

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 17, 2003

Editor: Nancy Lian

Yard Sale a Smashing Success

The Yard Sale on September 20 was, by all our measures, a great success! The block association made a lot of money (see financial report on page 2) for our beautification, security, and community-building programs. The vendors, half of whom were block residents, made a lot of money. The weather was glorious and all the nicer coming after the threat of Hurricane Isabel. Everyone really seemed to have a great time.

Let's hear it for the musicians! Many of you told me how much you enjoyed them, starting with the bluegrass of Orrin Star and Friends; followed by the Brazilian beat of Botafogo; and finishing up with American jazz of the Leif Arntzen Band.

Our annual block party is made possible in large part by your dedicated board members who plan their section months in advance and always look to improve upon the prior year. I applaud them and the great job they did this year:

- Marsha Tantleff: vendors (see Kudos on p.5)
- Miriam Duhan: breakfast
- Alex Grannis: bakery
- Hanna Rubin, Barbara Bryan: silent auction
- Estelle Kattelsohn: entertainment
- Nancy Lian: permits, head cashier
- John Johnston: sound equipment

Board members Sheila Garden and Steve Zirinsky (too new to be a section chief; wait until next year!) helped out the day of the Yard Sale. And our treasurer, Sid Herzfeld, took our money all the way to the bank afterwards. Not board members but key to our success were:

- Nathan Gross, our book seller extraordinaire, whose love of literature is exceeded only by his delight at matching books with readers
- Mimi Schade who stepped in right when I needed her to run the drink section so assuredly
- Lani Sanjek whose organizational skills and hours at the grill (um, five?) made the food section run as well as a classy kitchen
- Ira Gershenhorn for being a master of all trades throughout the day.

Teresa Elwert, President

The Yard Sale is fun for me for a lot of reasons. A key reason is getting block residents to lend a hand for a few hours and meet their neighbors in the process. Here are this year's volunteer helpers for whose time, good spirits, and willingness to help I'm so grateful. Thank you!

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jorge Apolo | Samuel Jackson |
| Stephanie Apolo | Liz Karlin |
| Lynn Bender | Kathy Kearns |
| Mary Cargill | Christine Kulisek |
| Karen Collins | Steve Max |
| Michael Deegan | Gwen Pier |
| Christopher Dugan | Judy Pietrasiewicz |
| Dennis Dugan | Joe Rappaport |
| Dana Dumai | Roger Sanjek |
| Ira Gershenhorn | Lani Sanjek |
| Karen Gershenhorn | Mimi Schade |
| Marisa Gershenhorn | Jonna Semeiks |
| Jennifer Graves | Ann Shepherd |
| Rose Greenstein | Carol Slade |
| Roxanne Greenstein | Mark Smith |
| Nathan Gross | Patricia Smith |
| George Harlow | Emma Smith |
| Joan Harris | Liz Soriano |
| Lindsay Harris | Tim Taylor |
| George Harter | Sharon Waskow |
| Dru Heidel | Adam Watson |
| Orli Himmelweit | Josh Zaret |
| Missy Cohen | |

Teresa Elwert, President

It's Election Time

According to our Bylaws, every other year officers and members of the Board of Directors are elected. The term for a Board member is two years, and there are monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month. Please use the Ballot below to indicate your choices for the next two years.

BALLOT

Please complete your ballot and return to Nancy Lian, 320 RSD before November 1, 2003.

| | | YES |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------|
| President | Teresa Elwert 320 RSD | _____ |
| VP/Secretary | Nancy Lian 320 RSD | _____ |
| Treasurer | Sid Herzfeld 895 WEA | _____ |
| Members | Barbara Bryan 905 WEA | _____ |
| | Miriam Duhan 309 W 104 | _____ |
| | Sheila Garden 905 WEA | _____ |
| | Alex Grannis 895 WEA | _____ |
| | John Johnston 905 WEA | _____ |
| | Elly Ledogar 315 RSD | _____ |
| | Hanna Rubin 315 RDS | _____ |
| | Marsha Tantleff 315 RSD | _____ |
| | Steven Zirinsky 315 RSD | _____ |
| Community Rep | Estelle Kattelson 925 WEA | _____ |

Write in Candidate

Office

Name

Welcome new board member Steve Zirinsky

Steve, who lives with his wife Paula at 315 Riverside Dr., is an architect. He brings to the board an interest in improving the urban environment. For example, his firm, Zirinsky and Cox, worked on last summer's restoration of the Alexander Calder-designed black and white terrazzo sidewalk on Madison Ave. between 78th and 79th Streets. I look forward to working with Steve on various projects to improve the look of our block.

