

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 10, 2012

Editor: Nancy Lian

Rust, Rust, Everywhere!

As many have noticed, the miss-matched, decrepit iron guards around our trees are rusted down to bare spindles with sharp flaking edges. This leaves our trees without protection from cars and has created a hazard to foot traffic on the block especially to children and pets. Almost all tree guards on the block will have to be replaced in the next few months at a cost of over two-thousand dollars each. For more than a year, your Block Association has put aside funds to cover some of the costs but we need help from everyone on the block to fully pay for this project.

To best serve our block residents and to save us money, we have worked out an arrangement with the Tree Trust, a not-for-profit organization working on behalf of the City. Working with the Parks Department, they can bring our tree beds into compliance with local codes, supply and install new rust-proof tree guards and make repairs where needed. All of this will be done for us by their contractors at their cost and at a great saving for us. We have specified that the new guards be treated with "Tnemec", an industrial anti-rust coating that prevents corrosion, the main cause of deterioration. This will guarantee that the new guards will remain in good condition for many many years to come and insure our beautiful Block Association plantings will look even better in their new tree beds!

The proposed sources for funds:

- 1) Some Coop Boards and owners of individual buildings are willing to contribute funds. This is a great help but will not pay for the bulk of replacements needed.
- 2) The Block Association has set aside ten thousand dollars for this project.
- 3) Contributions from individual block residents.

We consider this an essential project for protecting the trees on our block and maintaining the beautiful plantings throughout the year. We can't expect adults and children to plant each season if they have to work inside rusted and unsafe iron guards.

An additional benefit for block residents to take advantage of the Tree Trust's non-profit status. Every dollar individuals contribute toward this project is 100% tax deductible. We need to have our funds collected by early May to get the project done before the fall planting.

The sooner we raise the funds, the sooner the work can start. Please give generously; a suggested contribution of \$150 would be terrific but give whatever you can.

Please make your check payable to 'Tree Trust' (add a memo on check: "West 104th St Block Association"). BUT, VERY IMPORTANT, GIVE CHECKS TO YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE. We need to tally and present all checks at one time to the Tree Trust to start the work. Use the envelope included with this newsletter and leave your check with any Block Association representative: 895 WEA Sid Herzfeld, Apt. 5D, 315 RSD Jeff Howitt, Apt. 8C, 320 RSD Gary Waskow, Apt. 8G, 309 W 104 Joyce Mann, Apt. 3A, 308 W 104 Trudie Grace, Apt. 1A, or mail your check to our treasurer: Barbara Boynton, 905 WEA #71, New York, NY 10025

Your contribution will help replace the hodge-podge of rusted & dangerous ironwork with fresh, new, integrated and safe tree guards to protect our tree beds. Help us meet the deadline by giving your tax-deductible contribution to your building representative today. Thank you.

The Board of the 104th Street Block Association



Trees Inspected

The USA Gov't USDA Dept. of Agriculture is partnered with Davey Tree Co. to inspect trees in our neighborhood for the Asian Long-Horned Beetle, which is rapidly coming north and devastating the trees it infects. Fortunately, none of the trees on our block are infected.

INSIDE

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Neighborhood News

Armgard von Bardeleben's colleagues, students, friends and West 104th Street neighbors gathered at the 92nd Street Y on Saturday afternoon, March 31, to pay tribute to Armgard's life and work. Through words, music and dance, guest speakers and artists shared their memories of Armgard whose generous spirit and love for her students never wavered. Specifically for the memorial service, students at the Martha Graham School created a video that included remembrances and personal testimonials in addition to Armgard dancing the role of the Ancestress in *Letter to the World* and performing Mary Wigman's Witch Dance. Armgard's husband, Gil Tauber, closed the program with a touching and humorous remembrance of how he and Armgard first met.

What do you really know about Recycling?

Why can't we recycle yogurt containers? All plastics cannot be recycled because they are actually all made of different materials, which don't melt at the same temperature. City residents only recycle about 17% of our total waste.

