

# West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION

June 8, 2001

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nancy Lian

Layout and Design: John Johnston

## *Yard Sale: Calling All Vendors!*

We're now selling spaces at the Yard Sale for Saturday, September 15. You can buy a 10-foot space for \$35 (limit two spaces) to sell all your (and your kids') formerly beloved stuff that's now taking up precious space in your apartment. Complete information on being a vendor (including the required vendor agreement) is available on our website: [www.bloomingtondale.org](http://www.bloomingtondale.org); click For Vendors on the homepage. If you don't have Internet access, call Marsha Tantleff (932 9592) who will be happy to give you the information.

If being a vendor is not in your plans, why not lend a hand before or during the Yard Sale? It's a fun way to meet your neighbors and help the block association raise money. Call Teresa Elwert (866 4260) for the complete scoop. And donate your used books and CDs to the block association; we'll sell them at the Yard Sale.

## Crime report

Board members Michael Deegan and Teresa Elwert attended the May meeting of the 24 Precinct Community Council. They raised three issues with Capt. Raymond Spinelli: cars parked illegally at the intersection of 104<sup>th</sup> St. and Riverside Drive; noisy early morning parties; groups of children mugging and terrorizing residents. The police reaction: officers will ticket cars; (see story on page 3 about the parties); and we should report mugging incidents, and the perpetrators will be prosecuted.

Teresa and Michael learned the precinct has experienced a spike in the number of burglaries, robberies, and grand larcenies since the beginning of the year. Some key reasons for them: burglaries (people leaving rear windows open); robberies (stealing handbags and wallets from restaurants, bars, and Starbucks).

## Hudson Beach Café is Open

The open-air café in Riverside Park at 105<sup>th</sup> St is now open from 3:00 to 9:00 during the week and from noon to 9:00 on the weekend. The café is dog-friendly and a great place to put away a beer while watching the sun go down. Phone 917 567 2743.

## Park Tour Planned for July

Gil Tauber plans a tour of Riverside Park for block residents in late July. He's in the planning stages of the tour so we don't have a lot of details. We do know, though, that it will be packed with lots of historical, horticultural, and architectural information. Look for flyers in your building with the details.

## Multi-Block Street Fairs for 2001

DATE	PLACE	SPONSOR
6/17	Broadway 73-82 Broadway 82-86	W.S. Fed. Neighborhood & Block Assns. Broadway Mall Association
6/24	Broadway 66-72 Amsterdam 97-107	Project Open at Lincoln Towers Valley Restoration
8/5	Columbus 66-72	Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center
9/16	Columbus 66-86	West Side Chamber of Commerce
9/30	Broadway 86-90 Broadway 90-96	NAACP, Mid-Manhattan Branch Symphony Space
10/7	Amsterdam 76-81 Amsterdam 81-86	Safe Horizons Concerned Citizens for Com. Action
10/13	Broadway 110-118	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Upper Broadway Fall Festival
10/21	Broadway 96-106 Broadway 106-110	Bloomingtondale Area Coalition West Side1 Stop for Coordinated

President: Teresa Elwert  
VP / Secretary: Nancy Lian  
Treasurer: Sid Herzfeld

Members: Ned Barnard  
Barbara Bryan  
Michael Deegan  
Sheila Garden  
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Association  
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John Johnston  
Estelle Kattelson  
Hannah Rubin  
Mimi Schade

E-mail: [West104block@hotmail.com](mailto:West104block@hotmail.com)

Heard on the street...

**Columbia University** has expressed an interest in acquiring the site at Broadway and 103<sup>rd</sup> St. (where the Lucille Roberts and other stores are) for either faculty or student housing. An as-of-right building would be R-8, presumably in the range of 10 to 12 stories. Westsiders for a Viable Neighborhood may start lobbying for a supermarket in the retail space.

**Community Board 7** has approved a resolution supporting the development of a Ben and Jerry's ice cream store at 104th St. and Broadway in Regent Residence building. It will be similar to the theater district B&J's which hires former welfare recipients and other hard-to-employ people. The timeframe is unknown.

## Subway Station Conditions

The 103<sup>rd</sup> St. subway station continues to deteriorate and the station manager has not responded to several letters following up on his promise last spring to scrape and paint the ceiling. Leslie Nickel-Fara of 895 West End Ave. is on the case and will take another approach to learn what the plans are—if any—for a station refurbishment. The block association board has agreed to make the station improvement a major issue this year.

