

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nancy Lian

MAY 16, 2003

Layout and Design: John Johnston

Save the date! **14th Annual Yard Sale**

The block association's 14th annual Yard Sale will take place Saturday, September 20 (rain date September 21) from 10:00 to 5:00 on West 104th St. between West End and Riverside. We'll be selling 65 spaces where you can sell almost anything except food and beverages (the block association does that). Each year we sell out and have a waiting list for spaces. Space rental fees are unchanged from last year: \$35 for block residents (limit one space at this rate); \$50 for non-block residents. We'll be ready to take your reservations in a few months. Look for a flyer under your door this summer with all the details. So mark your calendar and make plans to join us for a day of fun and profit-making.

Meet the park's landscape architect

Margaret Brown has been Riverside Park's landscape architect since last August. She previously worked in Prospect Park and has extensive knowledge of Frederick Law Olmsted landscapes and plant material. She's hard at work on several capital projects but is still interested in the smallest of details. Preserving the park's beauty and historic character depends on maintaining an appropriate plant palette. Margaret will be modifying the Riverside Park plant palette to assist park volunteers in selecting the plants best suited to individual locations. Some broad concepts Margaret wants to promulgate: the original Olmstedian sections of the park are meant to feel like a walk in the natural countryside; plants should be planted in loose, informal shapes. Planted areas are meant to be seen from different view corridors and from a distance so plantings should contain drifts of several plants of the same variety; annuals should only be planted in a few formal areas.

Metro Theatre re-opens but for how long?

In the March newsletter we reported the closing of the Metro Theatre. Now we're reporting its re-opening. But according to *The New York Times* (April 6), "its landlord said the reprieve might be only temporary."

Subway renovation news

The 103rd St. subway station has new lighting and new platform edges on both the uptown and downtown sides.

The block association board recently wrote a letter to Sandra G. Bloodworth about the renovation of the station. Ms. Bloodworth is the director of Arts for Transit, the part of the MTA that encourages the use of public transit by presenting visual and performing arts projects in subway and commuter rail stations. Our letter, to which we have not yet had a response, follows.

Our block association, which represents residents of 104th St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Drive, is intrigued by the art work proposed for the 103rd St. subway station (#1, 9 lines). We understand it is tiles depicting the history of the City's subway system. This seems a very creative way to make our rather ordinary station special. We haven't seen the art, however, and invite you to one of our monthly meetings to show us the design.

We're pleased the station is getting a much-needed makeover. But we've heard conflicting reports about the prospect of multiple week-long closings of one side then the other and would like to hear from you what the actual plans are.

Please feel free to call me at my office to arrange a time to meet our board. Thank you for your time.

Teresa Elwert

Distressed trees on our block

Certain tree species around the city are leafing out late this spring due, principally it seems, to a longer than usual period of cool weather. Many trees on our own block show this retarded growth, including the honey locusts, oaks, and our sole elm. Teresa Elwert contacted Trees New York, the organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for communities through participatory tree-related programs, about the problem. Ellen Goberman, their education director, advised us to wait a few weeks and, if the trees haven't leafed out fully, we'll explore our options at that time. Time may already have run out for the linden in front of 308 West 104, which hasn't grown a single leaf.

COLUMBIA COMING TO 103RD St.

By Marsha Tantleff

Columbia University hosted its 2nd community meeting on April 29 regarding the new structure to be built on Broadway & 103rd St. This meeting was held at the Youth Hostel and well attended by neighborhood residents.

Residents of 2708 Broadway voiced concern about possible structural damage to their building during the construction. They asked that Columbia address neighboring conditions and that a structural engineer survey their site. Columbia will consider a possible meeting with people in adjacent buildings.

Another comment was that Columbia has two lots on 113 between Broadway and Riverside Dr.. Why were they building here and disrupting our neighborhood? Columbia's response was that the 113th St. site was too small. As for vacant lots that they own, they said that most of them have some things already in use on them. Columbia will replace the trees and repave the street along the Broadway & 103rd St. area.

Many people were present from Westsiders For Viable Neighborhoods. This group had staged many rallies and protests in front of the CVS on Broadway & 102nd St. which replaced the Associated Supermarket. Their efforts were successful and CVS closed within one year. The same group is now actively involved in trying to get a supermarket into some of the ground level retail space of the new Columbia facility.

KUDOS

Congratulations to block resident Michelle Ajami on being nominated for the Blackboard Awards Honor Roll. The awards were launched last year by Our Town and West Side Spirit newspapers and Avenue magazine. This winter there were over 100 teachers nominated by readers of the publications. Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes", presided over the awards ceremony.