So, what should we be recycling?

Paper in one bag: Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, white and colored paper (staples are okay), mail and envelopes (plastic windows are okay), paper bags, wrapping paper, soft-cover books, telephone books, cardboard egg cartons and trays, smooth cardboard (food and shoe boxes, file folders), corrugated cardboard (flattened and tied) and pizza boxes (remove all food, and don't bother if the box is very greasy).

Glass, plastic, metal in another bag: Plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal cans, aluminum foil wrap and trays, wire hangers, pots, tools, curtain rods and other household metals, cabinets and metal appliances.

Some helpful tips:

- Milk cartons, juice boxes, soy milk containers and similar boxes for liquid go with glass, plastic and metal (plastic nozzles are okay).
- Paper plates, napkins, cups and tissues are not accepted.
- Always empty and rinse containers before putting them in the recycling.
- No glass aside from jars and bottles is accepted.
- Plastic bags and Styrofoam cannot be recycled through the New York City Department of Sanitation.

And a few "fun" recycling facts...

New York City recycles between 366,000 and 423,000 tons of paper waste per year.

The city recycles between 250,000 and 331,000 tons of bottles and cans per year.

Paper recycling nets the city about \$7.5 million per year.

It cost taxpayers \$290 million in 2007 to ship our garbage to other communities.

Visit the city's Department of Sanitation website or GrowNYC's Office of Recycling Outreach and Education for more information..

Contributors to the February and April 2012 issues:

Beverly Block, Barbara Boynton, Pauline Brookfield, Barbara Bryan, Gail Bryce, Teresa Elwert, Trudie Grace, Mary Koval, Elly Ledogar, Nancy Lian, Joyce Mann, Martin Mann, Lynn Max, Joan Paylo, Hanna Rubin, Marlene Schonbrun, Gary Waskow, Kate Wood, Steve Zirinsky.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, Sept. 29
23rd Annual W 104th St. Yard Sale

W 104 ST BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT March 2012

Opening Balance (3/01/12)		\$43,979.59
Income		
Dues, individual	\$6,354.00	
Newsletter ads	295.00	
Interest	6.55	
Total	6,655.55	5,655.55
Disbursements		
Guard service	3,373.91	
Guard supplement	100.00	
Printing and mailing	225.00	
Web hosting – annual	107.40	
Total	-3,373.91	-3,373.91
Corrections		
Deposit delayed		2,710.19
Other		30.00
Closing Balance (3/31/12)		\$49,569.02

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Riverside - West End Historic District Designation

The Riverside -West End Historic District designation, from 70th St. to 109 St. includes many of the side streets from Broadway to Riverside Drive. The proposed designation was presented to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) as three distinct sections on three different dates in 2011. Our neighborhood was the last to be presented on October 25, 2011.

Josette Amato, Director of Communications and Design for the West End Preservation Society (WEPS) provided the following information:

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will vote on each extension separately, in the same order they held the public hearings. The date scheduled for the first LPC designation vote is June 26, 2012, at which the Commissioners will vote on Riverside-West End Historic District Extension 1. This includes the area from W. 79th St. to W. 87th St. on West End Ave., most of the West Side of Broadway and Riverside Drive from 81st St. to 85th St., as well as most of the side streets.

Only the Commissioners can change the proposed boundaries or exclude any buildings and they would have to do that at a Public Meeting at the time of the vote. This means that it is possible for changes to occur on the day of the vote.

WEPS is hopeful that the other two sections will find a scheduled voting date on the LPC calendar before the end of 2012. Each section will have its own review process with its own time clock. WEPS is also optimistic that the LPC will designate the proposed district extensions.


Presuming that LPC will vote to approve a designation, the City Planning Commission then has 60 days after the LPC has filed their report to hold a public hearing and then to submit their report to the City Council. The City Council then has 120 days from the time the LPC filed its report to act on the designation, which includes modifying the designation.

