

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION

February 1, 2002

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nancy Lian

Layout and Design: John Johnston

Support the Block Association

One of my first visits to our block nine years ago coincided with the night of a Curbside Café. I was delighted to see neighbors out on the street chatting with one another over wine and cheese. When I learned that the block had a long-standing association providing security and paying for trees, tree guards, and flowers, I knew it deserved my support.

Now is the time to renew your annual support of the block association. The suggested amount — \$25 a quarter — helps to pay for the association's security, beautification, and social programs.

Our nightly guard is a reassuring presence keeping an eye out for you, your car, and the buildings and property on the block. Your dues pay for the flowers in our 25 tree gardens, providing color and beauty much of the year. And they help defray the cost of the newsletter — our key communication tool — as well as the summer Curbside Cafes — informal opportunities to meet your neighbors.

You can allocate your contribution to any of our three programs by checking the appropriate line on the dues contribution slip on the last page of this newsletter. Any amount you contribute — large or small — is welcome. If you can, please contribute the full amount now and help make our financial planning a bit easier.

Money can't buy the spirit of the block association but it does pay for the association's expenses. Please mail your 2002 dues today. Thank you so very much.

Teresa Elwert, President

Grants from Two Angels

The block association recently received two \$1,000 grants. A grant from the Morris and Helen Messing Foundation will be used to defray security guard expenses, budgeted at \$32,000 this year. A grant from the West Side Federation of Neighborhood and Block Associations is earmarked for our \$2,600 beautification budget. As Sid Herzfeld, our treasurer, wrote in a thank you note to the Foundation, their contribution "could not have arrived at a more opportune time." Both grants will help raise the block association's bank account above its low level this month; see financial report on page 4.

Guard Services Reduced

The block association board reduced security guard service to six days a week at the beginning of the year because the funds are not available to support seven-day service. Your dues have kept your block association's security, beautification, and social programs going for over 30 years. If dues contributions this quarter aren't sufficient to support six-day guard service, the board will have to cut it back further. Please mail your first quarter dues check today.

Store Changes on Broadway

Riding the M104 reveals quite a few changes in stores along Broadway. The biggest local change — and perhaps the most welcome — is the closing of the CVS drug store at 102nd St. Local residents fought against the opening of the store (which added yet another drug store to our neighborhood), they boycotted it once it opened, and they're celebrating its demise. They're also lobbying the landlord and CVS, which holds the lease, for a supermarket to return to the space, which held an Associated Supermarket prior to CVS.

Other Changes:

- Café Amiana is being replaced by Carne
- Metro Hardware has expanded
- Talbots is expanding
- Symphony Space reopens in March
- Victoria's Secret is opening at 85th St. amid protests by residents who object to its racy displays
 - Broadway Farm, which was replaced by V's S, is opening just north of its former location
 - Eden Cafe Bar has opened near 104th St.

Success to all the merchants!

—well, maybe not Victoria's Secret.



The Magic of Tree Watching

By Ned Barnard

There are those who love to watch birds, to stalk them with binoculars, to record their sightings on lists, and recount their birding adventures much as big game hunters once regaled people with stories about their stuffed trophies. I don't belittle this hobby one bit, but it appeals to people who like to track things down, collect them, and check them off one by one. I am drawn to another outdoor hobby that is more of a gatherer's avocation than a hunter's. For want of a better term, I call it tree watching and the people who engage in it tree lovers.

A tree is not like a bird; it doesn't fly away; it is with you all the time; but it isn't a static thing. It is constantly changing with the seasons. So if you are a tree lover, you need not stalk your quarry, but you must look at it very carefully, at the arrangements and shapes of its leaves, at the textures of its bark, at the colors and forms of its flowers and fruits, at the contours of its trunk and branches. Once you become fully aware of the trees around you, no landscape with trees in it ever looks quite the same. You enjoy subtle contrasts of hue and habit where once you saw only masses of green. You perceive a multitude of changes as the seasons progress that you overlooked before. By learn-

ing the names of trees in the streets and parks around you, you make them part of your mental landscape, your property in a way.

There was a time, just yesterday in fact, when our relationship with trees was a matter of life and death, and we knew them intimately. They nurtured us in our infancy, gave rise to our opposing thumbs, clever fingers, and binocular vision. They fed us, sheltered us, and hid us from our enemies. The world of trees then stretched clear across our natal continent in an almost unbroken band from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. It was the breakup of this great equatorial forest that forced us to descend to the ground, to stand erect on two feet, and become wanderers on the savanna, to forsake our arboreal existence in the Garden of Eden for the precarious lives of big game hunters.