## Rolling Along the River

Get out on your bike and enjoy one of best things to happen to New York City in years: the Hudson River path from the Battery to the Bridge. Glorious, scenic, exhilarating are the best descriptors. Noisy and difficult to maneuver in places are other valid descriptors; the most arduous section is between 125<sup>th</sup> St. and Riverbank State Park. The new pedestrian pier at 72<sup>nd</sup> St. offers a superb skyline view. Be sure to check out the undulating blackened metal shells of two burned-out piers just south of the new one; one could argue that their form must have inspired Frank Gehry during his design of the Bilbao Museum. All in all, the path is a fantastic addition to our neighborhood!

## A DOG TAIL

*By Marsha Tantleff*

A story written by longtime block resident Gail Bryce recently appeared on the front page of *The West Side Spirit*. "Your Kids Are Driving Me Crazy" created quite a stir. It resulted in, amongst other things, excerpts being quoted in the *Sunday New York Times Magazine*, and an appearance by Gail on Sally Jesse Raphael's CBS TV talk show.

The following are excerpts from her most recent article "When My Dog Disappeared" published in the April 19, 2001 issue of *The West Side Spirit*. Once again the story graced the front page. It is a story that will undoubtedly have you on the edge of your seat as you read it, but a happy ending is had by all. Good luck, Gail.

I knew by the movement of Pete's tail that I was in trouble...It was a defiant flick, coupled with a bounce of his haunches that signaled my dog realized he was free. I had dropped the leash, the night was young and he was in the mood for adventure....

Pete is always elegant in a sleek, black-and-white coat that resembles formal black-tie and tails, and paws that look like they are encased in white spats...he needs to be macho and show me who's boss sometimes....However, that rainy night last autumn was different...I chased the rascal...for several blocks, but his chunky legs moved like he had a date with a Best-in-Show winner....

I had to catch Pete before he got hit by a car...My emotions had gone from anger to worry to burgeoning panic. I might never see my boy again...

Feeling sick and crying from anxiety and fatigue...I looked like Keith Richards after a bad night. I was wearing a beige sock on one hand and a blue sock on the other as I clutched my umbrella.


Then...a dog who looked like Pete...appeared across the street....walking jauntily,....on a leash led by a strange woman...Pete was her houseguest...he had a pajama party...But none of that mattered. I had my dog back home unharmed and the world was bright once more.

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## How to Handle Noisy Neighbors

Summer's here with its beautiful weather—yea!—and its noisy, late-night parties—nay! To put a stop to chronic clatter after 11:00 p.m., determine the address of the racket and call the precinct: 678 1811. If the party lasts a long time and if a lot of us call the precinct, the police may go to the address twice in one night, in which case the party-thrasher will be summonsed to appear before the Environmental Control Board. Perhaps the fine the person receives will halt the hullabaloo and result in zzzzz's for the rest of us.

## Easy Ways to Reduce Electricity

While some energy experts think New Yorkers will not experience the severe energy shortfalls being suffered by Californians, it's always a good idea to reduce electricity consumption. Here are some easy ways to do just that.

- Turn off the light when you leave the room.
- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs; they last longer than incandescent bulbs and use less *electricity*.
- Use the lowest wattage bulb possible.
- Unplug these appliances when not in use: computer, printer, TV, VCR, DVD player, microwave, stereo system, battery chargers. They contain solid state components that consume electricity even when not actively being used.
- Set your air conditioner thermostat as high as is comfortable.
- Use a fan in conjunction with—or if you can stand it—in place of AC.

Get more energy savings tips at this website:  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## Do You Know What You're Eating?

By Estelle Kattelson

The subject of Genetically Modified Organisms ("GMO's") or "GE" (for Genetically Engineered) foods has been prominent in recent months. Peoples' concerns over scientific and corporate tampering with our foods have arisen because of the well-publicized refusal of many European and other countries to accept any American foodstuffs that do not guarantee their purity. Kellogg's has already told suppliers in Europe that they will not buy foods that contain GE ingredients. However, despite the thousands of postcards, phone calls and emails to the company in the United States, urging them to take the same stand to protect consumers and our environment, the company continues to sell unlabeled GE food in our stores.

The FDA, unfortunately, has been less than zealous in monitoring our food sources and quality. The seeds (produced by Monsanto Chemical) that Agribusiness has been using for many years are genetically engineered. Monsanto has also produced seeds that are only usable for one growing season; as a result farmers in poor, undeveloped countries are no longer able to harvest seeds from their existing crops, to plant the next season. They are forced to buy new [GE] seeds each year. This has terrible economic consequences for those farmers who barely subsist ordinarily; they are forced to abandon their homes and land and settle in cities where, without the skills required to earn a living wage, they are exploited—as we have learned—by a number of American corporations operating overseas.

