

West 104th Street

MAY 2019

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Visionary in Exile

The neighborhood legacy of artist and mystic Nicholas Roerich By Jeff Howitt

When the Russian painter-writer-mystic Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947) arrived in New York in 1920, he found a ready audience for his teachings, which synthesized Eastern wisdom and Western knowledge, philosophy and science, subjectivity and objectivity, and other apparent opposites or seeming contradictions that obscure an underlying unity. Thanks to his loyal followers, and the surging popularity of his paintings with today's Russian



Roerich Museum

oligarchs, his artistic and spiritual presence lingers on at the Nicholas Roerich Museum on West 107th Street a few steps from Riverside Drive.

Over the course of his life, Roerich completed more than 6,000 paintings, numerous books, and many years of extensive archeological expeditions in Central Asia and Russia. To protect artistic and cultural treasures in war and peace, he launched an international campaign that earned

him nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1929, 1932, and 1935 and also resulted in the Roerich Pact—perhaps his greatest legacy—which was signed by the United States and twenty other nations of the Pan American Union in 1935.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, to an influential upper-middle class family firmly rooted in the city's intellectual and artistic communities, Roerich enjoyed a childhood that lay the foundation for a life rich in achievement. After simultaneously attending St. Petersburg University in law and the Academy of Arts, he became a designer of theatrical scenery and costumes. The designs for Sergei Diaghilev's scan-

continued on page 3

30 and Counting...

West 104th Street mounts 30th consecutive annual Yard Sale By Jeff Howitt

On September 21, the block will pass a milestone reached by few New York communities when the Block Association mounts the Annual West 104th Street Yard Sale for the thirtieth consecutive year. Local residents will set up some 60 stalls on the curbsides from West End Avenue to Riverside Drive, where they will display their second-hand treasures and welcome bids from some 1,500 bargain hunters.

In addition to digging through mounds of intriguing merchandise, you can enjoy a delicious snack, listen to live music played by seasoned New York musicians, and take a chance on a raffle, which awarded \$2,025.50 to last year's winner. For more great deals, you can visit the following stands sponsored by our Block Association:

Bake Sale, where you can purchase a tasty snack to fuel your bargain hunting or a delicious dessert for your evening dinner.

Book Sale, where you can browse a large selection, including novels, plays, poetry, history, biography, children's books, cookbooks, atlases, dictionaries, and CDs.

Silent Auction, where you can place bids on gift certificates for local restaurants and stores, as well as on antiques, vintage collectibles, artwork, theater tickets, services (piano lessons, career counseling, etc.), and household items in their original boxes.

What-A-Bargain, where you can lose yourself in piles of

continued on page 5

Attention Yard Sale Vendors: Act Now and Save 20%

If you are a block resident and act now, you can earn a 20% discount on a vending space at our Yard Sale. Simply email Gary Waskow your space reservation by June 30 at yardsale.104@gmail.com and receive the special rate of \$40 on a 10 x 10 foot space. We will send you confirmation and a contract form to be completed by August 1. The standard rates are \$50 for block residents and \$60 for nonresidents.

If you need more information, please feel free to contact Gary at yardsale.104@gmail.com.

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Contributors to the May Issue: Barbara Boynton, Jeff Howitt, Peter Littlewood, Hanna Rubin (editor), Yvonne Wong, Steve Zirinsky.
 Newsletter designer: Brian Hajjar.

W 104 ST BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT


April 2019

Opening Balance	\$26,880.50
Income	\$2152.00
Dues.....	1720.00
Newsletter ads	432.00
Expenses	2385.82
Guard service	2385.82
Closing Balance	\$26,646.18

DO YOU GET "BLOCK BYTES"?

Sign up by going onto our website: www.bloomingdale.org. This is an email with links for upcoming events, local block news, exclusive block-only offers and more.

Check it out!



Rick Wohlfarth
 rick@wohlfarth.com
 Office 212.666.1600, x10
 Cell 917.882.0815
 Maine 207.729.9332
 Fax 212.662.5865

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 NEWYORK, NY 10025
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West 104th Street Block Association Board

President Steven Zirinsky	315 RSD	212.866.6732
VP Jeff Howitt	315 RSD	212.866.5569
Treasurer Barbara Boynton	905 WEA	212.864.1011
Secretary Larry Stern	315 RSD	212.794.2288

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Barbara Bryan	315 RSD	212.864.5663
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Nancy Lian	320 RSD	212.316.6112
Peter Littlewood	320 RSD	612.501.6919
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Martin Mann	309 W 104	212.721.6341
Lynn Max	315 RSD	212.666.3129
Hanna Rubin	315 RSD	212.865.4579
Gary Waskow	320 RSD	212.932.9082
Emeritus Sid Herzfeld	895 WEA	212.749.0085



Visionary in Exile continued from page 1

dalous 1913 Ballet Russes production of “The Rite of Spring,” which introduced Stravinsky’s score and Nijinsky’s choreography, were among his best known works.

