

West 104th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 8, 2005

Editor: Nancy Lian



Follow your bliss: get involved in beautification.

Look closely at our tree gardens and you'll see daffodils and tulips beginning to poke through the rich soil. In the weeks to come, they'll mature and flower into a colorful display of yellow, pink, white, lilac, and red petals. When the tulips and daffodils have finished their glorious show around mid-May, the block association will use some of your dues contributions to buy summer flowers for the tree gardens. Here's where you can help: we'll need you to plant the flowers! Look for flyers in your building announcing how and when we'll be doing the planting. It's fun and easy - and a great way to get to know your neighbors.

Teresa Elwert, beautification leader

Intel Science Contest Update

We are happy to report that David Bauer, our Intel Science Contest finalist won the top prize of \$100,000 in the 2005 national contest. His project involved a way to detect toxic agents in the body from wearing a patch that could monitor the exposure to neurotoxins by using fluorescent nanocrystals. David reported, "I was thinking more in terms of paramedics and individual exposure, so in the event of a terrorist attack, we would know the nature of the attack." David will attend the Honors College of the City College of New York next fall. We congratulate David on this singular honor. (See Feb. 2005 issue)

Friends, Neighbors and Flowers:

Warm Weather Brings Good News, Good Times

Spring is finally settling in. Block residents walk home in a twilight that lasts longer each week. Flowers poke through in our tree gardens and Riverside Park. People linger on the street, and neighbors have a fresh opportunity to greet each other and enjoy the classic New York architecture on our block: elegant brownstones, Art Deco apartment towers, and Beaux Arts palaces.

Our fundraising campaign has reached the half-way mark, with \$20,000 gathered from block residents and buildings. In the months to come, we'll be setting up lobby tables in several block buildings to explain the services we sponsor, like the security guard and our tree gardens, and how block residents can get involved.

As summer approaches, we'll host our popular Curbside Cafes (June 13 and July 11). Neighbors can drop by, get to know one another and enjoy a West 104th Street evening with homemade nibbles and a glass of wine. Then comes our Yard Sale, which falls this year on September 24. Don't miss out on our signature event: mark your calendars now!

If you haven't yet sent in your quarterly (\$30) or annual (\$130) dues payment, use the envelope tucked in this issue, and the dues slip on the back page, and mail it in today. We appreciate your support—it helps make our block a very special place.

What is a Go Bag???

By Missy Cohen

Would you be prepared in the event of another terrorist attack or city-wide blackout? Would you be ready to leave your home on a moment's notice? These aren't pleasant topics to think about. But now, in times of relative peace and safety, IS the time to plan for these events. With a little forethought, and an hour of your time, you and your loved ones can be ready. Every family should consider packing a bag of necessary items, often referred to as a "Go Bag". It should be easy to carry, like a backpack, or a rolling suitcase.

Contents should include:

- Copies of important documents (insurance cards, proof of address, ID cards, etc)
Put these documents in a zip-loc bag or other waterproof container.
- Extra sets of keys to your car and apartment
- Cash, in small denominations (\$50-\$100 should suffice)
- Bottled water and non-perishable food, such as protein or granola bars
- A flashlight, battery operated radio, and extra batteries. Don't forget that most stores in the city sold out of batteries in the first few hours of the 2003 blackout. Buy batteries in bulk and put them right in your bag.
- A week's worth of your daily medications and medical supplies. Make sure to change the medications periodically to account for expiration dates.
- A first aid kit
- Sturdy and comfortable shoes, a light rain jacket, and a mylar blanket.
- A contact list of anyone you might need to get in touch with, including email addresses. On 9/11, most phones didn't work, but emails generally made it through.

Other items that we have in our bag are a few extra pairs of socks, maps of the city and outlying areas, candles, a Zippo lighter (they're windproof!), aspirin, and a deck of playing cards. A friend told me that pillowcases are great things to consider: they pack into nothing, they can be used as bags, or you can put them inside your coat for extra warmth.

Tailor your bag to your family's needs, but remember to keep it light. Our bag sits in our hall closet, ready if we ever (and hopefully we won't) need it.

For more information about emergency planning, call the NYC Hotline at 311, and ask them to mail you a free copy of "Ready New York: A Household Preparedness Guide."