In our collective memory we stand there still, poised in the shadows of the forest edge, staring out at the herds grazing warily in the grass under a brilliant tropical sun, reluctant to leave the safety of the trees, yet drawn to the light and the excitement of the chase. So it is that we endlessly recreate the savanna's edge in our urban parks with their greenswards and playing fields surrounded by trees, in our suburbs with their shady streets and manicured lawns. Yes, there is something atavistic about our profound attachment to trees, something deeply satisfying about walking on sun-dappled grass beneath trees, seeing them once again with fresh eyes.



"There is something atavistic about our profound attachment to trees, something deeply satisfying about walking on sun-dappled grass beneath trees, seeing them once again with fresh eyes."


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**West 104th
Street Block
Association
Board**

E-mail: West104block@hotmail.com

Calendar of Selected Events

- 2/1-2/24 *Embers***, a new play by Catherine Gropper about the ascent of Louise Nevelson, 20th century sculptor. The current cast is the same that presented this play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2001, and includes Michael Graves of 320 RSD, Broadway actress Nada Rowand, Kenneth Wilson-Harrington and Melissa Wolff. The national paper of Scotland, The Scotsman, wrote "...a striking performance...Writer Catherine Gropper deftly pulls together the various strands - love story, family crisis, the rise of an artist - to create a vibrant story...a lot to pack into an 85-minute show." The Chelsea Playhouse, 125 W 22 St. 8 pm. For tickets call 212.279.4200.
- 2/3 Jon Liechty**, pianist, plays Art Melkov, Beethoven, Chopin, Couperin, Sevda Ibragimova. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W. 107 St. 5 pm. Free.
- 2/3 Organ Recital** by Barbara Bruns with works by Alain, Bach, Vivaldi and Mendelssohn. St. Michael's Church, 99th St. and Amsterdam, 5 pm. Free.
- 2/5 Toddler Time.** For ages 1-1/2 to 3 with parent/caregiver. Morningside Heights Branch, NYPL, 2900 Broadway at 113th St., 11 am. Call 212.864.2530 to register. Program continues 2/12, 2/19 and 2/26.
- 2/5 Crafts Program**, Bloomingdale Branch, NYPL, 150 W. 100 St., 4 pm. For ages 3 to 6. Pre-registration is required. Call 212.222.8030.
- 2/5 Treasures of the Heart**, stories by LuAnn Adams, for ages 4 to 8. Morningside Heights Branch NYPL, 2900 Broadway at 113th St., 4 pm. Call 212.864.2530 for more information.
- 2/5 Riverside Park Town Meeting.** Learn about future Park plans, share your concerns, meet the new Riverside Park Administrator, K. C. Sahl and Fund Executive Director Jim Dowell. Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Dr. (enter at 61 Claremont Ave.) 7-8:30 pm. Call 212.870.3070 to register.
- 2/7 Film Series at Bloomingdale Library**, 150 W. 100 St. 2 pm. **1/7 All About Eve**, **2/14 Casablanca**, **2/21 Some Like It Hot**, **2/28 Sabrina**. Call 212.111.8030 for more information. Free.
- 2/7 Highlights in Jazz**, **Cyrus Chestnut Trio and Jane Monheit**, Pace Downtown Theater, 3 Spruce St., 8 pm. Tickets \$22.50. Mail your check to Highlights in Jazz, 7 Peter Cooper Road, New York, NY 10010. Call 212.346.1715 for information.
- 2/9 Manhattan Chamber Sinfonia** under Manfred Huss, conductor, plays Webern/Bach, Haydn, Mozart and R. Strauss. Manhattan School of Music, John C. Borden Auditorium, 120 Claremont Avenue, 8 pm. Free
- 2/10 Strauss-Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings**, American Symphony Orchestra, Columbia Miller Theater, 3 pm. Tickets \$15. Call 212.581.1365, ext. 2 to subscribe by phone.
- 2/11 Café Jazz**, Mitzie Newhouse Pavilion, Manhattan School of Music, 120 Claremont Avenue, 7:30 pm, Free. Other Café Jazz evenings on 2/13, 2/18, 2/20 and 2/21.
- 2/13 Valentine Fun and Crafts**, for ages 4 to 8. Morningside Heights Branch NYPL, 2900 Broadway at 113th St., 4 pm. Preregistration is required. Call 212.864.2530.
- 2/14 Special St. Valentine's Day Concert** with Brahms' Neue Liebeslieder Walzer (for Quartet and piano 4-hands) and PDQ Bach's Liebeslieder Polkas (for Quartet and piano 5-hands). Riverside Church christ Chapel, 6 pm. \$10 suggested donation.
- 2/14 Group Discussion of House of Sand and Fog** by Andre Dubus III. Morningside Heights Branch NYPL, 2900 Broadway at 113th St., 6:30 pm.
- 2/16 The Kangaroo Garden, Children's Concert Series presenting Saint-Saen's Carnival of the Animals** for narrator, dancers, and duo-pianists. Riverside Church South Hall, 11 am. Adults \$5, children \$2. For information call 212.870.6722.
- 2/19 Kids Project: Come as You Are**, a disability awareness program, funded by the Metro NY State Developmental Disabilities Service Office, Bloomingdale Branch, NYPL, 150 W. 100 St., 4 pm. Call 212.222.8030 for more information.
- 2/19 Emily Grosholz**, poet, reads from her new book, *The Abacus of Years*, and **Eleanor Wilner**, poet, reading from her book, *Reversing the Spell: New and Selected Poems*. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W. 107 St., 7 pm. Free.
- 2/21 Exploring the Music of Contemporary Women Composers**, workshop, featuring composer-pianist Beata Moon. Morningside Heights Branch NYPL, 2900 Broadway at 113th St., 6:30 pm.
- 2/22 New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra** performs Brahms' Double Concerto and Dvorak's Symphony No. 7 at Trinity School, 91st St. and Columbus Ave. 8 pm. Tickets \$10, \$6 for seniors and students.
- 2/26 Group Discussion of Bodega Dreams** by Ernesto Quinonez, Bloomingdale Branch NYPL, 6 pm.
- 2/26 Music from the Soviet Union After 1945**, by the Claremont Ensemble under Richard Danielpour, artistic director. Music by Arvo Part, Shostakovich and Schnittke. Manhattan School of Music, John C. Borden Auditorium, 120 Claremont Avenue, 8 pm. Free.
- 2/27 Picture Book Hour**, for ages 3 to 6. Bloomingdale Branch NYPL, 150 W 100 St., 4 pm.
- 3/1,3/3 Spiritual Journey** by New Amsterdam Singers, Clara Longstreth, music director. Music of Poulenc, Rautavaara, Messiaen, Farkas and more. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, CPW at 65th St., 3/1 at 8 pm. 3/3 at 4 pm. Tickets \$18. For more information call Lauren Scott, 212.568.5948.
- 3/2 Roger Woodward**, Australian pianist, in his first recital in many years, plays Pasternak, Scriabin, Stanchinsky, Roslavetz, Mosolov, Lourie, Obukhov, Feinberg and Prokofiev. Columbia Miller Theater, Broadway at 116th St., 8 pm. Tickets \$20. Call 212.854.7799 for more information.
- 3/3 Requiem by Durufle, Miserere by Kodaly, Quatre Motets Pour un Temps de Penitence by Poulenc, Kyrie Eleison by N. White**, St. Michael's Choir with Barbara Bruns, organist, Nicholas White, director. St. Michael's Church, 99th St. and Amsterdam, 4 pm. Tickets \$20 or \$10 student/senior available at the door. Call 212.222.2700 for more information.