As the Great War raged in Europe and the Russian Revolution rent Roerich’s homeland, he sought refuge in Finland, Stockholm, London, and Chicago before landing in New York, which would serve as the base for his American operations. In the 1920s, Roerich and his wife, Helena, founded several institutes and societies to promote art, spirituality, civic activism, and world peace. They conducted an extensive Asian Expedition in 1925-1929 and a Manchurian expedition in 1936-1937. Roerich died in 1947 in Kullu, India, in the foothills of the Himalayas.

THE MASTER APARTMENTS

To prepare for your visit to the Roerich Museum, stroll over to Riverside Drive and West 103rd Street to admire the Master Apartments built in 1928-1929. Commissioned by Roerich’s supporters, this Art Deco masterpiece expresses the energy, ideals, ambition, and world-changing aspirations of the movement he spearheaded. From its conception, the Master Apartments strove to fulfill Roerich’s ideal of harmonizing the arts and daily life. Its lower three floors originally housed the Roerich Museum, as well as an international arts center and a school for the fine and performing arts. The upper twenty-five floors were designed as an apartment hotel supplying amenities such as maid service, a restaurant, and pantries with refrigeration.

When it opened in October 1929, the Master was the tallest building on Riverside Drive and the first New York skyscraper with corner windows. Viewed from the opposite side of the street, it directs the eye to surface ornamentation and historically inspired detailing. Viewed from West End Avenue or Riverside Park, it thrusts the eye upward to the ornamental cap on the tower. It achieves this remarkable vertical emphasis through a combination of architectural elements including: variations in brick color from dark at the base to light at the tower; rhythmic configurations of windows and patterned brickwork creating a series of wide and narrow vertical strips of bare façade; and a massed top with irregular, faceted setbacks creating a tapered profile. Roerich chose to forgo the cornerstone-laying ceremony in favor of a Tibetan expedition, though he maintained an apartment in the building.

SUBLIME LANDSCAPES AND LUMINOUS REVELATIONS

Opening at the beginning of the Great Depression, the Mu-

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Museum on West 107th St.

Celebrating the human capacity for awe, most of the paintings feature Himalayan or other huge mountains, frequently with faceted peaks that recall the top of the Master Apartments. Depicting the terrain and architecture of Russia, Scandinavia, New Mexico, Maine, Central Asia, and India, they render frozen moments in time or events from myths, legends, and history, often including figures in period or ethnic garb. The collection includes a striking portrait of Helena Roerich, as well as self-portraits of Nicholas in Asian costumes.

In general, Roerich portrays an idealized view of the world with clearly defined lines, fields of brilliant saturated color, strong use of patterns, and a flat picture surface with rudimentary rendering of perspective, equal detail and color tones in the foreground and background, and minimal atmospheric effects. Although his paintings generally convey a serene, sometimes even idyllic, mood, “The Last Angel” (1912) depicts an erect, impassive angel holding a spear amid billowing smoke and fire wreaking havoc on a population. In light of the impending First World War and Bolshevik Revolution, the painting seems to foresee the violent disruption to befall Roerich’s native county, which would soon reject him and his quest for spiritual values.

Today, however, the Museum evinces renewed enthusiasm for Roerich among Russians, who account for some two-thirds of its visitors. On walls and shelves are Russian-language counterparts for English-language signs, labels, captions, pamphlets, and publications. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the rise of oligarchs, the art market has seen interest in Roerich’s work skyrocket beyond the devotees to Roerich’s mysticism. In 2013, a London auction houses sold his “Madonna Laboris” for 7.9 million pounds (more than \$12 million).

Tuesday through Sunday, the Museum, which charges no admission, opens at noon. It closes at 5:00 pm on weekends and at 4:00 pm during the week. The museum presents a full schedule of concerts and poetry readings, which are free for those who register. To learn more about the Museum and Nicholas Roerich, check out the Museum’s website: www.roerich.org. For general information, you may call 212-864-7752 during operating hours.