West 104th St. Block Association Financial Report

Sid Herzfeld, Treasurer

OPENING BALANCE 4/1/03		\$16,380.56
INCOME		
Dues	1,845.00	
Newsletter Ads	80.00	
TOTAL INCOME	1,925.00	+1,925.00
EXPENSES		
Guard Service	5,374.85	
Newsletter	297.69	
Memberships	50.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,722.54	-5,722.54
CLOSING BALANCE 4/30/03		\$12,583.02

Park café now open

The Hudson Beach Café has opened for the season. Located in Riverside Park at 105th St. adjacent to the beach volleyball courts, the café serves light meals and has a full bar. Hours are best checked by calling ahead: 917 370 3448.

West 104th Street Block Association Board

President	Teresa Elwert
VP/Secretary	Nancy Lian
Treasurer	Sid Herzfeld
Members	Ned Barnard Barbara Bryan Sheila Garden Alex Grannis John Johnston Estelle Kattelton (Hanna Rubin Mimi Schade Marsha Tantleff

Selected Calendar of Summer Events

Note: **Symphony Space** has daily performances. Please check the website www.symphonyspace.com or stop by at the box office at Broadway and 95th St. for the complete program guide.

- 5/17** **In a Northern Landscape**, by Timothy Mason. Cast includes **Jennifer Graves**, block resident. The Undercroft Players, directed by Mim Solberg. Trinity Lutheran Church, 164 W. 100 St. Tickets \$15 (\$10 for seniors & students). To reserve call 212.877.0509. Play is performed Saturdays, Mondays, Tuesdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 3 pm. 5/17,18,19,20,24,25,26,27, 6/7,8,9,10.
- 5/19** **Dance PopAction Hip Hop**, with Hope Clark. Bloomingdale Library, 150 W 100 St., 3:30-pm, For ages 12 to 18. Call 212.222.8030 for information.
- 5/20** **Preschool Storytime**. Songs and stories for ages 2 to 4 with parent/caregiver. Preregistration is required. (2 sessions). 11 am. Morningside Heights Library, 2900 Broadway at 113th St. Call 212.864.2530 for more information.
- 5/20** **Healing the Writer's Soul: A creative Writing Workshop**, conducted by Cheryl Boyce Taylor for adults. Bloomingdale Library, 150 W 100 St., 6 pm. Call 212.222.8030 for more information.
- 5/21** **Picture Book Hour** for children ages 3 to 7. Bloomingdale Library, 150 W 100 St., 4 pm. Call 212.222.8030 for more information.
- 5/22** **Meet the Author Ned Vizzini**, author of *Teen Angst? Naah*. He will recall his junior high and high school days in NYC. For ages 12 to 18. 3:30 pm. Preregister as space is limited. Morningside Heights Library, 2900 Broadway at 113th St. Call 212.864.2530 for more information.
- 5/26** **Memorial Day Concert: The New York Philharmonic** with Loren Maazel conducting Beethoven's *Egmont Overture* and Sibelius *Symphony No. 2*. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 8 pm. Free.
- 5/27** **The God of Small Things**, by Arundhati Roy will be discussed by adult group at Bloomingdale Library, 150 W 100 St., 6 pm. Call 212.222.8030 for more information.
- 6/1** **Acoustic Sundays Free Music Concert**. Riverside South Park presents free music concerts featuring local and international artists. 70th Street Pier Plaza, 6-8 pm. Program continues every Sunday through 7/27.
- 6/4** **Yoga in the Park at Sunset**. Join Ruth Vargas for an Evening Salute to the Sun, the only Yoga class held near the Hudson in New York City. Classes are open to all fitness levels, but please bring your own mat, and wear loose clothing. 66th Street Plaza, 6:30-7:30 pm. Program continues each Wednesday and Thursday through 7/31.
- 6/5** **Circus Amok**, a New York based Circus Theater will be performing their new show "Home*Land*Security" in which the juggling Fratelli brothers refuse to register with the INS. They are on the lamb and no place is safe. Follow the Brother's exploits as they encounter high-soaring handsome flippers, the Quaker quackers, lions, tigers (not real), and a bevy

of deviant divas divulging military secrets. This new spectacle creatively addresses issues and concerns currently affecting all New Yorkers. 6:00 p.m. 80th Street in Riverside Park.