West 104th St. Block Association FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 2005

OPENING BALANCE:
\$16,701.91

INCOME:

Dues	\$2,265.00
Coop Dues, 895 WEA	1,500.00
Newsletter ads	1,260.00
Web-site 102/3 Block Assn.	50.00
T-shirt sales	40.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$5,115.00 \$5,115.00

EXPENSES

Guard Service	\$1,680.96
Transportation	
Allowance for guard	120.00
Bank fees	3.50

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,804.46
\$1,804.46

CLOSING BALANCE 3/31/05
\$20,012.45

In Remembrance

Jody Pope, a longtime resident of 315 Riverside Dr., died on February 28 after a sudden illness. A familiar figure on the block with his sons, Charlie, Gus and Isaac, and his wife Elaine Monchak, he will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to them. The family has asked that contributions honoring his memory be sent to moveon.org.

West 104th Street Block Association Board

President	Hanna Rubin 315 RSD 212.865.4579
VP/Secretary	Nancy Lian 320 RSD 212.316.6112
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Juan Rojas Campos

Photo by Missy Cohen

A Feast Like Mama's

Walk into Mama Mexico at Broadway and 102ⁿ St. and you'll find bright murals, fresh flavors, strolling musicians— and a portrait of Mama on the wall. Owner Juan Rojas Campos believes in the importance of family, and Mama started it all.

The restaurant, run by Campos and several of his brothers, is a thriving testament to their efforts and his mother's handiwork. Lucia Campos had eight children, all sons, and she taught them to help her around the house and cook. This meant the boys learned many of the classic dishes of their region, the area around the Mexican city of Puebla. They lived in a small village, and by the time Juan turned twenty, he decided to head north.

He made his way to New York, and started working in a Brooklyn bakery on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. He worked his way gradually through the restaurant business, from dishwasher, to busboy, cook and waiter. Eight years ago, he took what he had learned and opened Mama Mexico.

Campos sees the restaurant as a sensory celebration of the home and culture he left behind. "My mother taught us never to forget where we came from," he says. "Come and enjoy the music and the colors, not just the food." If you are lucky, you may even get to see Mama. She and husband Fernando Campos, who still live on the farm where Juan grew up, often visit, and she shares new recipes each time. Campos has trouble picking a favorite, but he admits to cravings. "Sometimes when I'm driving, I'll feel 'I must have that steak!' [see recipe on this page] and I'll walk in the kitchen and make it," he says.

Today Campos's children work in the restaurant on weekends, and Campos hosts school groups to share his views. "I say to the kids, 'Guys, listen to your teachers, listen to your parents, and you'll succeed in life.'" And eat well too.

Grilled Rib Eye Steak with Pasilla Chile Sauce (Bistec al Pasilla, Queso Oaxaca)*

4 Rib eye steaks (20 oz each)

1 lb. oaxacan cheese or mozzarella, shredded

STUFFING: Heat 2 T. extra virgin olive oil in a pan and add ½ onion chopped, 3 cans of huitlacoche (7 oz each), 2 cloves of garlic, 1 jalapeno pepper, 3 sprigs of epazote herb, salt and black pepper to taste sauté and cool. Mix with the shredded cheese to stuff the meat.

SAUCE: Soak 8 pasilla chiles in hot water for 20 min, then puree in a blender with 4 toasted plum tomatos, 2 cloves garlic, ¼ onion, 1 avocado leaf, dash of ground cumin, salt and pepper until smooth. In sauce pan heat 2 T. olive oil, add sauce and bring to a boil.

Sear steaks on grill till medium-rare, butterfly and stuff with huitlacoche mix and finish cooking in the oven. To serve, cover the steak with sauce.

* Mexican ingredients may be found in local bodegas.

Chilean Sea Bass in a Veracruzana sauce (Robalo a la Veracruzana)

Marinate for 30 minutes 3 lb. filet Chilean sea bass or any white fish in a mixture of 5 T ground black pepper, 4 chopped garlic cloves, 1 cup tequila and 2 cilantro sprigs chopped

Veracruzana sauce

Heat 3 T extra virgin olive oil in a pan, add 1 onion chopped, 4 garlic cloves chopped, and sauté for 2 minutes. Add 12 plum tomatos roasted and pureed or a 35 oz. can of whole Italian plum tomatos, 1 T capers, 10 green olives pitted, 1 t. dried oregano, 3 bay leaves, 1 pickled jalapeno chopped and 1 T of its juice, 3 T chicken stock. Cook until it starts to thicken, then add 1 poblano pepper roasted, peeled, seeded and julienned, 1 red bell pepper peeled, seeded and julienned and salt and pepper to taste and cook one minute.

Grill fish 2 to 3 minutes each side, place fish in casserole and cover with the sauce, place in a preheated 450 degree oven for 10 minutes. Serve garnished with sliced lemon.