To view the maps of each proposed section, you can go to www.nyc.gov/landmarks and search for proposed Riverside -West End Historic District extensions. Look for additional updates in future newsletters.


Lynn Max

Block Bulletin Board

Block resident **Dick Latessa**, Tony winner, stars with Linda Lavin in *The Lyons*. The production moves from the Vineyard Theater to the Cort Theater with previews in April, and an opening on April 23.



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Selected Calendar of Events

4/14 Miller Theater – Columbia Ballet Collaborative with five choreographers. Highlights include a new work by the acclaimed Avi Scher. 8PM \$7-17 Miller Theater 116th & Broadway

4/15 Remembering the Titanic. Friends of Strauss Park light candles in front of Memory Statue with the music played as the ship went down. 3:00PM – Strauss Park – 106th and Bway.

4/15 & 4/29: Symphony Space: Sunday Jazz Cabaret 7PM FREE 95th & Broadway

4/19 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Commemoration Annual ceremony honoring the heroism during the Ghetto Uprising in 1943. 3-4 PM Warsaw Ghetto Memorial 83rd St in RSD Park

4/21 Treasures of the Renaissance British Choir Stile Antico perform masterpieces from the golden age of choral music. 8PM \$35 Church of St. Mary the Virgin 145 W 46th St

4/21 50+ Fitness Fair: Free & Low-Cost Activities to Keep You Fit.NYC Public Library 96th Street Branch. 12 Noon FREE

4/16, 4/23. 4/30 American Songbook Symphony Space 8PM FREE 95th & Broadway

4/26, 4/27. 4/28 Gregory Generet takes us to Paris with his unique vocals. 9:30PM FREE BAR Thalia 95th & Broadway

4/27 Bloomingdale School of Music: Concerto Concert Winners of the Vincent Wagner Concerto Competition perform with the Bloomingdale String Orchestra 7:30PM FREE Christ and St. Stephen's Church 120 West 69th St

4/28 Riverside Park Poetry Place An afternoon of poetry readings. Bring a poem or enjoy the selections of others. Some chairs available. 2-3:30PM Firemen's Memorial Island at 103rd St. If rain – Lobby of 310 RSD

4/28 Alexander Wu - Piano All Gershwin: A Double Life Wu performs Gershwin's earliest piano solo works and songs from his musicals. 5PM FREE Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W 107 St.

April and May Sundays

==Nicholas Roerich Museum: Classical Music Performances

319 W 107th St. 5:00PM FREE Consult website for specific performances

==Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine: Organ Recitals 5:15PM. FREE

April and May Mondays

==Café Columbia: Lectures on Science, Humanities, Social Sciences Every Monday 6-7PM \$10.00 includes drink Picnic Market & Café 101 & Broadway

5/5 Wall to Wall: Gertrude's Paris A complement to the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition, The Steins Collect: Matisse Picasso and the Parisian Avant Garde"; a marathon music performance to transport you to Paris. Begins 11AM FREE – Symphony Space: 95th & Bway

5/5 Performance of Der Schauspielfeldirektor & Don Pasquale NYC Public Library 96th Street Branch: Music: New York Opera Forum. 1PM FREE

5/6 Roger the Jolly Pirate Multi-media concert, the story of Roger the Jolly Pirate comes to life. Music by Regina Sadowski. 1PM FREE Bloomingdale School of Music: David Greer Recital Hall 108th and Bway

5/6 Spring Fair Hippo Playground Project 29th Annual Spring Fair to raise funds for the Playground. A jumping castle, petting zoo, face painting, pony rides. 10AM-4PM Riverside Park: Hippo Playground 91st St.