COMMONLY REQUESTED COMPOUNDING IDEAS

- Boric Acid Suppositories
- Hydrocortisone Suppositories
- Ibuprofen Suppositories 100mg / 200mg
- Progesterone Suppositories
- Hyaluronic Suppositories for vaginal dryness
- Hormone Creams for men and women
- Pain Creams
- Nipple Ointment for breastfeeding
- Hydroquinone 6% Fading Cream
- T3 - T4 Thyroid Hormone Capsules
- Nitroglycerin .2% Ointment for Anal Fissure
- Nifedipine 2% Ointment
- Diltiazem 2% Ointment

***Topical Creams (in Lipoderm Base) for nausea, vomiting, pain, fever for adults and children
We can formulate or reduce dosages on commercially available tablets or capsules.
We can add different flavors to medication.
Customized Medication for your pets.

SUBA PHARMACY COMPOUNDING & NUTRITION CENTER

BASHIR A. SUBA RPh

2721 BROADWAY * NEW YORK, NY 10025

Ph: 212.866.6700 * Fax: 212.866.7129

Email: subapharm@yahoo.com

Spring...Has Sprung



The 1,500 double-petaled “tulips on fire” that the Block Association planted on December 1 made a blaze of color in late April and early May, despite the rainy weather.



30 and Counting... continued from page 1

pre-owned bargains including jewelry, knick-knacks, kitchenware, toys, unopened personal care products, embroidery kits, and more priced from \$1 to \$20.

Through your generosity, you and your neighbors make possible this annual celebration of our community. If you have spare items or time, you can start to prepare for this event:

Consider booking a vendor stall where you can sell your neglected treasures and relieve apartment clutter (see box on Page 1).

Contemplate new and exciting Bake Sale creations, including cookies, cakes, pies, snacks, and finger foods.

Cull your personal library for titles that would delight neighbors browsing the tables at the Book Sale.

Gather items from your closets, drawers, and shelves for donation to the Silent Auction and What-A-Bargain.

Volunteer to help set up, break down, or staff tables for baked goods, books, bargains, auction items, or raffle tickets.

In the coming weeks, look for flyers delivered to your door that will provide details on donating and participating. Most importantly, prepare for a great day of celebrating our community and helping keep our neighborhood safe, well-maintained, and welcoming.

Do you love fresh fruits and vegetables? Join our farm share group and get fresh, delicious produce every week.



Get organic veggies, eggs, flowers and low-spray fruit from Garden of Eve farm on LI every Wed. at Anshe Chesed – 100th & WE. Join our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) group and enjoy great produce from June to November.

First pick-up June 13th – don't delay
Go to <https://anshechesedcsa.com/>

Artist and Teacher Fred Wong Celebrates a Milestone

Longtime block resident and noted watercolorist Fred Wong celebrated his 90th birthday this May. An influential teacher as well as an award-winning painter, Wong's has a subtle, evocative approach to light and landscape, and has influenced the many painters who have studied under him at the Art Stu-

dent League, where he has taught since 1986. He has also taught at Pratt Institute and at Hofstra University, and leads en plein air classes in Central Park every summer. Winner of the American Watercolor Society's prestigious Gold Medal in 2013, Wong continues to exhibit as well as instruct.



FREE EVENT!

Adult Students in Recital

Post performance discussion: *The benefits of music study for adults*

Thursday, June 6th
7:00 p.m.



Wine & cheese reception to follow in our backyard!

Kindly RSVP to events@bsmny.org

323 W 108th Street
212 663 6021 | www.bsmny.org



Welcome to New Board Member

Peter Littlewood, a resident of 320 Riverside Drive, has joined the board of the West 104th Street Block Association. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, Peter and his wife, Tracie Dellinger, moved to New York City in 2016, where Peter works at Ameriprise Financial. The couple soon fell in love with the Upper West Side and moved to West 104th Street in 2018. "We really like the two parks and the neighborhood feel, while still being close to the bustle of midtown and downtown," he says. Among their favorite neighborhood activities are spending time in the nearby parks birding or just reading on a bench. They love all that the city has to offer, particularly the arts—theater, music and dance—and city history. Peter hopes to help the Block Association launch some new activities, and has already led the block's first birding expedition in Riverside Park (see page 7). The Block Association is pleased to welcome him aboard!