Juan with a portrait of his parents Photo by Missy Cohen

CALENDAR OF SELECTED EVENTS

- 4/8 MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHAMBER SINFONIA.** The entire concert will be performed without a conductor in collaboration with members of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Manhattan School of Music Greenfield Hall, 120 Claremont Ave., 8 pm. Free. Call 917-493-4428 for info.
- 4/9 Family Bike Fest.** Join Bike New York for a day of fun, sponsored by the Riverside Park Fund & NYC Dept. of Parks. A Bike Rodeo for Children, Helmet Safety station, Mike Clinic. Riverside Park 70th St. Pier Plaza, 1-4 pm.
- 4/9 Josquin and Gombert.** The Tallis Scholars, conducted by Peter Phillips, return to Riverside Church for a program of Franco-Flemish masterworks, including des Prez, Gombert, Byrd, Compere, de Monte, de Lassus. Riverside Church, copresented by Music and Riverside and Columbia University. Call 212.854.1633 for ticket information.
- 4/10 Riffs and Tales, Children's Concert.** Michael Smith, piano; Christian Biegai, saxophone; Steve Doyle, bass with music by Duke Ellington. Bloomingdale School of Music, 323 W. 108th St., 1 pm. Free concert.
- 4/11 What's in it for Me? A Selfish Guide to Nature's Conservation.** Don J. Melnick, Executive Director, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC); Distinguished Professor of Conservation Biology, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University. Columbia Miller Theater. 3 Spring Lectures. 4/18 Why Does It Matter; 4/25 How Do We Fix It? 8 pm. Call 212.854.1633 for more information and to order tickets.
- 4/11 UPSTARTS! Concert Jazz Bank,** Manhattan School of Music Justin DiCiaccia, conductor. Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola; Jazz at Lincoln Center Time Warner Building, Broadway at 60th St., 5th Floor. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$15. For information call 212.258.9595.
- 4/13 8th Annual Straus Park Commemorative Celebration.** Vento Brasileiro (Brazilian Jazz and Bossa Nova, with Suzy Schwartz. 5:30-7:30 pm. Rain date 4/14
- 4/16 Afghan Tales.** This multi-media extravaganza features Afghan writer **Idries Shah's** adaptations of tales from Middle Eastern and Central Asian oral tradition to enchant and amaze. Ages 5 and up. Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theater, 11 am. Call 212.864.5400 for info.
- 4/16 Breaking the Code:** Spotlight on Symbolism. Tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine's architecture to unravel the many layers of symbolism embedded. Led by Tom Fedorek, Cathedral GLuide. \$10, \$8 student/senior. 12:45 pm.
- 4/17 Meet the Birds.** Live raptor demonstrations at 1 and 2:30 pm, guided family bird walks at 2 and 3 pm, other activities from 1-4 pm. Free but call 212.870.3070 to register. Bring empty, clean cardboard beverage cartons for kids to make bird feeders to take home. Riverside Park Fund sponsors this at Bird Sanctuary, RSD Park at 116th and 120th St.
- 4/17 Trio Concert.** Sophie Arbuckle, violin, Teresa Kubiak, cello, Maxim Pakhomoy, piano play Prokofiev, Chopin, Schubert. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W 107, 5 pm. Free. Call 212.864.7752 for more information.
- 4/20 The Last Time I Saw Paris.** Coming of age of French song with works by Rouseel, Poulenc, d'Ollone, Auric, Milhaud, Weill, and Trenet. NY Festival of Song artists. Merkin Concert Hall, 129 W 67 St. 8 pm. Call 212.501.3330 for ticket information.
- 4/23 The Magic Horse.** Soviet Union's first animated feature film is extraordinary classic is based on a Russian folk tale about a boy who befriends a magical horse. A rare look at one of the great examples of the Russian animation tradition. Ages 5 and up. . Leonard Nimoy Theater, 11 am and 2 pm. Call 212.864.5400 for ticket information.
- 4/26 A Celebration of Greek Mythology for Children.** Bloomingdale Library, 150 W 100 St. 4 pm. Program tells of Demeter, the earth goddess and her beautiful daughter Persephone. Getchie Argetsinger brings this favorite tale to life in a traditional storytelling performance. She invites children to act out the legend, under her direction and narration. Recommended for children ages 5 to 12. This program is part of the Library's Hellenic Festival, made possible by a grant from the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation. Call 212.222.8030 for more information.
- 4/29 Clueless, Films 4 Teens.** Film stars Alicia Silverstone, Paul Rudd, Brittany Murphy. Bloomingdale Library, 150 W 100 St. 4 pm. Ages 12-18. Free. Call 212.222.8030 for more information.
- 4/29 Music and Dance of Veracruz, Mexico.** Quetzalli (12 dancers and four musicians), directed by Hugo Betancourt, showcases regional dances of Mexico, particularly those of Veracruz with its strong Spanish heritage and African traditions. This popular Mexican popular folkloric company has toured the world since its formation in 1985. Presented by World Music Institute. Symphony Space Peter Jay Sharp Theatre, 8 pm. Call 212.864.5400 for information.

