

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 29, 2003

Editor: Nancy Lian

14th Annual Yard Sale Saturday, September 20

The Yard Sale takes place Saturday, Sept. 20, (rain date Sept. 21) on the street from 10:00 to 5:00. Come out and enjoy the day, your neighbors, and our many visitors. The money the block association makes by selling vendor spaces, books, CDs, breakfast, baked goods, food, drink, T-shirts, and silent auction items supports our beautification, security, and community outreach programs.

Rent a space – free yourself of stuff

Now, admit it, you have lots of stuff in your apartment you want to get rid of but you just haven't gotten around to dealing with it! Be a vendor at the Yard Sale on Sept. 20 and make money from those items. Rent a 10-ft space for just \$35 and sell anything and everything, except food and drink. (Additional spaces cost \$50 each.) For details, including vendor agreement, visit our website: www.bloomingtondale.org > For vendors. No web access? Call Marsha Tantleff (212 932 9592) who will be happy to send you a copy of the agreement. Don't delay, though; we typically sell out about two weeks before the Yard Sale.

Donate your books and CDs to the Yard Sale

The block association will happily sell your used books and CDs in good condition at the Yard Sale. Pack your donation in bags or boxes marked "Yard Sale" and leave them with the doorman at 320 RSD before the 19th. We particularly like cookbooks, children's, mystery, best sellers (fiction and non-fiction), and coffee table fare. Sorry, but we **can't accept** textbooks, computer-related books and manuals, journals, or theses.

Something old or new for the silent auction

Do you have a fabulous old or new or not-quite-right-for-you item to donate to the silent auction? An antique urn, a vintage trunk, an Old Master drawing that doesn't work with that retro-70's look? A toaster oven you never unpacked or an extra CD player you didn't hook up? What about that tricycle someone's outgrown or a Nordic Track that just takes up space? Donate it! Contact Hanna Rubin (212 865 4579; hanna.rubin@verizon.net) or Barbara Bryan (212 864 5663, bryanbarb@earthlink.net). Some donations at press time: Body Strength membership, "Be a baker for a day" at Silver Moon Bakery, hand-made crocheted quilt, gift certificates from local restaurants and Movie Place, theater tickets.

Yard Sale Schedule

Breakfast from 8 to 10:30 near West End Ave. Stop by and get energized by Miriam Duhan's coffee, bagels, and more.

Bakery from 10 to 5 also near West End Ave. Tempt the neighbors with your delicious home-baked goods: cupcakes, cookies, brownies, cake, quick breads, bars, squares. Bring the goodies to West End and 104th after 10 or arrange to drop them off in advance by calling Alex Grannis (212 316 1644).

West 104 T-shirts from 10 to 5 in the middle of the block.

Food and drink from 11 to 5. Barbecued hot dogs, beef and veggie burgers at reasonable prices near West End Ave.

Live entertainment starting at 10:30 at WEA.

Books and CDs from 10 to 5 at 320 Riverside.

Vendors from 10 to 5 on the street.

Seeking volunteers for Yard Sale

Lend a hand volunteering at the Yard Sale on Saturday, September 20. I could use your help for any amount of time: one hour or four. It's great fun, you'll meet lots of people, have some laughs, and really help the block association. What you can do:

- Help set up (hang signs, unfold tables, get the grill going, etc.)
- Sell breakfast, books, and baked goods
- Prepare hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs
- Take silent auction bids

Call me at 212 866 4260. Thank you!

Teresa Elwert

Music and more music

We have some terrific entertainment lined up for you. Leif Arntzen is a singer, songwriter, trumpeter, guitarist, from Burnaby, British Columbia, who comes with his band "tlab" (the leif arntzen band). Orrin Star is an award-winning guitar, banjo and mandolin player. The popular Brazilian quartet Botafogo plays bossa nova and especially for the kids, clown Silly Billy.

May we borrow these for the Yard Sale?

- Folding tables, including card tables
- Folding chairs
- BBQ grill
- Cooler

Call Teresa Elwert at 212 866 4260.

NO PARKING SEPTEMBER 20. There will be no parking on our block on Sat., Sept. 20, the day of the Yard Sale, from 8 am to 6 pm. (rain date Sept. 21).