5/6 The Broadway Bach Ensemble: Spring Concert Chris Hisey leads the orchestra in the "New World" Symphony and more. 2PM FREE Broadway Presbyterian Church 601 114th St

5/12 Composer Portraits Program featuring composer Hilda Paredes, whose music is tinged with Indian rhythms. 8PM \$25 Miller Theater 116th & Broadway

5/23 Selected Shorts: A Passion for Central Park with Paul Auster, Leonard Nimoy and others read selections by Auster, Colson, Whitehead, and more. 7PM \$27 Symphony Space 95th & Broadway

5/24 Your Local Bank: How They Can Help You. BAIp, Marseilles, 7-9 pm. (see article on p 5)

5/31 Songs of Birds and Angels. Hear poetry on the lark, falcon, bat, and a caged bird and angelic elegy sounds. New Amsterdam Singers, St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, 552 WEA at 87th St. 8 pm. Call Lauren Scott at 212.568.5948 for information.

5/31 New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra: Celebrating the Orchestra Guerguan Tsenov conducts Mozart and Borodin. 8PM \$20 Symphony Space 95th & Broadway

9/29 23RD W. 104th St. YARD SALE

10/13 Art in the Park. Straus Park. Rain date 10/14 (cont'd on p7)

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BAiP Neighborhood Services

On May 24, Bloomingdale Aging in Place (BAiP) presents "**Your Local Bank: How They Can Help You**," the fifteenth in its popular panel series. Panelists include an Elder Law attorney, a professional Geriatric Care Manager and other specialists. They will discuss what your bank can do for you as a senior; day-to-day planning and protecting yourself financially; convenience & joint checking accounts; beneficiary concerns; bank powers of attorney; a bank's role in wills & estates and more. There will be time for questions following the presentations. As always, the panels are free & open to the public at the Marseilles Community Room, 2nd floor, 230 W. 103rd Street, from 7 – 9 pm. Light refreshments will be available. **Note:** Assisted listening loop installed for T-coils and headphones. For more information about BAiP & its programs go to: Bloominplace.org or call: 212.842-8831 & leave a message.

"What's My Stuff Worth?"

At a free, public Bloomingdale Aging in Place (BAiP) panel on March 22nd, three noted auctioneers advised their fifty or so curious listeners how to arrive at some answers to this perennial question. The panelists were George Lowry,* Chairman of Swann Auction Galleries, Michael Capo, President, Capo Auction Fine Art and Antiques and Monique Merrill, Special Client Services at Capo Auction.

These engaging experts spoke for almost two hours about how to assess & dispose of (for profit or otherwise) autographs of well known people, Americana items, coins, books & photographs, memorabilia from historic places or events, printed documents, works on paper, pre-TV era posters, small decorative objects, etc. Some advice is worth mentioning.

Get a second opinion, just as you would in a medical situation. Opinions and appraisals cost money depending on the type of appraisal requested. If the appraiser is going to be legally obligated by the appraisal it will be more expensive. Appraisals will also differ according to the purpose: insurance, estate, retail, etc. Appraisals for insurance will usually give a higher value than for retail.

Books are very hard to get rid of, for money or even as donations. For a book to be considered old by a dealer, think 400 years or more! For other kinds of objects, age does not always spell value. Hallmarks and condition are very important, but beware of refinishing antiques that can negatively affect value.

Gold & silver in an object is not always indicated. An item may have gold or silver content even if not clearly labeled; have an expert check it out. Signatures on paintings/drawings, lithographs, tapestries, etc. are not always discernible, but can often be detected by the expert eye and they can make the difference in

valuation. Antique clocks are hot, as are "mid-century modern" items.

Supply and demand drives value, i.e., establishes a market for a given type of article or an artist. A dealer can be enlisted to try to develop a market but it's costly and seldom successful. As a rule, 90% of the value of most items derives from just 20% of the collection. It's possible to send photos to most auction houses to get a preliminary idea of whether the house might be interested in it.

Expect varying upfront costs and buyers' premiums for bringing something to auction and selling it. Find out what these costs are beforehand. All costs should be spelled out in the contract that you sign with the auction house. These two firms represented conduct auctions on the internet.

Note: Hang onto your antique fountain pens, especially any with historical significance. Swann Galleries plans to open a new department for these items in September.

For more information about the panelists and access to the very useful written resource information handed out at the meeting, go to Bloominplace.org & click on Documents and look for "What's my stuff worth?"