Meet Your (Avian) Neighbors!

Block Association Hosts Birding Walk

Despite less-than-ideal weather and birding conditions—overcast with rain threatening—on April 28 the West 104th Street Block Association held its first bird-watching excursion. Eleven block residents, led by new Block Association board member Peter Littlewood, roamed nearby sites in Riverside Park to observe some common species and a few surprise avian visitors.

The group spotted some 18 different species during its morning walk. These included House Sparrows, American Robins, Northern Cardinals, and Blue Jays, all common in Riverside Park. Near the start of the walk, the group spotted Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a Downy Woodpecker and later found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker very high in an oak tree. Flying high over the park was also a Double-crested Cormorant and several Gulls.



Blue Jay



cardinal



mourning dove

Later in the walk, the group spotted a Gray Catbird, and a dozen or so European Starlings. Getting closer to the Forever Wild bird sanctuary, some thought they saw a hummingbird at the flowers near the entrance from 116th Street. Walking back through the bird sanctuary, a good spot to see warblers, wrens, and other migrants, the group saw White-throated Sparrows, normally a ubiquitous species,

near the drip tossing leaves around looking for food. Among the sparrows, was an Ovenbird. Although it looks like a thrush with a yellow-orange Mohawk, it is actually a warbler, one of the few that are often found on the ground. There were also Yellow-rumped Warblers flying high in the trees.

Finally, as the group drew close to West 104th Street, they found some Mourning Doves not far from home base.

LOCAL BIRDING RESOURCES

New York City Audubon: Riverside walks start at 120th Street on July 12th and September 13th.

www.nycaudubon.org/local-trips-and-classes

Audubon Birds of Central Park. Good online guide for the birds you are likely to see in New York City. www.audubon.org/news/the-insiders-guide-birding-central-park-new-york-city.

Merlin Bird ID. With this app, you can upload photos and with a high degree of accuracy Merlin will tell you what the bird is.

www.merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/

Block Annual Meeting Highlights West 104th Street Architecture

The West 104th Street Block Association held its annual meeting on March 19th in the newly renovated Marseilles Common Room to elect its board of directors and report on its finances. About 40 block residents attended. Block president Steve Zirinsky introduced guest speakers Gil Tauber and Jim Mackin from the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group (www.upperwestsidehistory.org), who presented slides and a talk on the block's architecture. The block is notable for the diversity of styles on either side of the street, and for boasting two buildings—895 West End Avenue and 905 West End Avenue—designed by Gaetan Ajello, one of the leading architects working on the Upper West Side in the early 20th Century.

Where on this block?



The first person to send Steve Zirinsky an email with the correct location of the architectural detail will win one of the Block Association's new totes! Email Steve at Steve@Zirinskyarch.com.



Jesse I Berger, MBA
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
The Lower-Stress BrokerSM



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We fully support Fair Housing, both in the spirit and the letter of the law.

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BLOOMINGDALE AGING IN PLACE (BaiP) Bloominplace.org
 BaiP is an intergenerational volunteer network of neighbors working to help older residents to continue living at home safely and comfortably. BaiP sponsors social and cultural activities, provides educational tools, and a helping hand for those in need through its Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) program. The latter takes the form of providing help going places, running errands, light shopping, accompaniment at home or outdoors, and information. If you want to contact N2N for this kind of assistance, or to talk about volunteering, e-mail: N2N@bloominplace.org, or call: 212-842-8831 to leave a message with your contact information. Either way, a BaiP member will respond promptly.

COMPUTER CONSULTANT/PC DOCTOR
 Computers repaired, maintained, viruses removed, junk mail controlled. Advice to repair or buy. I do Windows!
 Contact Greg Williams, block resident at 212-749-2398, 917-771-2929, or prosolutions@stny.rr.com,

MATHEMATICS TUTORING
 Former Bronx HS of Science teacher
 SAT, SHSAT, GRE, LSAT logic games
 Henry 212-666-0396

QUICKBOOKS CONSULTANT/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER
 Accounting, business and personal finances, home and file organization. Contact Ellen Curtis at 212-749-2398, 607-829-5631, or EC4QBooks@aol.com.

PET SITTING
 Experienced, responsible, caring pet sitter. I take care of your pets like they are my own! Dogs, cats, small animals, birds, reptiles, fish. Very reasonable rates. Call Tova at 212-662-5143 or email tgetoff@gmail.com.