- 3/3 **Jane Foster and Carla Mariani** sing French and American songs by Katherine Lockhart Manning, Faure and Massenet. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W. 107 St., 5 pm. Free.
- 3/5,12,19 **Complete Organ Works by Cesar Franck by Jon Gillock**, organist. Riverside Church Nave. For specific programs on each date and ticket information, call 212.870-6784.
- 3/6 **Columbia-Juilliard Joint Program Recital**, featuring young performers enrolled in the undergraduate joint program of Columbia and Juilliard. Columbia Miller Theater, Broadway at 116th St., 8 pm. Free.
- 3/7 **Highlights in Jazz with Billy Taylor Trio, Frank Wless, Benny Powell and Carol Sloane. 8 pm.** (See 2/7 for ticket information.) Call 212.346.1715.
- 3/16 **Children's Concert Series with Dan Jenkins'** banjo celebrating Blue Grass and Appalachian Music. Riverside Church Assembly Hall, 11 am. Tickets \$5 adults, \$2 children. For more information call 212.870.6722.
- 3/17 **Yu-Chen Chao**, cellist, plays Mendelssohn and Brahms. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W. 107 St., 5 pm. Free.

- 3/20 **Selected Shorts**, celebrating New York City through short fiction. Series continues for 11 Wednesday evenings. Symphony Space, Broadway at 95th St., 8 pm. Call 212.864.5400 for more information and to buy tickets.
- 3/22 **Student Marimba Concert**, Jim Preiss, coordinator. Manhattan School of Music, John C. Borden Auditorium, 120 Claremont Avenue, 8 pm. Free.
- 3/23 **Wall to Wall Richard Rodgers**, Symphony Space, 11 am to 11 pm. 12-hour musical marathon, including the premiere of "newly-discovered" Rodgers and Hart musical Manhattan Madcaps of 1924. Program commemorates the 100th anniversary of Rodgers. Broadway at 95th St., Free.
- 3/28 **The Augustine Guitar Series**, with works by Orbon, Iznola, Brouwer, Jose, J.S. Bach, Ravel and Chopin. Manhattan School of Music, Hubbard Recital Hall, 120 Claremont Avenue, 8 pm. For tickets (\$15, \$5 for students and seniors) call 212.749.2802, ext. 4428.
- 10/5 **West 104th St. Block Association Yard Sale.**