Teresa Elwert, president

West 104th St. Block Assn Financial Report

Sid Herzfeld, Treasurer

September 2003

OPENING BALANCE 9/1/03 \$13,081.17

INCOME

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Dues | 1,615.00 | |
| Newsletter Ads | 40.00 | |
| Off-block subscriptions | 100.00 | |
| YARD SALE | 4,918.00 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 6,673.00 | 6,673.00 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Guard Service | 2,115.90 | |
| Newsletter Production | 297.90 | |
| Yard Sale | 2,245.39 | |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS | 4,658.98 | 4,658.98 |

CLOSING BALANCE 9/30/03 \$15,095.19

West 104th St. Block Association 2003 Yard Sale Preliminary Report

Sid Herzfeld, Treasurer

INCOME

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Space Leases | 2,900.00 | |
| Book Sales | 1,683.00 | |
| Silent Auction | 1,385.00 | |
| Food Sales | 1,455.00 | |
| Baked Goods | 420.00 | |
| T-Shirts & Misc. | 60.00 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 7,903.00 | 7,903.00 |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Musicians' Fees | 1,300.00 | |
| Instrumental rental | 543.13 | |
| Clown | 100.00 | |
| Food Purchases | 440.00 | |
| Beverages | 250.00 | |
| Portable Toilet | 155.00 | |
| Permits | 63.00 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 2,851.13 | 2,851.13 |

NET PROCEEDS \$5,051.87

West 104th Street Block Association Board

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| President | Teresa Elwert 320 RSD 212.866.4260 |
| VP/Secretary | Nancy Lian 320 RSD 212.316.6112 |
| Treasurer | Sid Herzfeld 895 WEA 212.749.0085 |
| Members | Barbara Bryan 905 WEA 212.864.5663 |
| | Miriam Duhan 309 W 104 212.866.2791 |
| | Sheila Garden 905 WEA 212.662.5143 |
| | Alex Grannis 895 WEA 212.316.1644 |
| | John Johnston 905 WEA 212.866.5350 |
| | Elly Ledogar 315 RSD 212.864.7148 |
| | Estelle Kattelson 925 WEA 212.866.9731 |
| | Hanna Rubin 315 RDS 212.865.4579 |
| | Marsha Tantleff 315 RSD 212.932.9592 |
| | Steven Zirinsky 315 RSD 212.866.6732 |

Kudos from our Yard Sale Vendors

The weather cooperated and we had a wonderful and happy time - of the sort one can only have on the West Side of New York City. Thank goodness some things haven't changed. We even made money. But the main thing is the fun and camaraderie. Looking forward to next year. Best wishes. (Malcolm Addey & Charlotte Schroeder)

This was great fun and as always, a good way to meet neighbors and exchange junk (er, priceless treasures.) Thanks to the Block Association for the organization and hard work that makes it so successful from year to year. As one gentleman told me, "Our block party is not nearly so well run, I just knew you would have a Port-o-Potty here somewhere, and you do!" It's the details that count. (Jennifer Graves)

This was my first year participating in the Yard Sale. We had a great day. The organization of the event was excellent. It is such a great community idea. (Caroline Corcoran)

Thank you for such a wonderfully organized and successful event. We were all exhausted at the end of it but really enjoyed doing it, running into so many neighbors, having NO problems whatsoever and finally, and really the whole point of it -- getting rid of so much stuff and making money doing it. I personally am thrilled. (Anthony Bellov)

We had a great day, and I loved our spot. I'll definitely do it again next year. Hope our block association did well. (Nancy Zickerman)

Welcome to the new building in the Park

By Karen Gershenhorn, 320 Riverside Dr.

