**Four Freedoms Democratic Club**

**March 31st, 2015, General Meeting Minutes**

Location: All Souls Church, 1157 Lexington Avenue

FFDC President Mike Dillon began the meeting by giving the treasurer’s report. He said there is $3000 in the club coffers and money is coming. He brought up the upcoming club fundraiser soiree and enjoined members to buy tickets.

Dillon mentioned the upcoming FFDC housing forum and said that Assembly Member Keith Wright would be in attendance. Dillon also gave an overview of the positions Judicial Delegate, County Committee, and District Leader, including their respective roles and current occupants of the District Leader seats in the 76th AD.

Dillon opened the floor for nominations for District Leader and Judicial Delegate, and said that anyone could nominate themselves or others by email for five days after the meeting. See below for the club nominations made at the meeting.

After nominations, State Committee Woman Ruth Halberg spoke about the issues in front the State Committee. Roger Herz spoke about pedestrian and bike access to the Verrazano bridge.

The speaker for the evening, Jerry Goldfeder, gave his talk “How Progressives Can Reclaim Local Democracy in New York City”. He took comments from the audience on changes they would like to see to the current electoral system. Suggestions includes same-day registration, early voting, more contestable districts, on-line voting, mail-in ballots, lottery tickets for voters, and mandatory voting.

He discussed the roadblocks to these measures at the statewide level, primarily the recalcitrant Senate Republican majority. He argued that there were two alternatives. First, the bidecennial constitutional convention is an option for instituting reform, which many progressives oppose.

Second, the City could enact these changes on its own for its municipal elections. There is a precedent of courts upholding the city’s elections laws with respects to its own elections, e.g. campaign finance, term limits, and the number of petition signatures to get on the ballot. He suggested that progressives could enact early voting no-excuse mail-in ballots, and same-day registrations for city elections by circulating petitions for a city-wide referendum. He subsequently took questions from the audience on this proposal.

 During member time a member of the audience spoke about a child adoption initiative at the state level, one can find information about this initiative at unsealedintiative.org. Connor Liu spoke about the Manhattan Borough President’s small business initiative. FFDC Corresponding Secretary Gabe Panek encouraged members to buy tickets for the fundraiser and Dillon mentioned that there are multiple sponsorship levels available.

**Nominations**

**Part A**

Mike Dillon

Jean Fischman

**Part B**

Kim Moscaritolo

Adam Roberts

Sheila Flaxman

Devin Gould

**Judicial Delegate**

Jerry Ferguson

Susan Hochberg

Joan Roberts

Miriam Stern

Elana Shwartz

Lynn Feibelmann

Gabe Panek

Frank Wilkinson

Lee Wiggins

David Menegon

Romano Reid