Board changes

I'm very pleased to welcome two new members to the block association board. Miriam Duhan of 309 W. 104 and Elly Ledogar of 315 RSD are long-time residents of the block with strong interests in beautification. Elly and I are citizen pruners and have teamed up to prune and care for area trees. Miriam tends a garden in the park at the foot on the 103rd St. stairs. We will all benefit as they bring their experience, ideas, and energy to the block association. Miriam and Elly join as Mimi Schade, Michael Deegan, and Ned Barnard leave the board. Mimi is pursuing another interest – singing – on our meeting night; and Michael is devoting more time to his theatre and film design career. Ned, who wrote a highly praised field guide to NYC trees last year, has moved to Queens. I was honored to have them on the board.

Teresa Elwert, president

Working hard for cleaner streets

For her first project as a board member Miriam Duhan has transformed herself into a diplomat. A car owner who parks on the street, she has been using gentle but effective persuasion to convince other owners to allow the mechanical broom to do its job before they re-park. She has also spoken to the driver of the broom asking him to take the time to let the drivers move out of the way. The car owners, many of whom either live or work on the block and park here regularly, agree with Miriam that our neighborhood should be as clean as possible. They're willing to cooperate with a grassroots effort to comply with the street cleaning regulations. Bravo, Miriam!

Con Ed problems

Two manholes on the block have been open for months while Con Ed does repairs underground. The openings are a serious hazard to pedestrians and cars. Estelle Kattelson, the community representative on the block association board, has enlisted the help of Community Board 7 in persuading Con Ed to finish the repairs and replace the manhole covers by the end of August, in plenty of time for the Yard Sale on September 20. We expect that the street light in front of 315 W. 104, which malfunctioned this winter, will be restored to its full power by then as well.

Parks Dept., Block Assn team up to battle rats

Rat sightings have increased in recent months in the pocket garden at the foot of 104th Street and the tot lot at 105th St. After receiving several complaints from block residents, the Block Association approached Ira Gershenhorn, who tends the garden, and Riverside Park administrator K.C. Sahl. Both agreed to bait the area. The block association underwrote Ira's efforts, and Sahl directed park workers to poison rat holes they find outside the tot lot. The baiting took place the last week in July. Within a week, seven rats had

succumbed. The Block Association is considering funding more baiting in the garden area, and has requested that park personnel continue to take steps to reduce the problem.

We Remember.....

We share with his family the sorrow of the passing of Walter Taussig, a 52-year resident of 320 RSD, who died July 31 at the age of 95. He had coached opera singers for generations of performers and called himself the "phantom of the opera". He continued working actively until 2002.

Our sincerest condolences to the family and associates of Roberto Martin, the surviving founder of Martin Brothers Wines and Liquors at the corner of 107th St. and Bdwy. Roberto died on August 1 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital after a brief illness. He will be sorely missed.

West 104th St. Block Assn. Financial Report

Sid Herzfeld, Treasurer

OPENING BALANCE:	71/03		\$ 7,636.63
INCOME:			
Dues:		\$ 1,580.00	
Off-Block Subscriptions		175.00	
Newsletter Ads		40.00	
Curbside Cafe		43.25	
T-shirts		82.00	
Yard Sale - space leases		85.00	
TOTAL INCOME:		\$ 2,005.25	\$2,005.25
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Guard Service		\$ 2,427.43	
Curbside Cafe		25.57	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:		\$ 2,453.00	\$2,453.00
CLOSING BALANCE:	7/31/03	\$ 7,188.88	\$7,188.89