*(Continued on page 6)*

### May 2001 Treasurer's Report by Sid Herzfeld

OPENING BALANCE: 5/01/2001	\$ 12,739.70
INCOME:	
Dues:	290.00
TOTAL INCOME: \$ 290.00	+290.00
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Guard Service	2,580.56
Bank Fee	22.50
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	2,603.06
	-2,603.06
CLOSING BALANCE: 5/31/2001	\$ 10,426.64

## Doe Fund Waters Our Flowers

For the third season, the Doe Fund ([www.doe.fund.org](http://www.doe.fund.org)) is watering our trees and plants twice a week from June to October. The Fund has refined its watering methods, with technical assistance from Trees New York ([www.treesny.com](http://www.treesny.com)). The Fund offers this essential service to us for the low fee of \$20 a tree. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Fund, the address is 232 East 84th Street, New York, NY 10028.

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# Late Blooming Asian Immigrants Show Their Colors in June and July

by Ned Barnard

Most of our showiest trees, street and park trees have finished blooming by June, but a few save their pyrotechnics for June and July. Two of these late bloomers are immigrants from China that have proved to be particularly suited to tough urban conditions. Both arrived early in the nineteenth century and are now well established along our streets and in our parks.

## Goldenraintree

(*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

Thomas Jefferson was probably the first person to grow a goldenraintree in America, using seeds sent from France in 1809. A native of northern China, the goldenraintree was planted for centuries by the graves of important Chinese government officials. It is a tough, small tree, able to withstand heat, drought, high winds, and poor soil. It is also an exceptionally beautiful tree, especially in mid June and July when it produces a profusion of yellow blossoms, which yield 3-valved, bladder-like fruits, containing dark, round 1/4-inch seeds. You can find a goldenraintree in Central Park close to the very large old London plane at the northeast corner of The Reservoir.

## Regent Scholartree

(*Styphnolobium japonicum*)

The regent scholartree reached America by a circuitous route from its native China. A French Jesuit priest sent seeds with a caravan travelling from Peking to Moscow in 1747. From Russia the seeds went to Paris, where they germinated in the Jardin du Roi. By 1753 the regent scholartree was thriving across the Channel in English gardens. In 1811 seeds from Britain were shipped to the Elgin Botanical Garden, located where Rockefeller Center now stands in Manhattan. Thus the many American regent scholartrees descended from Elgin seeds are here only because a Frenchman sent a handful of dried pods on a long journey across Asia over 250 years ago.

A legume like its American cousin the yellowwood, the regent scholartree bears showy clusters of fragrant, creamy-white flowers in mid summer after most trees have finished blooming. Once fertilized, each flower produces a long pod with constrictions between its 3 to 10 seeds. Tolerant of polluted air, heat, and drought, the regent scholartree is a handsome, if somewhat messy, city park and street tree. You can see regent scholartrees planted along the eastern side of Amsterdam Avenue at 88<sup>th</sup> Street.



The goldenraintree's coarsely-toothed compound leaves turn golden yellow in fall.



The papery 1 1/2-inch fruits of the goldenraintree may remain on the tree through the winter



The regent scholartree's compound leaves are composed of oval, smooth-edged leaflets that drop off while still green in the fall.



The regent scholartree's 3- to 6-inch-long seed pods ripen by October but may hang on the tree all winter.

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# Calendar of Selected Events

6/6-17 **18 Mighty Mountain Warriors**, a madcap skit comedy troupe from San Francisco, at the Pan Asian Rep Theatre, 263 W 86<sup>th</sup> St. Call 212-505-5655 for ticket information.

6/8-ongoing **Totally Kids Carousel**, Riverbank State Park, Riverside at 140<sup>th</sup> St. Hours are 1 to 7 pm Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. Tokens for rides are \$.50 each, or a Fun Pass of 12 tokens for \$5.00. Hours are 6 am to 11 pm daily. Besides the carousel, there is a 50-meter pool, rollerskating in the summer, a 150-seat restaurant with a 100-seat outdoor terrace. You'll also find a 25-yard lap pool, a wading pool, four basketball courts, four hand/paddleball courts, a softball field, four tennis courts and a running track. Check it out all year long

6/8 **New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra**, Eckart Preu, cond, Jennifer Owen, violinist, *Serenade for Winds*, R. Strauss, *V. Concerto No. 1* by Prokofiev, and Rimski Korsakov's *Sherharazade*. Riverside Ch., at 8. Tickets \$12 at door.