West 104th Street Block Association
January 2002 General Ledger —*Sid Herzfeld, Treasurer*

OPENING BALANCE: 1/01/2002		\$ 5,810.18
INCOME:		
Dues:	1,280.00	
Grant W. S. Federation	1,000.00	
Newsletter Ads	355.00	
Bank Interest	4.00	
TOTAL INCOME:	\$2,639.00	+\$2,639.00
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Guard Service	2,600.60	
Beautification	380.13	
Newsletter production	225.00	
Office Supplies	10.36	
Holiday Tips	25.00	
Bank Fee	15.00	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	3,256.09	-3,256.09
CLOSING BALANCE: 1/31/2002		\$ 5,193.09

Protecting Our Trees This Winter

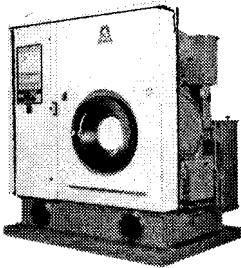
Salt kills trees. "So what," you say, "it's not as if our trees are planted in the salty sea." Wrong! When it snows, the Department of Transportation spreads salt on our street and building staff spread salt on the sidewalks. The salt mixes with snow. When the now-salty snow is shoveled into a tree garden by car owners or building staff, the salt gets into the soil as the snow melts. From there, the salt chokes the ends of the tree's feeder roots, preventing water and nutrients from being absorbed. The result: a dead tree. Salt in the soil — accumulated over just one or two years — is probably the reason the linden tree at 308 West 104 and the Norway maple at 905 West End didn't leaf properly this past year. **Please don't shovel snow into the tree gardens.** And feel free to educate anyone you see doing that on our block.

Proposed Budget for 2002

INCOME			
Individual Contributions	\$24,100		
Co-op Contributions	7,400		
Yard Sale	6,000		
Newsletter Ads	1,500		
TOTAL INCOME			\$39,000
	\$38,900		
DISBURSEMENTS			
Guard Service	\$32,000		
Newsletter Production	1,800		
Beautification	2,600		
Miscellaneous	2,600		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$38,900		\$39,000

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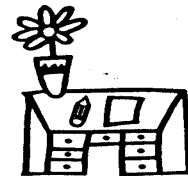


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Happy Holiday Sing

A rousing group of residents caroled on the street on December 19 and later joined in the holiday celebration of 895 West End Ave. Board member Mimi Schade did double duty that evening organizing her building's party as well as singing with the chorus.



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Neighborhood Services for Hire

Listings of personal services offered by block residents (free listing) and by off-block residents (must be recommended by a block resident and pay \$25 annual fee). Submit your listing by providing the information below and mailing or hand-delivering it to Teresa Elwert, 320 Riverside Dr., #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

Piano lessons for all ages. Beginners & children welcome. Experienced teacher makes it fun while you learn.

Laurel Falken, resident of 905 West End
212 662 1466

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; e-mail: crew1tv@aol.com

Personal services. Home office/computer work, closet or home reorganization/ decorating projects, French to English translations, puppy sitting/daily visits.

Margo, block resident
212 864 1290; mcollins1@nyc.rr.com

Jack of all Trades. General housekeeping, heavy cleaning, maintenance/repair projects (painting, refinishing); rooms, apartments, offices, yards. 10+ years experience; references upon request.

Jack Price, resident of 315 Riverside
646 698 2995; jackerby507@aol.com

Cat Cottage/Cat Calls. Cat sitter: feed, give medication, scoop out pan, Jeanne Adlon, recommended by block resident
212 734 6866

Baby sitting in the evenings or day time hours; \$10 per hour.

Dru Heidle, 320 Riverside Drive, #1C
212 678 0412, dheidle@rcn.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 West End Ave. 212 865 6588

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Welcome to Our New Residents

Many buildings on the block have new households and more are expected in the next few months as co-op apartment sales close. Welcome to all our new neighbors! We hope you're settling in smoothly and really enjoy living in the neighborhood.

Dues 1st Quarter 1/02-3/02

Please allocate my contribution to:

____ Security ____ Beautification ____ Social ____ Newsletter ____ Board Discretion

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

Amount of check _____

(Suggested amount: \$ 25.00)

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

**Mail to our treasurer: Sid Herzfeld, 895 WEA., Apt. 5D New York, NY 10025
or drop off at**

**315 RSD: Steinhardt, Apt. 18B, 320 RSD: Elwert, Apt. 9D,
905 WEA: Bryan Apt. 141, 309 W 104th: Deegan, Apt. 5B**