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

Selected Calendar of Events

- 8/30 DR. AKAGI** (Kanzo Sensei) 1998. Japan/France. **Shohei Imamura**. 6:15p*, 8/31, 1p* **THE BLUE KITE** (Lan Feng Zheng) 1993. China/Hong Kong. **Tian Zhuangzhuang**. 8:30p, 8/31 3:15p Tickets: \$10, \$6 Members, \$8 Seniors. Symphony Space Leonard Nimoy Thalia. (LNT) (*double feature starting time) For more information about films in the Kino Int'l Film Series call 212.864.1414.
- 8/31 ALEXANDER NEVSKY** 1938. Soviet Union. **Sergei Eisenstein, Dmitri Vasilyev**. Original score by Sergei Prokofiev. 8:30p **COME AND SEE** (Idi I Smotri) 1985. Soviet Union. **Elem Klimov**. Tickets: \$10, \$6 Members, \$8 Seniors LNT. For information about films in the Kino Int'l Film Series call 212.864.1414.
- 9/3 Yoga at Sunset, Evening Salute to the Sun.** Join Ruth Vargas, bring your mat and wear loose clothing. 66th St. Plaza at RSD Park. 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Sponsored by Riverside Park Fund. For more information call 212.408.0219. Program continues 9/4,9/10, 9/11, 9/17, 9/18, 9/24, 9/25
- 9/6 As You Like It**, Shakespeare. Central Park South Lawn at 73rd St., 1 and 6 pm. Free. Program 9/7 at 1 and 6 pm and 9/13, 9/14 at 2 and 8 pm.
- 9/12 Iraqi Classical Music. Omar Bashir** carries on the tradition of his father, Munir Bashir, the preeminent 'ud (lute) player and cultural ambassador for Arab music since 1950. Omar has performed in Europe and the Middle East. LNT. 8 pm. \$22, \$18 Members & Children, \$15 Students. For information call 212.864.1414.
- 9/12 Haiti, the Spirit of Freedom.** For the 200 Year Anniversary of Haitian Independence, the Pangea Theatre Company and the Haitian Centers Council present a cultural extravaganza of Haitian music, dance, art and film presentations. Symphony Space (PJS) 8 pm. Continues 9/13 12 noon, 9/13 4 and 7 pm, 9/14 12 noon, 4 & 7 pm. For information call 212.864.1414.
- 9/14 Rockin' in Riverside** 1- 3 pm. 83rd Street Playground. The Urban Park Rangers with RPF's School & Family Programs Coordinator, lead walking tours of Mt. Tom, to look at the outcropping of Manhattan schist. Children can participate in a fun geology activity as well. Free. Call (212) 870-3070 to register.
- 9/15** The **New Voices Collective** invites you to participate in the development of a new musical! Composer **Sam Davis** and author **Randy Buck** have reset Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* in the early 1950's. Q&A with the cast follows the performance. Free! Call to reserve: 212-864-5400. LNT.
- 9/17 Ben & Jerry Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.** 104th St. & Broadway
- 9/20 W. 104TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION YARD SALE (Rain date 9/21)**
- 9/24 Wellness Health** Chat 5:30 - 6:30 pm. 70th Street Pier Plaza. Riverside Park South will host this discussion about health topics, such as nutrition, exercise, healthy living, etc. Wellness Chats take place at the silver fish table on the pier. For more information, call 212. 408.0219.
- 10/3 Musical Math** Richard Kastle and orchestra perform his Piano Concerto # 8 and Beethoven piano sonatas arranged for piano and orchestra. The concert features a lecture on "the math behind the music" and is geared for children 6 years and up. Symphony Space LNT. For ticket information call 212.864.1414.
- 10/4 Capercaille, Music from the Highlands to the Lowlands of Scotland.** World Music Institute. Instrumentals and the vocals of **Karen Matheson**. The company has toured 30 countries, released eight award-winning albums and appeared in the film *Rob Roy*. **Tickets:** \$26, \$21 Members & Children, \$15 Students. Symphony Space PJS, 8 pm. For more information call 212.864.5400.
- 10/18 Art in the Park**, a day-long celebration of Art, Dance, Music and Food. Straus Park. Rain date 10/19.
- 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. To reserve your place, call Marsha Tantleff at 212.932.9592 AFTER 9/22, (See related article in the May issue of this newsletter)
- 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.

Purse-snatcher tackled by security guard

At about 8:30 pm on Aug. 20 the block association's security guard, Carlos Straker, tackled a teenaged male who was running up the street after snatching a purse from a woman at 103rd St. and RSD. Carlos and Michael Dillon, a neighbor at 315 RSD, sat on the thief in the street until the police arrived in three cars within minutes. The boy was arrested. The woman, who lived on Columbus Ave., had her purse and wallet returned to her.

Carlos said he saw the young man hanging out on Broadway earlier in the evening. He had not seen him prior to that, however. Several neighbors commented: there's our block association dues at work. Agreed!

It's election time

Every other year officers and members of the Board are elected for terms of two years. The current members (listed on p. 2) have agreed to continue to serve for the term from Fall 2003 to Fall 2005. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents and join these, or if you would like to nominate someone else on the block, please contact Teresa Elwert at 212.866.4260. The Ballot will be printed in the October newsletter.

Health runs in the family

By Estelle Kattelson

It isn't often we hear of a family of health care workers -- other than M.D.'s (you know, the three or four successive generations) -- but there is one such family in our neighborhood that I've known since the early '80's -- the Savas family.

Louis, the patriarch, was my chiropractor for close to eight years, occasionally replaced by son Damon, a licensed massage therapist (LMT), and ultimately by Sophia, an LMT as well; but let's not forget brother Nestor, LMT, who I have yet to meet. They're really quite a crew!