**George Lowry is the father of Nicholas Lowry (of flamboyant tattersall suits) of the TV show Antiques Roadshow.*



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In the Spotlight

Words and Music by Andrew Lippa

This interview with Andrew Lippa, noted Broadway composer/lyricist, most recently of the hit *The Addams*

Family, had its genesis in the basement of 320 Riverside Drive. While sorting books for the Yard Sale with Nancy Lian, I noticed in one of the cages neatly stacked boxes carefully labeled with the name Andrew Lippa. After Nancy connected with her neighbor, my doorbell rang and there stood a tall, lean, youthful man who extended his hand and introduced himself.



Andrew Lippa's voyage to 104th Street began in Leeds, England and continued in Oak Park in suburban Detroit. His first instrument was voice and then in the eighth grade he added piano to his repertoire. In high school he actively participated in all musical events. He graduated from the University of Michigan where he studied music theory, composition and voice. At the University he was allowed to explore all areas of music. Now in appreciation for the freedom he was given and "at my age it is great to give back" he has endowed a scholarship in the Music Department. From 1987-1991 he taught middle school at Columbia Grammar and Prep School on the Upper West Side. The lure of New York City was great and he lived first in Brooklyn, then the Upper East Side, then Chelsea. In 2001 his spouse, David, answered an ad for an apartment on Riverside and 104th Street and they moved to our block.

Andrew calls the neighborhood fabulous, like living in "suburban" Manhattan. Unlike other areas of the city, no one comes onto the block unless they live here (or are visiting), so it is filled with families, theatre folk, everyone caring about their property and taking care of their environment. This makes him happy, even when scaffolding goes up and down, because it maintains property values. Andrew loves the trees on the block of

(David has helped maintain the planting boxes), the view the backyard areas from his apartment, and the "supportive block association". Andrew and David have been longtime members of the Block Association and Andrew acknowledged the importance of our annual Yard Sale and the presence of John, our security guard.

Andrew scrupulously attends to both his spiritual and physical health. Because he always felt disconnected to people of other faiths (he was born Jewish), he is enrolled in an Interfaith Ministry (and will be ordained a minister in June, 2013.) He feels that this belief has a prerogative to be inclusive and that his spiritual life has expanded and not contracted. As far as his physical health is concerned, he has joined Tough Mudder which involves an 11 mile run over a 20 obstacle military-style obstacle course. He has struggled with his weight all his life. In 2010 he lost over 30 pounds with Tough Mudder and regular visits to the gym where he runs, trains, and swims. He is proud that at 47 his health is like a man many years his junior. And he wants to keep it that way. So six days a week he exercises for both physical and spiritual reasons.

Andrew and David were married in a pre-Proposition 8 California and Andrew is thrilled that New York has now chosen equality. But he won't be happy until gay marriage is a Federal right so that all are entitled to the benefits that other married couples have.

When asked the perennial question of which comes first - the music or the lyrics, Andrew answers with the old saw, laughing "the contract". Writing plot and character songs is not as difficult as writing big production numbers that have to be architecturally planned and can take weeks to work out. Different characters with different motives have to be served and seeing to all those needs in a single number is enormously challenging.

He misses accompanying Kristin Chenoweth in concert since their schedules haven't synced in a while. It was Andrew's song "My New Philosophy" added to the score of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* that helped Chenoweth win a Tony award. His production of *The Wild Party* in 2000 gave him a reputation and "opened me up to my life". His musical *The Addams Family*, a "fantastic success" for which he is deeply grateful, is keeping him globe-trotting from Sao Paulo to Sweden to Australia. A London production is pending and there will be editions in Korea, Germany, and Holland.

Andrew couldn't stay too long because the day after our chat he was beginning a new production, working with the director/choreographer Susan Stroman and he had to go home and write a song.