- 6/6** **New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra** plays Sibelius *Finlandia*, Rheinberger *Organ Concerto* and Dvorak *Slavonic Dances*. Riverside Church, 8 pm. Tickets are \$12 at the door, 1/2 price for students/seniors.
- 6/8** **Complete Beethoven Sonatas for Cello and Piano**, with David Finckel, cello, and Wu Han, piano. Only New York Recital. Town Hall, 43rd St. West of Ave. of the Americas. 5 pm. Free, but you must get tickets at Town Hall beginning at 12 noon on 6/8.
- 6/11** **Evening of Music in Straus Park**.
- 6/15** **Go Fish** Fishing instruction with the Urban Park Rangers. 10 am - 1 pm. The end of the 70th Street Pier. Also 7/7.
- 6/15** **Playmobile**, Riverside Park's Playmobile, a mobile recreation vehicle containing toys and games for kids of all ages to play with at no charge. 11 am - 3 pm. 66th Street Plaza. Also 7/21, 7/28.
- 6/19** **Tugboat Film & Video Series** The Working Waterfront Association will present experimental film and video shorts that use the waterfront as theme. 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm. End of the 70th St. Pier. Program repeats on 7/17.
- 6/29** **Food Chains of the Hudson River Estuary**. Bring your children to learn about the organisms that dwell in the Hudson River estuary and to make food chain mobiles of the river's wildlife. No fee for this event; please call 870-3070 to register. 1-3 p.m. Dolphin Playground @ 124th Street .
- 6/29** **Joshua Bell, violinist, and Simon Mulligan, pianist**, perform works by Bach, Schubert and Janacek. Only New York Recital. Town Hall, 43rd St. West of Ave. of the Americas. 5 pm. Free, but you must get tickets at Town Hall at 12 on 6/29.
- 7/2** **Pee Wee Basketball** for toddlers ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old. 9-10 a.m. 71st St Basketball Courts. Also 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30.
- 7/11** **Kid Yoga** instruction for children ages 7 and up.11 a.m. 66th Street Plaza at the Hudson. Also 7/25.
- 7/15** **Petropolis: A Social History of Urban Companion Animals**, Exhibit opens at NY Historical Society, 2 W 77 St. Through 11/9. (See related article)
- 7/19** **Central Park**. Park-wide birthday party celebrating the park's 150th year.
- 9/3-7** **Film Festival in Central Park**.
- 9/20** **104TH St. Block Association Yard Sale**

SUBLET AVAILABLE:

Exceptional 4 1/2 room apt., recently renovated, in 320 RSD. High floor, park/river views, 24-hr doorman. Two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, designer kitchen, dining area. Apt. is unfurnished, but wall of built-ins includes a queen-size Murphy bed. Will be available August 1st, 2003, for 6 months; renewable for an additional year, i.e. thru January 2005. Tenant and renewal subject to co-op board approval. Rent \$3,500 plus fees. For further information and to arrange showing contact Gilbert Tauber. Phone (Germany) 011-49-221-331-9467 or e-mail: gt.avb@t-online.de

Petropolis: A Social History of Urban Companion Animals

By Kathleen Hulser

The New York Historical Society at 2 W. 77 St. presents this unique exhibition from July 15 to November 9 in partnership with the Humane Society of New York. This extravaganza of animal imagery and accouterments spans several centuries and many sensibilities. The exhibition offers insight, history, humor, inspiration - and most of all the warm affection of our many animal companions in the city.

Beautiful Beasts

--In colonial and 18th century paintings, animals appear as emblems of moral virtues, elegant companions and symbols of the natural world.

Creature Comforts

-- In the Victorian age, companion animals became an extension of the family that proved the benign force of civilization could bring even the natural world under the domestic roof.

Urban Animals and Spaces

--Evidence suggests that urban centers are at the forefront of redefining the American family and those pets are an essential component of the postmodern family in all its varieties of gay, lesbian, childless, single, empty-nesting and coupled forms. In response to this phenomenon, a whole range of social contracts and even political alignments have evolved to keep pace with the growing importance of animals in urban life, and the urbanites who befriend them.

The Company We Keep

-- Just as the baby boom generation embraced diversity and harmony among many cultures, so has it ransacked the animal kingdom for new creatures to love. Without slackening our vast affection for dogs, cats and rabbits, we are now bonding with a diversity of other species. Ferrets, chinchillas, mice, iguanas, bearded dragons and tortoises are but a few of the newer kinds of company we keep.