Sophia changed careers some years ago to become an elementary school teacher; she taught K-4. This year she left teaching to obtain another MA, in guidance counseling -- but best news of all, she's going to be doing massage work as well -- and I rejoice! She has magic hands, and I look forward to my first massage now that she's back in business.

Clearly, this is a well-deserved and enthusiastic recommendation. If you're stressed out, fatigued, running two jobs to get by, etc., try a wonderfully revivifying massage with Sophia Savas.

A night without light

By Marisa Gershenhorn (age 8) 320 RSD

One evening when I had come home from soccer camp, my dad wasn't home yet so I was alone with my mom and my cat. Well it was my cat's birthday, so I went to my room to make a card. When I was done, I looked at my Highlights magazines for that ice cream recipe. Then I went to show my mom and then suddenly the radio she was playing turned off! She went to see what was wrong and checked everything else in the apartment. She told me we are having a blackout. She called my dad on her cell phone. Then, she tried to find out about it on her news radio. She found out that it was in all of the Northeast and a few other things. Finally, my dad got home and we made Caesar salad. After dinner, I took a bath and my dad read to me by candlelight (so did I). It was really cool. In the morning, I went into the living room (with a flashlight) to see if someone was awake. My dad was. He decided to check if power had been restored to our building yet. He switched the light. It worked. The Blackout of 2003 was finally over.

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WOODSHOP REFINISHERS

Know Your Neighbor And the winner is..... Dick Latessa!

By Nancy Lian

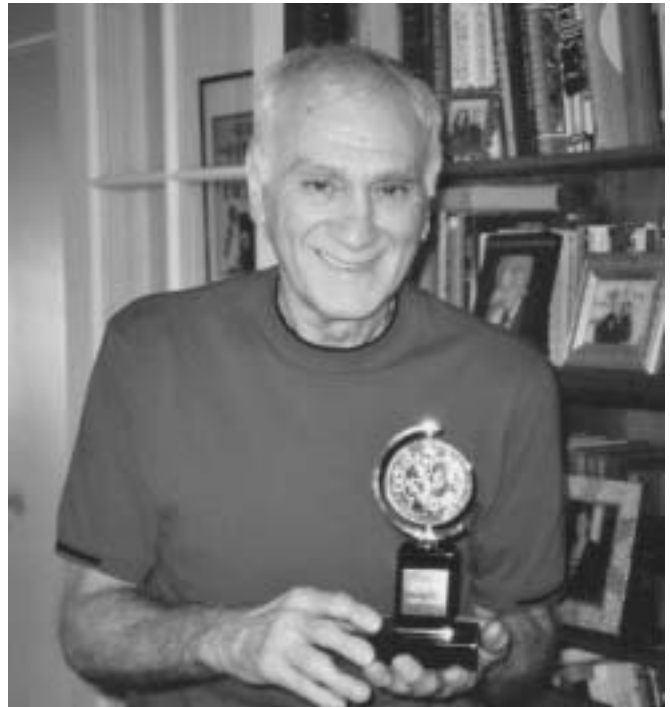
"It is wonderful to finally be recognized by your peers," said our enthusiastic Tony Award winner, and neighbor at 320 Riverside, Dick Latessa. "I really love the theater and the stage." Dick won his Tony in June, 2003 for his portrayal of Wilbur Turnblad in the Broadway megahit *Hairspray*. He attributes the success of his performance to the instant and complete rapport that exists between him and Harvey Fierstein who plays Edna Turnblad. The casting of the Turnblad family, which also included Marissa Janet Winokur as Tracy, was inspired, and all three received Tonys for their work in the show.

Dick would never have believed as a boy in Cleveland that he would be in this position today. "I feel fortunate to have ended up where I ended up," Dick said, and quoted Roberto Benigni from his Oscar acceptance speech for *Life is Beautiful* when he said, "I thank my family for the gift of poverty." He grew up with five brothers and a sister, all of whom left school to work to make ends meet. His mother, widowed when Dick was only four years old, kept the family together by stitching automobile upholstery. As the youngest, Dick had the privilege of attending and finishing high school but he worked after school and during the summers as well, and had to work extra hard to amass enough money to buy a suit for his graduation. His first job after school was assembling vacuums for GE.