- 4/30 Poetry Place.** Meet at 103rd St. & Riverside Drive Island for poetry readings. Bring your poems or just come and listen to the choices of others. All ages are welcome. Sponsored by the RSDPark Fund. Some chairs available, or bring your own chair or blanket. 2 pm. If rain, meet in 310 RSD lobby.
- 5/1 Hippo Playground Spring Fair.** Jumping castle, pony rides, petting zoo, a maze, face painting and more. Hippo Playground at 91st St. in RSD Park. To help with the event, call Riverside Park Fund at 212.870.3070. 10 am to 4 pm.
- 5/1 Eastman Chamber Music Society.** Program features Beethoven, Dring and Brahms. St. James Chapel of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 3 pm. Free, but contributions welcome. Call 212.316.7540 for info.
- 5/1 Columbia University Film Festival.** Screening of 2005 thesis short films from the graduate Film Division of Columbia University's School of the Arts. Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theater, 5:30 and 8 pm. Also 5/2, 5/4, 5/5 at the same times. Call 212.864.5400 for ticket information.
- 5/1 Harpsichord Concert.** Natsuko Uemura plays Louis Couperin, Jacques Duphly. Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W 107, 5 pm. Free. Call 212.864.7752 for more information.
- 5/3 Learn to Play Chess,** with Jonathan Turbin. Perfect your skills or learn to play. No previous experience necessary. Ages 12-18. Morningside Heights Library at 2900 Bwy. 4 pm. Continues through 6/14. Call 212.864.2530 for info.
- 5/4 In the Company of Cheerful Ladies.** Author Alexander McCall Smith discusses his popular The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, and this brand-new sixth book, with Malachy McCourt. Leonard NimoyThalia Theater, 7 pm. Call 212.864.5400 for ticket information.
- 5/7 Urban Oasis:** Spotlight on the Gardens and Grounds of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Explore the Cathedral and its gardens. Rain or shine led by Cathedral Guide, Lee Caron. \$10, \$8 student/senior. 12:45 pm.
- 5/7 Swing a Ring Day for Fun and Fitness.** Learn to swing on Riverside Park's traveling rings, the only set outside of Santa Monica, California. Free ring swinging demonstrations and individual instruction by experts. Artist and sand sculptor Matt Long hosts a free sand sculpting workshop. Live music and refreshments provided by the Hudson Beach Café. RSD Park at 105th St. 1 to 4 pm. Sponsored by NYC Parks & Recreation, Riverside Park Fund and Shaw Guides, Inc.
- 5/12 Highlights in Jazz:** Dick Hyman, Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, Marcus Belgrave and Special Guest Peter Cincotti present Keepers of the Flame. Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers St. 8 pm. Tickets \$27.50 or \$25 for students. Tickets at Box office or call 212.220.1460.
- 5/14 Photography and Art in Straus Park.** 11 am to 3 pm. Sponsored by Friends of Straus Park. Rain date 5/15.
- 5/14 W. 102-103 Block Association Spring Yard Sale.** Sell your castoffs, crafts, books, CDs, toys and games. For details to to w102-103blockassn.org or call 212.663.6748.
- 5/14 Black Rock Coalition: Ray Rocks** explores the music of Ray Charles. Symphony Space Peter Jay Sharp Theatre, 8 pm. Call 212.864.5400 for ticket information.
- 5/15 Broadway Bach Ensemble,** Michael Tietz, conductor. Beethoven's Symphony #3. Broadway Presbyterian Church, 114th St. 4 pm. Free. 914.654.1062 for more information.
- 5/19 Encore!** New Amsterdam Singers perform favorites from their past seasons including their Baltic tour. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lex. Ave. at 88th St., 8 pm. Tickets \$20. Call Amy Harrison at 212.842.1511 for more information.
- 5/21 Fifth Annual Bloomingdale Performathon.** Over 100 student performers. 9 am.– 6 pm. Bloomingdale School of Music, 323 W. 108th St. Free.
- 5/21 Annual Blessing of the Bicycles.** All cyclists, bike messengers, racers, commuters, children, are invited to this service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to kick off a safe cycling season. 9:30 am.
- 5/30 NY Philharmonic Free Memorial Day Concert.** Xian Zhang conducts the annual concert at 8 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.
- 6/4 Family Festival** at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine with story-telling, music, weaving, brass rubbings, floral wreath making. Free. Enter at 111th St. Drive. Pulpit Green or Synod Hall in case of rain. 12-3 pm.
- 6/8 Cabaret Evening in Riverside Park** with John Pizzarelli, guitarist and vocalist. Sponsored by the Riverside Park Fund. Call 212.870.3070 for more information
- 6/13 Curbside Café.** Join your neighbors on 104th Street near 905 West End for early-evening beverages, light food, and conversation. 6-8 pm. Sponsored by West 104th St. Block Association
- 6/14 Evening Concert in the Park.** Straus Park, Bwy and 106th St. Sponsored by Friends of Straus Park. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Rain date 6/16.
- 9/24 16th Annual W 104th St. Yard Sale. 10 am to 5 pm. Rain date 9/25.**