Sunday, Sept. 14 marked the opening of The Peter Jay Sharp Volunteer House inside Riverside Park at 107th Street. This building is remarkable, beautiful and useful. It is the only public facility in New York City devoted solely to nurturing volunteer park work and was completely privately funded. It stands as a testament and inspiration to the thousands of Riverside Park Fund's Grassroots Volunteers contributing thousands of hours annually to beautify and maintain our wonderful "backyard" and will be used by them to continue their work. (Last year 2,700 volunteers contributed 28,000 hours.) Designed in a "green" manner, the house's exterior is reminiscent of an Olmstedian English folly and landscaped with plants native to our area, while the interior includes a treehouse-inspired multi-purpose room overlooking the park, year-round plumbing and heating, expanded storage space and an area for plant propagation. Walk through the park and look at this beautiful addition to our landscape. Those of you familiar with the previous building will be amazed at the changes.

If the gardening muse should be upon you, Crista Carmody, Director of Landscape Initiatives for Riverside Park Fund (at 212 870 3070 or grassroots@riversideparkfund.org) will help match you with an existing group of volunteers or a site. Volunteers are always welcome for periodic park clean-ups, assisting established groups with their gardens or, if you really crave commitment you may adopt a spot to plant and maintain, all with the assistance of the amazing crews from the Park Fund and Riverside Park. K.C. Sahl, the Riverside Park Administrator, welcomes your concerns regarding the

park. He may be reached at 212 408 0264. Look for signs announcing leaf-raking days coming soon!

Petropolis museum tour

The block association is sponsoring a special tour of *Petropolis, a Social History of Urban Animals Companions* (a.k.a. .pets!), the popular exhibit at the New-York Historical Society. The tour will be led by the irrepressible Kathleen Hulser, the show's co-curator and our neighbor at 309 W 104. The exhibit traces the history of the relationship between city dwellers and their pets, with an emphasis on NYC over the last 250 years. Often these four-footed, feathered, or finned creatures, both fancy and domestic, have displaced human offspring and spouses.

At a Curbside Café this summer, Kathleen, the Society's public historian, regaled us with stories of her adventures putting the show together. She's sure to share them during this special 60-minute tour on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 1pm. Reservations aren't necessary – just show up at the NY Historical Society, 2 W 77th St. Save time for a round of Dogopoly. The fee is the price of admission to the museum: \$8/adults; \$5/seniors and students; children 12 and under accompanied by an adult are free. Woof!

Fatal car accident at 106 and Broadway

The intersection at Broadway and 106th street has claimed yet another victim. Hit by a car involved in a collision with another car, a pedestrian died September 29 waiting in the crosswalk. In addition, one of the drivers and another pedestrian were injured and rushed to the hospital. As horrible as this was, the incident could have been worse: at least a dozen people were standing on the sidewalk behind the victims. The media arrived in droves, but this is not big news for residents of the neighborhood. Accidents happen at this intersection regularly. This intersection and many others in the neighborhood have high rates of accidents.

Adapted from the website of Westsiders for Viable Neighborhoods

Yard Sale lost & found

A pair of men's prescription glasses in aviator-style frames was left at the Yard Sale on September 20. To claim them, call Teresa Elwert, 212 866 4260.

It's a small world, after all

Patty Nasey and David Goldberg, who live at 320 W 104, on vacation last Christmas in a remote beach town on the Pacific coast of Mexico having a glorious beach-front dinner saw a man walking onto the patio wearing a W 104th St T-shirt. Patty and David didn't recognize him. They introduced themselves and learned he was Warren Sherman, who lives two doors away in 315 RSD also on vacation with his wife Diane Meier and two children.

Our Israeli Volunteer

Dana Dumai, who was on a first-time, two-week visit to New York City from Israel and staying with block residents, spent time volunteering at the Yard Sale Saturday morning before flying home that evening. Perhaps we could start a foreign exchange volunteer program!