6/10 **Dawn Padmore** presents a concert of Yoruba, Igbo and Akan Folk Songs from Africa. Riverside Church Christ Chapel,

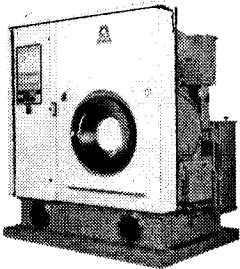
- 3 pm. Free with an offering for the artist. Call 212-870-6722
- 6/10 **Searching For the Buddha in the Forest**, special exhibit of work by the Japanese sculptor who created the Buddha at the temple in Grafton, NY. Buddhist Center at 105<sup>th</sup> St. and Riverside Drive. Hours: 1 to 4 pm 6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1.
- 6/12 **Manhattan Festival of Sacred Music and the NY Chamber Orchestra**, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 8 pm. Call 212-581-1212 and use code SVM for discounted tickets.
- 6/14 **Some Very Interesting Women, Film Series**, continuing 6/21, 6/28. Bloomingdale Branch Library, 2 pm.
- 6/18 **Summer Movies at Bryant Park**, at sunset through 8/20. See *Viva Las Vegas* 6/18, *The Wild One* 6/25, *Jazz on a Summer's Day* 7/2, *Double Indemnity* 7/9, *You Can't Take it With You* 7/16, *Rear Window* 7/23, *Stalag 17* 7/30, *The Philadelphia Story* 8/6, *Doctor Zhivago* 8/13,14 and *An American in Paris* 8/20.
- 6/20 **Film for ages 3 to 7**, Bloomingdale Branch Library, 4 pm.
- 6/27 **Picture Book Hour**, Bloomingdale Branch Library, 4 pm. For ages 3 to 6.
- 7/11 **Top Jazz and More**, Grant's Tomb, 7 pm. Continues on Wednesday evenings.
- 9/15 **104<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association Yard Sale**.

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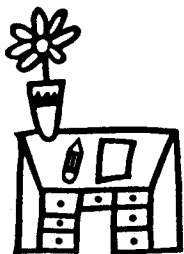
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### Thank You, Flower Planters!

Please thank our great crew of residents who planted impatiens in our tree gardens Memorial Day weekend: Sheila, Gwen, Woody, Justin, Susan, Ira, Marisa, Marsha, Emma, Joan, Lindsay, Teresa, Elly, plus Leo and Darnell from the Doe Fund.

### Get Well Wishes

Roberto Martin, partner with his brother in Martin Brothers Wines and Spirits, Inc., is recovering from a liver transplant. His son, Roberto Jr., was the donor. Father and son are doing well. Congratulations!

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*( Do you Know...? cont. from page 3)*

ADM (the much-vaunted "Supermarket to the World") controls vast amounts of GE soybean crops— and the worldwide market. Our American farm families are also undergoing tremendous changes as a result of the market control exerted by Agribusiness. In the last few years, there has been a groundswell of protests by environmentalists, farmers, and consumers, to secure sustainable farmlands and food sources.

Greenpeace has created "The True Food Network"—a free service that connects consumers who want to take action to end the use of GE ingredients in our foods. They published a "True Food Shopping List," listing leading organic brands, supermarkets and GE foods, excerpts from food company statements on whether or not they use GE ingredients, and an important page on "Genetically Engineered Milk: The BGH Story." The best part is the shopping list, from baby food to tomato sauces, with lots in between.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the True Food Shopping List, call: 1-800-219-9260 or you can reach them on the Internet at: [www.truefoodnow.org](http://www.truefoodnow.org).

## Charter School Planned

Xanthia Jory, who grew up in 309 W 104 and whose father Terry Jory still lives there, heads a team of talented, determined, and hard-working young educators in the creation of Bronx Charter School for the Arts. The school, scheduled to open in the fall of 2002, is founded on the principle that arts education is instrumental to learning and human development. Xanthia's team is currently raising operating funds while they wait for their charter to be approved by the Board of Regents. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution or for more information, contact Xanthia at 718 589 7535 or [xjory@earthlink.net](mailto:xjory@earthlink.net).

## More Clean Sidewalks

If you've noticed less dog poop on our sidewalks, perhaps it's due in part to our early rising, block-watching resident whose eagle eyes seem to be keeping dog owners on the right side of the law. We've identified a chronic lawbreaker, however, and enlist your help in stopping her. She has two dogs—a Yorkie and a small possible Doberman mix. The owner runs down the south side of our street, the dogs behind her. They poop and she doesn't turn around to see why they're not keeping up. She's reacted poorly to requests to pick up. If you see her, please get a good description of her and the dogs, the date and time of the incident, and call Marsha Tantleff (932 9592) with your report. If you have suggestions on how to deal with her, Marsha would like to hear them.

**Dues 2nd Quarter 4/01–6/01**

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