WRITER/EDITOR
 Professional writer & Faulkner finalist available for critiques, editing & as a writing tutor.
 Contact Pat at: 212-615-6927

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE PUBLICIZED FREE!
 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 mail/deliver this information to Hanna Rubin 315 RSD or send to Hanna.Rubin@verizon.net
 For our records: Your name and mailing address
 For publication: Your name, contact method (phone or email address), description of your service.

The block association board meets once a month.
 We enjoy having residents attend the meetings.
 Please let us know if you would like to attend one and we will send you an invitation.
 steve@zirinskyarch.com

Call for Safe Escort Home With Block Guard
 If you're ever coming home at night and you'd like to have an escort, please don't hesitate to call Osbourne Thomas, our security guard. He has a special phone for these times, and he will come to meet you either on West End Avenue or Riverside Drive and walk with you to your home.
Security Guard Phone Number:
347-723-1517

2019 2nd Quarter Dues:

Please allocate my contribution to: _____ Amount of check: _____
 Security Beautification Social Newsletter Board Decision (Suggested amt: \$40/quarter or \$160/year)
 Name _____
 Address _____ Apt. No. _____
 E-mail Address _____ Phone _____
 (For internal use only. The Block Assn. 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.
 Please send to our treasurer: Barbara Boynton: 905 WEA, #71, NY, NY 10025 or leave with one of the following:
 M. Mann: 309 W. 104, Apt 3A G. Waskow: 320 RSD, Apt. 8G
 J. Howitt: 315 RSD, Apt. 8C

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Museum on West 107th St.

Celebrating the human capacity for awe, most of the paintings feature Himalayan or other huge mountains, frequently with faceted peaks that recall the top of the Master Apartments. Depicting the terrain and architecture of Russia, Scandinavia, New Mexico, Maine, Central Asia, and India, they render frozen moments in time or events from myths, legends, and history, often including figures in period or ethnic garb. The collection includes a striking portrait of Helena Roerich, as well as self-portraits of Nicholas in Asian costumes.

In general, Roerich portrays an idealized view of the world with clearly defined lines, fields of brilliant saturated color, strong use of patterns, and a flat picture surface with rudimentary rendering of perspective, equal detail and color tones in the foreground and background, and minimal atmospheric effects. Although his paintings generally convey a serene, sometimes even idyllic, mood, “The Last Angel” (1912) depicts an erect, impassive angel holding a spear amid billowing smoke and fire wreaking havoc on a population. In light of the impending First World War and Bolshevik Revolution, the painting seems to foresee the violent disruption to befall Roerich’s native county, which would soon reject him and his quest for spiritual values.

Today, however, the Museum evinces renewed enthusiasm for Roerich among Russians, who account for some two-thirds of its visitors. On walls and shelves are Russian-language counterparts for English-language signs, labels, captions, pamphlets, and publications. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the rise of oligarchs, the art market has seen interest in Roerich’s work skyrocket beyond the devotees to Roerich’s mysticism. In 2013, a London auction houses sold his “Madonna Laboris” for 7.9 million pounds (more than \$12 million).

Tuesday through Sunday, the Museum, which charges no admission, opens at noon. It closes at 5:00 pm on weekends and at 4:00 pm during the week. The museum presents a full schedule of concerts and poetry readings, which are free for those who register. To learn more about the Museum and Nicholas Roerich, check out the Museum’s website: www.roerich.org. For general information, you may call 212-864-7752 during operating hours.

COMMONLY REQUESTED COMPOUNDING IDEAS

- Boric Acid Suppositories
- Hydrocortisone Suppositories
- Ibuprofen Suppositories 100mg / 200mg
- Progesterone Suppositories
- Hyaluronic Suppositories for vaginal dryness
- Hormone Creams for men and women
- Pain Creams
- Nipple Ointment for breastfeeding
- Hydroquinone 6% Fading Cream
- T3 - T4 Thyroid Hormone Capsules
- Nitroglycerin .2% Ointment for Anal Fissure
- Nifedipine 2% Ointment
- Diltiazem 2% Ointment

***Topical Creams (in Lipoderm Base) for nausea, vomiting, pain, fever for adults and children
We can formulate or reduce dosages on commercially available tablets or capsules.
We can add different flavors to medication.
Customized Medication for your pets.

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Spring...Has Sprung



The 1,500 double-petaled “tulips on fire” that the Block Association planted on December 1 made a blaze of color in late April and early May, despite the rainy weather.