By Martin Mann

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We use 300 million pounds of plastic bags for our garment cleanings every year. When you pick up your clothes from local dry cleaners, you get plastic poly bags and garment covers which you throw in a garbage can. The Green Garment Bag is a smart green solution for reducing the harmful waste and it will help save marine and wildlife. You can buy one from the on-line store www.thegreengarmento.com or from Friendly Valet Cleaners [www.fvcleaners.com] located on Broadway between 104 and 105th St.



Federation of West Side Block Associations Spring Meeting

1. Miriam Foebus, president, attended the City Planning meeting for the zoning proposal for business - limiting large stores to 40 feet storefront space. Most community members were in favor of this zoning change.
2. Change in voting districts will impact the UWS as district delegates may change. (W 104th St. is now in Jerry Nadler's district.)
3. Fashion week is generating complaints of generator noise, traffic, etc.,. However, it generates a lot of revenue for the merchants in the area.
4. Paul Sawyer, Community Liaison reported on book vendors in the 70's who are still in violation of many laws and receive summons on a regular basis. Due to a lawsuit against the city by one of the vendors, which he won, police are required to videotape any violations. Ron mentioned that vendors on 106th St are storing their apparatus at night in the doorway of Chase Bank.
 - March 8, 2012 kicked off a bi-monthly clinic for Senior Citizen Rent Program. This also includes homeowners who do have access to a program that will decrease their property taxes. The meeting was held at 230 W 72nd St.
 - Mosquitos have been a huge problem on the UWS, especially on 84th St. Sawyer's office is working with all city agencies to educate landlords and supers on how to mosquito proof buildings. We should refer any complaints to Sawyer as 311 stopped accepting calls for mosquito complaints
5. Rebecca Godlewicz, Community Liaison for Scott Stringer, distributed his State of the Borough address. Salient points include:
 - Advocating a small business loan incentive to keep business such as hi-tech within the borough
 - Using foreclosures as possible Affordable Housing rather than keeping them empty
 - Advocating the use of solar panels on schools
 - Proposing parking lot at 61st and Riverside Dr be used for a school.




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Selected Calendar of Events (cont'd from p4)

Ongoing:

Julliard School of Music: Many programs are offered – check their website at www.julliard.edu

Manhattan School of Music: Many programs are offered, mostly free. Website at www.msmnyc.edu

Symphony Space: Many programs are being offered in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition of Stein: Picasso Matisse and Parisian Avant Garde. Check the website www.symphonyspace.org

NYC Public Library West 100th St. (Bloomingdale) and West 113th Branch (Morningside) offer programs for toddlers, teens, and adults. Check their website at www.nypl.org.



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Bloominplace.org

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Neighborhood Seamstress available

to do alterations for low, low prices. I have had my own business for three years. I also make bags and clothing. Kindly call me at 646.961.6509 or email me at amydylan@verizon.net.

Your Neighborhood service publicized - free!

For our records: your name and Publicize your neighborhood service (babysitting, dog walking, apartment cleaning, etc.) free in the newsletter and on our web site for one year, renewable. To submit an ad Neighborhood Services for Hire or mail/deliver this information to Nancy Lian, 320 RSD or send to River4@rcn.com. mailing address **Placement:** newsletter, website, or both **For publication:** your name, contact method (phone # or email address), description of your service.

2012 2nd Quarter Dues Please allocate my contribution to:

Amount of check: _____

___ Security ___ Beautification ___ Social ___ Newsletter ___ Board Decision (Suggested amount: \$35 per quarter or \$140 per year)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____
(For internal use only. The Block Association will not sell, exchange, or lend your e-mail address to any outside parties)

Suggestions for the block: _____

Make checks payable to West 104th Street Block Association Inc.

Mail to our treasurer:
Barbara Boynton, 905 WEA, #71, NY, NY 10025

or drop off at 308 W 104: Grace, Apt. 1A,
895 WEA: Herzfeld, Apt 5D, 320 RSD: Waskow, Apt. 8G
315 RSD: Howitt, Apt. 8C, 309 W 104: Mann, Apt. 3A