20-story condo planned for Olympia Theatre site

The Clarett Group, a real estate development company, could start construction this month on a 20-story building containing 64 condominiums and 7,500 square feet of retail space at the southeast corner of 107th St. and Broadway. The structure will be made of red brick and has setbacks that rise to a narrow tower. At a recent Community Board 7 meeting area residents expressed concern about the potential shadow the building could cast on Straus Park. To obtain zoning bonuses, the company is also constructing low-income apartments in a new small building at 220 W. 108th St. Adapted from *New York Times*, September 21, 2003, article written by Denny Lee

Coming soon: tulips and daffodils

The block association has purchased tulips and daffodils for planting in our tree gardens this fall. Yes, we bought Angelique, those fabulous pale pink tulips so many of you admired this spring at the top of the block. The bulbs need to be planted as soon as they arrive in late October. You don't need a green thumb to be a successful bulb planter, just a willingness learn how. Call Teresa Elwert (212 866 4260) if you just gotta get your hands in the dirt and plant!

Subscribe to New York Festival of Song

Block resident Steven Blier is the co-artistic director of 15-year old New York Festival of Song, whose 2003-2004 season will take place in Merkin Concert Hall. Several of us on the block have attended these concerts, and wow! Or as the *New York Times* wrote: "This festival was founded partly because Mr. Blier and Mr. Barrett [co-artistic director] feared for the heritage of the song recital. They have succeeded beyond all expectations, because they know how to program familiar repertory in contexts that make us hear it freshly, because they have uncovered and championed cherishable songs that have been neglected, and because they have honored the heritage by continuing it: the list of works the festival has commissioned is impressive." But why do we love the concerts? Because Steven's a terrific host: he's a genius at making you feel welcome, making you laugh, and sending you home singing a happy tune! Tickets are available from the Merkin Hall box office at 212 5013330. See the NYFOS website (www.nyfos.org) for program details.

Selected Calendar of Events

- 10/18 Halloween Haunted House**, games, treats and storytelling with guest Sonia Manzano. Costumes recommended. Leonard Nimoy Thalia, 95th & Broadway, 11 am and 2 pm, ages 4 and up. \$5.
- 10/18 Art in the Park**, a day-long celebration of Art, Dance, Music and Food. Straus Park. Rain date 10/19.
- 10/18 Folk Art of Peru**, the Gallery at American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway at 61st St. Free admission. Exhibit continues to 12/31.
- 10/23 Music with Grant Johannesen**, pianist and works by Prokofiev. NYPL Library for the Performing Arts, 40 Lincoln Center Plaza. 6 pm. Admission is free but call 212.642.0142 for more information.
- 10/25 Broadway Bach Ensemble plays Schubert, Vivaldi, von Weber, Corigliano, Mozart**. Broadway Presbyterian Church at Broadway & 114th St., 4 pm. Free.
- 10/26 Petropolis, a special tour for the 104th St. Block Association** by curator Kathleen Hulser, NY Historical Society. 1 pm. Price is cost of admission, \$8. Please meet at the NY Historical Society lobby at 77th St. and CPW at 1 pm.
- 10/27 Hallowe'en Crafts**, Special Program at Bloomingdale Branch, NYPL, 150 W 100 St., for ages 4 to 11 at 4 pm. Preregistration is required. Please call 212.222.8030.
- 10/29 Halloween Story Hour**, presented by Rebecca Schosha at the Bloomingdale Branch, NYPL, 150 W 100 St. for ages 5 to 11, 4 pm.
- 10/29 The Legacy Codes** by Cherylene Lee, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. The play is based on Taiwan-born physicist We'n Ho Lee who was accused of compromising American security. The West End Theatre, 263 W. 86 St.. Call 212.868.4030 for ticket information. The play runs through 11/23.