30 and Counting... continued from page 1

pre-owned bargains including jewelry, knick-knacks, kitchenware, toys, unopened personal care products, embroidery kits, and more priced from \$1 to \$20.

Through your generosity, you and your neighbors make possible this annual celebration of our community. If you have spare items or time, you can start to prepare for this event:

Consider booking a vendor stall where you can sell your neglected treasures and relieve apartment clutter (see box on Page 1).

Contemplate new and exciting Bake Sale creations, including cookies, cakes, pies, snacks, and finger foods.

Cull your personal library for titles that would delight neighbors browsing the tables at the Book Sale.

Gather items from your closets, drawers, and shelves for donation to the Silent Auction and What-A-Bargain.

Volunteer to help set up, break down, or staff tables for baked goods, books, bargains, auction items, or raffle tickets.

In the coming weeks, look for flyers delivered to your door that will provide details on donating and participating. Most importantly, prepare for a great day of celebrating our community and helping keep our neighborhood safe, well-maintained, and welcoming.

Do you love fresh fruits and vegetables? Join our farm share group and get fresh, delicious produce every week.



Get organic veggies, eggs, flowers and low-spray fruit from Garden of Eve farm on LI every Wed. at Anshe Chesed – 100th & WE. Join our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) group and enjoy great produce from June to November.

First pick-up June 13th – don't delay
Go to <https://anschechesedcsa.com/>

Artist and Teacher Fred Wong Celebrates a Milestone

Longtime block resident and noted watercolorist Fred Wong celebrated his 90th birthday this May. An influential teacher as well as an award-winning painter, Wong's has a subtle, evocative approach to light and landscape, and has influenced the many painters who have studied under him at the Art Stu-

dent League, where he has taught since 1986. He has also taught at Pratt Institute and at Hofstra University, and leads en plein air classes in Central Park every summer. Winner of the American Watercolor Society's prestigious Gold Medal in 2013, Wong continues to exhibit as well as instruct.



FREE EVENT!

Adult Students in Recital

Post performance discussion: *The benefits of music study for adults*

Thursday, June 6th
7:00 p.m.



Wine & cheese reception to follow in our backyard!

Kindly RSVP to events@bsmny.org



323 W 108th Street
212 663 6021 | www.bsmny.org

Welcome to New Board Member

Peter Littlewood, a resident of 320 Riverside Drive, has joined the board of the West 104th Street Block Association. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, Peter and his wife, Tracie Dellinger, moved to New York City in 2016, where Peter works at Ameriprise Financial. The couple soon fell in love with the Upper West Side and moved to West 104th Street in 2018. "We really like the two parks and the neighborhood feel, while still being close to the bustle of midtown and downtown," he says. Among their favorite neighborhood activities are spending time in the nearby parks birding or just reading on a bench. They love all that the city has to offer, particularly the arts—theater, music and dance—and city history. Peter hopes to help the Block Association launch some new activities, and has already led the block's first birding expedition in Riverside Park (see page 7). The Block Association is pleased to welcome him aboard!



Meet Your (Avian) Neighbors!

Block Association Hosts Birding Walk

Despite less-than-ideal weather and birding conditions—overcast with rain threatening—on April 28 the West 104th Street Block Association held its first bird-watching excursion. Eleven block residents, led by new Block Association board member Peter Littlewood, roamed nearby sites in Riverside Park to observe some common species and a few surprise avian visitors.

The group spotted some 18 different species during its morning walk. These included House Sparrows, American Robins, Northern Cardinals, and Blue Jays, all common in Riverside Park. Near the start of the walk, the group spotted Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a Downy Woodpecker and later found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker very high in an oak tree. Flying high over the park was also a Double-crested Cormorant and several Gulls.



Blue Jay



cardinal



mourning dove

Later in the walk, the group spotted a Gray Catbird, and a dozen or so European Starlings. Getting closer to the Forever Wild bird sanctuary, some thought they saw a hummingbird at the flowers near the entrance from 116th Street. Walking back through the bird sanctuary, a good spot to see warblers, wrens, and other migrants, the group saw White-throated Sparrows, normally a ubiquitous species,

near the drip tossing leaves around looking for food. Among the sparrows, was an Ovenbird. Although it looks like a thrush with a yellow-orange Mohawk, it is actually a warbler, one of the few that are often found on the ground. There were also Yellow-rumped Warblers flying high in the trees.