After a friend took him to a musical at the Karamu Theater in Cleveland, he decided he, too, had singing and acting talent. In 1959 after a few successful roles in Cleveland, he headed for New York. Soon he had his Equity card in his pocket and was busy with a variety of roles. His very long list of credits ranges from stage to film to television, and he has no intention of "retiring." After some thought, he admits that his favorite part, at least so far, was in *Philemon* in 1975 for which he won an Obie.

Dick and his wife raised three daughters in Manhattan, and Dick's profession allowed him to spend time with them daily in their growing-up years.

From 1967 to 1970 the family lived in California, but the lifestyle was not for them, and they all said, "Let's go home." "Home" for Dick is Manhattan, and he loves the 104th Street block, and his neighbors. His New York years have been spent on the Upper West Side, with a 12-year hiatus from 1986 to 1998 living on his farm in Goshen, New York. His commute then was 60 miles each way, but he loved the 15 acres, barn, stable and horses. He returned to Manhattan five years ago, and admits, "At my age, New York City is perfect."



His one "national tour" was for six months with *Cabaret*, which he could not have done from Goshen with daily farm and livestock commitments.. But from his apartment, it was just a matter of going out and locking the door. His daily routine lets him sleep until 10 in the morning. (If you call before that, be prepared to leave a voice message; he won't answer the phone.) He does his own shopping and cooking and rides the subway to and from the theater. He has owned a car and parked it on the street. But after it was stolen this spring, and found a week later, he decided to leave it with his brother in New Jersey.

Whenever you see this exuberant silver-haired gentleman, you can sense that he is thriving on his "work" which continues to give pleasure to all who see him - on stage and off.

Here's the Scoop

By Sheila Garden

Our new Ben and Jerry's Scoop Shop's aesthetic and colorful décor adds additional flavor to the cornucopia of 15+ flavors of ice cream, frozen yogurt, sorbet. Carry out or eat in at tables colored mustard yellow, green, red, blue, or purple. Follow the standing cow to her Holstein buddy - green pasturing on the wall. A staff wearing black shirts proclaiming "104th St. & Broadway - Ben & Jerry" scoop their sweets into cups, waffle and sugar cones, smoothies and shakes. If you're not satiated, check out the ice cream and frozen yogurt cakes!

Table tops feature whimsical drawings and "historical" tidbits: Ben and Jerry, after a \$5 correspondence course in making ice cream, sold ice cream out of the back of their old VW around New England. Their Foundation uses 7.5% of profits for employment for under-served youth and adults. (At 104th St. they are working with the Regent Residence work training project.) This Scoop Shop is operated by Common Ground, a non-profit organization whose mission is to "end homelessness by creating innovative solutions that transform people, buildings and communities." On your way in and out, you might enjoy the exterior colorful, abstract mosaic pillar at the corner which was in place well before Ben and Jerry's.

The official opening is scheduled for Sept. 17 with a ribbon-cutting attended by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Ben and Jerry's founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield among others. The store will give the neighborhood coupons for the "cold sweet stuff." (You can visit benjerry.com for more information about Scoop Shops.)

Sophia Savas Licensed Massage Therapist

212-877-5661
By Appointment

194 Riverside Dr., Apt.1C
New York, NY 10025

**We regret a past error in printing a phone number.
The correct information is listed below.**

Available for babysitting evenings
for mealtimes, storytelling, singing.

**Former nursery teacher, Block Assoc. board
member. \$10 per hour.**

Call Estelle at: 212-866-9731

Neighborhood Services for Hire

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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.

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. Harininyoga, 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

After-school childcare group forming for Sept. 2003. Twomature, experienced, creative women will pick up your child from school and take to park, library. Homework help, snacks, music, and art activities. Hours: 3-6 pm. References available. Arlene's After-School, 212.666.6793

Yoga. Private yoga and pre-natal yoga in the comfort of your home by a certified hatha yoga teacher. Harininyoga. 917.968.6457. harininyoga@yahoo.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 (www.bloomingdale.org> "Neighborhood services for Hire"). or deliver 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, web site, or both

Dues 3rd Quarter 7/03 - 9/03

Please allocate my contribution to:

Amount of check: _____
(Suggested amount: \$25.00)

Call me about volunteering at Yard Sale I have a recipe to share

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

E-mail Address _____

(For Block Association use only. We will not sell, exchange, or lend your e-mail address to any outside parties)

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

Mail to our treasurer:

Sid Herzfeld, 895 WEA., Apt. 5D, NY NY 10025

or drop off at

315 RSD: Steinhardt, Apt 18B, 320 RSD: Elwert, Apt 9D
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