- 10/31 Halloween Extravaganza & Procession of the Ghouls**, The 1920 silent film The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari is included with cathedral organ accompaniment. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 7 pm & 10 pm. Tickets \$15, students and senior \$7. Call 212.662.2133 for more information.
- 11/1 My Neighbor Totoro**, animated Japanese film, Leonard Nimoy Thalia, 2 pm. For ages 7 and up. Tickets \$10 (Sr \$8). Call 212.864.5400 for more information.
- 11/6 We Remember Lionel Hampton**. Terry Gibbs and others. Jazz Concert at Tribeca performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St. 8 pm. Call 212.220.1460 for ticket information.
- 11/9 Manhattan Guitar Quartet** (Jorge Caballero, David Galvez, Pablo Sainz Villegas, Paul Cesarczyk) with works by Bach, Hayden and Morel. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, St. James Chapel, 3 pm. Admission free, but contributions help the artists.
- 11/22 First Peoples' Thanksgiving**, a gathering of Native American musicians, storytellers, dancers and drummers from around the US, a program for the whole family. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 7 pm. Free but a \$10 contribution is suggested.
- 11/23 Sweet Suites** with Wendy Law, cello and Ying-Chien Lin, piano perform music by Bach, Britten and Stravinsky. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, St. James Chapel, 3 pm. Admission free, but a contribution helps the artists.
- 12/2 Make your own Christmas cards**. American Bible Society, Broadway at 61st St. 3:30 to 5 pm. Open to children 4-13. Free, but registration required. Call 212.408.1586.
- 12/5-7 Crafts at the Cathedral**, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Synod Hall. One-of-a-kind holiday gifts. 12/5 5-8 pm. 12/6-11-7, 12/7-11-5. Café and home-baked goods. Entrance of \$6 benefits Cathedral programs. For more information call 212.865.9246.

Neighborhood Services for Hire

- Piano lessons for all ages**. Beginners & children welcome. Experienced teacher makes it fun while you learn. 212.662.1466
- Make-up artist**, stylist. For fashion shows, TV/soap operas, film; ES Styles; 212 280 8199
- TV crews and production services**. Manages location crews, studio productions, and live events with the most experienced and best-suited personnel. Crew 1 TV, Dino Quaglietta, resident of 320 Riverside. 212.665.8277; web site: www.crew1tv.com; email: crew1tv@aol.com.
- Available for babysitting** evenings for mealtimes, storytelling, singing. Former nursery teacher, Block Assoc. board member. \$10 per hour. Call Estelle at: 212-866-9731
- Jack Price**: General Painting and cleaning-apartments, houses, offices, etc. Tel: 718.961.4590. email: JPNYCity@aol.com.
- Cat sitter**. Responsible, experienced. Comes twice a day and pets, feeds, and plays with your cat. References available. Charges \$5 a day. Lydia, age 12, resident of 905 WEA. 212.865.6588.
- Private yoga and pre-natal yoga** in the comfort of your home by a certified Hatha yoga teacher. Harininiyoga, block resident. 917.968.6457.
- Web site design**, development, and promotion for small and mid-sized businesses. Adam Watson, resident of 321 W 104; www.wetcementdesign.com; 212.316.2651; email: adam@wetcementdesign.com.

- Cat Cottage/Cat Calls**. Cat sitter: feed, give medication, scoop out pan, Jeanne Adlon, recommended by block resident. 212.734.6866.
- Coral calcium**: Bob Barefoot formula: discounted. It really works! Ca20 Co., 212.678.2128. starthealthy@msm.com

Your Neighborhood service publicized - free!

You can publicize your neighborhood service (babysitting, dog walking, apartment cleaning, etc.) free in the newsletter and on our web site if you live on the block. Off-block residents must be recommended by a block resident and pay an annual \$25 fee. To submit an ad, fill out the form on our web site at www.bloomingtondale.org under "Neighborhood services for Hire." We've been asked about starting a swap service, auction, or other type of goods marketplace on the web site. As soon as we figure out how to make that happen without creating a lot of work for our webmaster, we'll do it!

Submit your listing by mailing or hand-delivering the following information to Teresa Elwert, 320 Riverside Drive, #9D.

For our records: your name and mailing address

For publication: your name, contact method (phone # or e-mail address), service description

Placement: newsletter, website, or both