Disputes at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

By Alex Grannis

Several residents of our block have inquired about the dispute over the land at the Cathedral. Some years ago the Cathedral proposed leasing their undeveloped land to developers. Some community groups supported the plan and other community groups opposed it. At present there are no proposals pending. A little history helps to explain the deadlock. The Cathedral occupies an extensive piece of land bordered by 110 and 113th St, and Amsterdam and Morningside Drive. The Cathedral management needs money to maintain their many buildings and continue their community work. In order to raise money the Board at the Cathedral decided to make use of some of the undeveloped land, specifically the northern section running along 113th St. where there is now a parking lot and a large tin shed and the southeast corner, which is mainly grass, bushes and trees.

Opponents of the building plan were concerned that the buildings would obstruct views of the Cathedral. Supporters of the building plan stated that guidelines about the placement, height and size of

the buildings would prevent any loss of views of the Cathedral. Further they stated, the projects, if built, would provide millions of dollars to support the Cathedral and its community activities. Varied land use, they also point out, would increase activity along Morningside Drive, which is often deserted.

In 2003 the Landmarks Preservation Committee designated landmark status for all of the buildings on the Cathedral property, but excluded two parcels of land to allow limited development. Then the City Council, which usually votes with the Landmark Commission, voted to overturn the Landmark Preservation designation. As a result neither the land nor the buildings at the Cathedral have landmark designation. And the Cathedral is free to pursue plans if they so desire.

For those who are interested in more information there is a useful website: www.startsandfits.com/divinehtml. This website also has links to all the community groups involved in the dispute.

Neighborhood Services for Hire

Private coaching sessions to help actors to develop effective performances; to evaluate and help with auditions, and more; gentle and fun. Sessions are approximately one hour each, preferably during the day or early evening. Member of AEA, SAG, AFTRA with 37 years of acting, teaching and directing experience. Contact Michael Graves at 212.663.5133.

Tutoring. Block resident Allen Baird will tutor your child and make a real difference. NYS teacher Special Education certificate, plus experience as a Kaplan College Board trainer. Call 212.663.2007 or allenjanbaird@hotmail.com.

Child care. Caring, outgoing, teenager who loves kids of any age; has experience and references. Decent rates and flexible hours. Energetic, willing to have fun and do interesting activities with your child! Sydney Watnick at 212.666.8022.

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; 212.280.819

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

Multi-skilled, very personable young woman with an excellent reference from block board member seeks job as home attendant or personal assistant with all manner of business or projects. Call Vicky at 1-973-280-4814

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: Painting and cleaning-apartments, houses, offices. Tel: 718.961.4542. email: JPNYCguy@earthlink.net.

Cat sitter. Responsible, experienced. Comes twice a day and pets, feeds, and plays with your cat. References available. Charges \$5 a day. Lydia, age 15, 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. Harininiyoga, block resident. 917.968.6457.

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

Piano teacher. Doctorate candidate; Manhattan School of Music grad; experienced faculty member; beginners of all ages welcome. Judy, 212.665.7814.

Dues 2nd Quarter 4/05 – 6/05

Please allocate my contribution to:

Security Beautification Social Newsletter Board Decision

Amount of check: _____

(Suggested amount: \$30 per quarter or \$120 per year)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

E-mail Address _____

(For internal use only. The Block Association 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: _____ or drop off at

Sid Herzfeld, 895 WEA., Apt. 5D, NY NY 10025 315 RSD: Tantleff, Apt 6C, 320 RSD: Elwert, Apt 9D

905 WEA: Bryan, Apt 141, 309 W. 104: Duhan, Apt 8C