For years she served as membership coordinator and Executive Board member. A former teacher, she was very active with her temple. We extend sympathy to her daughters, our dear member **Jane Levy** and her sisters.

**The recent loss of both Amy and Ruth leaves a tremendous void in the club and in our hearts.**

**Joel Landy** hosted a hootenanny at the local *Aubergine Cafe*. Attending the evening full of song and political commentary, **Jimmy Van Bramer** and others cheered Joel and his group on. Joel anticipates an encore return visit and we will endeavor to keep you apprised.

**Send news note suggestions to PO Box, via our website form -- or let Ruth and/or Kate know.**

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