New York Cares

-- Seeing a vet give an iguana a throat exam or a tortoise an ultrasound illustrates how deeply committed we have become in our animal relationships. And service dogs and therapy pets are giving back: cheering up pensioners in old age homes, delighting children on hospital wards, comforting rescue workers at disaster sites, sniffing bombs in an age of security alerts.

Obsession

Not only have our dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fish, ferrets, rats, mice and snakes joined our families; sometimes they have almost taken over. Interior designers fashion "barkitecture" to accommodate pet needs, and market "animal house style" to please owners who love gracious living as much as they like snuggling with kitty and rover on the furniture. The pet services industry offers hairdos, spas, schooling, daycare, vacations, playtime, special diets and

accessories galore to the beloved animal companions that enliven the human passage from highchair to rocking chair.

(Ed. Note: Kathleen Hulser, block resident, is curator of the exhibit at the NY Historical Society.)

Dial 311 for non-emergency government assistance

The City's new 311 Citizen Service Center is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Live operators can assist callers in 170 languages and provide tracking numbers so that you can follow up on the status of your requests. TTY services are available by calling 212 504-4115.

Dialing 311 gives you access to all non-emergency City services such as:

- Find out if alternate side of the street parking is in effect
- Report loud noise, or a blocked driveway
- Find your neighborhood library and its operating hours
- Find out how to become a Parks Department lifeguard
- Leave an opinion for the Mayor
- Report a pothole or street light that needs to be fixed
- Find out about garbage collection

MORE AUTHORS ON THE BLOCK

West 104th has several authors, including block association board member Ned Barnard, whose *Guide to New York City Trees* can be found in stores throughout the city. Another board member, Hanna Rubin, will have a dance title published June 1. Rubin contributed the text to *The Ballet Book* (Rizzoli, \$45 hardcover; \$30 paper), photographer Nancy Ellison's backstage look at the dancers of American Ballet Theatre. An introduction to the art of ballet, the book covers the training, rehearsal and performance process, and includes interviews with many dancers, coaches, and choreographers. It also includes brief descriptions of a number of classical and modern ballets. It will be available in the Lincoln Center Barnes & Noble, the Metropolitan Opera gift shop and other stores. If you have a new book coming out, a new show of your work about to open, a play or composition about to debut, let us know. We'd like to print your news. Contact editor Nancy Lian at board@bloomingdale.org.

Neighborhood Services for Hire

Piano lessons for all ages. Beginners & children welcome.
Experienced teacher makes it fun while you learn.
212.662.1466

Make-up artist, stylist. For fashion shows, TV/soap operas, film; ES
Styles; 212 280 8199

TV crews and production services. Manages location crews, studio
productions, and live events with the most experienced and
best-suited personnel. Crew 1 TV, Dino Quaglietta, resident
of 320 Riverside. 212.665.8277; web site:
www.crew1tv.com; email: crew1tv@aol.com.

Jack Price: General Painting and cleaning-apartments, houses,
offices, etc. Telephone: 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.

Cat Cottage/Cat Calls. Cat sitter: feed, give medication, scoop out
pan, Jeanne Adlon, recommended by block resident.
212.734.6866.

Private yoga and pre-natal yoga in the comfort of your home by a
certified Hatha yoga teacher. Harininiyoga, block resident.
917.968.6457.

Available for babysitting. Former nursery teacher, youthful, playful
grandmother, evenings, feeding, storytelling, singing. Block
Association board member. \$10 p/hr. Call Estelle at
212.866.9731.

Coral calcium: Bob Barefoot formula: discounted. It really works!
Ca20 Co., 212.678.2128. starthealthy@msm.com

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.

Neighborhood service publicized - free!

You can publicize your neighborhood service (babysitting, dog walking, apartment cleaning, etc.) free in the newsletter and on our web site if you live on the block. Off-block residents must be recommended by a block resident and pay an annual \$25 fee. To submit an ad, fill out the form on our web site at www.bloomingdale.org under "Neighborhood services for Hire." We've been asked about starting a swap service, auction, or other type of goods marketplace on the web site. As soon as we figures out how to make that happen without creating a lot or work for our webmaster, we'll do it! Submit your listing by mailing or hand-delivering the following information to Teresa Elwert, 320 Riverside Drive, #9D.

For our records: your name and mailing address

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

Placement: newsletter, website, or both

Dues 2nd Quarter 4/03 - 6/03

Please allocate my contribution to:
 Security Beautification Social Newsletter Board Decision

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

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

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
320 RSD: Elwert, Apt 9D
905 WEA: Bryan, Apt 141