Finally, as the group drew close to West 104th Street, they found some Mourning Doves not far from home base.

LOCAL BIRDING RESOURCES

New York City Audubon: Riverside walks start at 120th Street on July 12th and September 13th.

www.nycaudubon.org/local-trips-and-classes

Audubon Birds of Central Park. Good online guide for the birds you are likely to see in New York City. www.audubon.org/news/the-insiders-guide-birding-central-park-new-york-city.

Merlin Bird ID. With this app, you can upload photos and with a high degree of accuracy Merlin will tell you what the bird is.

www.merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/

Block Annual Meeting Highlights West 104th Street Architecture

The West 104th Street Block Association held its annual meeting on March 19th in the newly renovated Marseilles Common Room to elect its board of directors and report on its finances. About 40 block residents attended. Block president Steve Zirinsky introduced guest speakers Gil Tauber and Jim Mackin from the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group (www.upperwestsidehistory.org), who presented slides and a talk on the block's architecture. The block is notable for the diversity of styles on either side of the street, and for boasting two buildings—895 West End Avenue and 905 West End Avenue—designed by Gaetan Ajello, one of the leading architects working on the Upper West Side in the early 20th Century.

Where on this block?



The first person to send Steve Zirinsky an email with the correct location of the architectural detail will win one of the Block Association's new totes! Email Steve at Steve@Zirinskyarch.com.



Jesse I Berger, MBA
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker
The Lower-Stress BrokerSM



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BLOOMINGDALE AGING IN

PLACE (BaiP) Bloominplace.org
BAiP is an intergenerational volunteer network of neighbors working to help older residents to continue living at home safely and comfortably. BAiP sponsors social and cultural activities, provides educational tools, and a helping hand for those in need through its Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) program. The latter takes the form of providing help going places, running errands, light shopping, accompaniment at home or outdoors, and information. If you want to contact N2N for this kind of assistance, or to talk about volunteering, e-mail: N2N@bloominplace.org, or call: 212-842-8831 to leave a message with your contact information. Either way, a BAiP member will respond promptly.

**COMPUTER CONSULTANT/
PC DOCTOR**

Computers repaired, maintained, viruses removed, junk mail controlled. Advice to repair or buy. I do Windows!
Contact Greg Williams, block resident at 212-749-2398, 917-771-2929, or prosolutions@stny.rr.com,

MATHEMATICS TUTORING

Former Bronx HS of Science teacher
SAT, SHSAT, GRE, LSAT logic games
Henry 212-666-0396

**QUICKBOOKS CONSULTANT/
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER**

Accounting, business and personal finances, home and file organization. Contact Ellen Curtis at 212-749-2398, 607-829-5631, or EC4QBooks@aol.com.

PET SITTING

Experienced, responsible, caring pet sitter. I take care of your pets like they are my own! Dogs, cats, small animals, birds, reptiles, fish. Very reasonable rates. Call Tova at 212-662-5143 or email tgetoff@gmail.com.

WRITER/EDITOR

Professional writer & Faulkner finalist available for critiques, editing & as a writing tutor.
Contact Pat at: 212-615-6927

**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE
PUBLICIZED FREE!**

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 mail/deliver this information to Hanna Rubin 315 RSD or send to Hanna.Rubin@verizon.net
For our records: Your name and mailing address
For publication: Your name, contact method (phone or email address), description of your service.

The block association board meets once a month.

We enjoy having residents attend the meetings.

Please let us know if you would like to attend one and we will send you an invitation.
steve@zirinskyarch.com

**Call for Safe Escort
Home With Block
Guard**

If you're ever coming home at night and you'd like to have an escort, please don't hesitate to call Osbourne Thomas, our security guard. He has a special phone for these times, and he will come to meet you either on West End Avenue or Riverside Drive and walk with you to your home.

Security Guard Phone Number:

347-723-1517

2019 2nd Quarter Dues:

Please allocate my contribution to: _____ Amount of check: _____
___ Security ___ Beautification ___ Social ___ Newsletter ___ Board Decision (Suggested amt: \$40/quarter or \$160/year)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

(For internal use only. The Block Assn. 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.

Please send to our treasurer: Barbara Boynton: 905 WEA, #71, NY, NY 10025 or leave with one of the following:

M. Mann: 309 W. 104, Apt 3A

G. Waskow: 320 RSD, Apt. 8G

J. Howitt: 315 RSD, Apt. 8C