

West 104th Street

MAY 2020

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

When It's 7pm...

West 104th Street Finds Lots of Ways to Say "Thank You!"

We asked block residents how they are handling the Covid crisis. What did they do at 7 pm to thank the city's health care workers? What has proved helpful during this challenging time? Several wrote about a simple act that made a difference: neighbors who routinely picked up their floor's newspapers in building lobbies and distributed them in front of each door. Others wrote about neighbors who always checked before they went to the grocery store to see if anything was needed. And many singled out the double-fire tulips that the block association planted this past fall, which cheered them whenever they ventured out.



Teresa Elwert and her jingle bells.

The Sound of Many Hands Clapping

We have an almost 2-year-old, and the 7pm cheers are his favorite part of the day. As soon as we finish dinner, he says, "People clapping outside?" When he hears the air horn, he runs to the window. He laughs, jumps up and down, picks out a tambourine or bell or just starts clapping. He waves to our neighbors and yells, "Yay, people." It's heart-meltingly sweet. If he remembers anything from this time, I hope it's this nightly ritual of coming together with our neighbor to celebrate those who are keeping us safe. —Nancy Vitale

At 7 pm, my wife Annie beats a pot with a large metal spoon, and I sound my shofar. What's great is there is a fellow across the street in 315 RSD who sounds a large white conch shell, and the two of us bounce sounds back and forth. You gotta love this community. —Jesse Berger

At 7 PM, I jangle a cluster of jingle bells from my 9th floor apartment window.

I take a long walk every day. I prefer to walk in bad weather —rainy, cold, cloudy—because very few people are in Riverside Park. I also walk once a week with a friend in South Carolina: I call her and we describe our walks to each other. She's usually on the beach so I get to "be there" with her! Because I

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Getting Set for Summer

Blooms to brighten the upcoming season

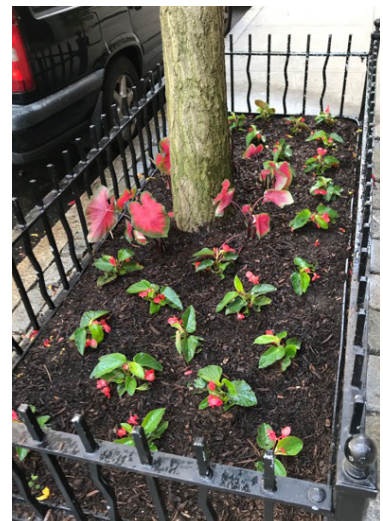
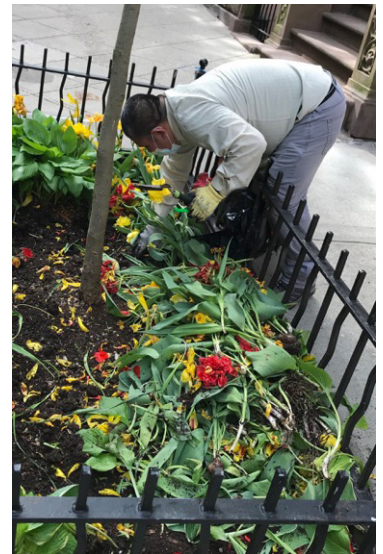
The Block Association organized and oversaw the summer tree bed planting on May 16. This year tree gardens feature red begonias and caladium in our 20 beds. While social distancing prevented block participation, we all will be able to enjoy the flowers as they grow.

The Covid crisis has disrupted many activities that we did as a block. Signature events like the Yard Sale are in jeopardy. Our annual meeting will be held remotely (see details below). Our usual methods of outreach have been curtailed.

Unfortunately, this has had an impact on our dues contributions. If you haven't contributed yet this year, please consider doing so. If you have contributed, we thank you, but consider an additional contribution so that we don't have to diminish our activities. Whatever you give will make a difference. Please see the dues on the newsletter's last page for details or go to www.bloomingdale.org to donate online with your credit card.

We appreciate your continued support!

Board of Directors,
West 104th Street Block Association



Zoom Into the Annual Block Meeting!

The Block Association Board has rescheduled its annual meeting for June 2. Please keep an eye out in your email for an upcoming Block Bytes with time/link and ballot. We are pleased that the New York City Parks Department has agreed to join the meeting virtually for a presentation on our neighborhood's street trees as well. More details to come...

WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN BOARD



President Steven Zirinsky	315 RSD	212.866.6732
VP Jeff Howitt	315 RSD	212.866.5569
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MEMBERS

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Joyce Mann	309 W 104	212.721.6341
Martin Mann	309 W 104	212.721.6341
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Hanna Rubin	315 RSD	212.865.4579
Gary Waskow	320 RSD	212.932.9082
Emeritus Sid Herzfeld	895 WEA	212.749.0085

WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT

APRIL 2020

OPENING BALANCE	\$21,518.76
INCOME.....	\$1720.00
Dues	1720.00
EXPENSES	\$3013.65
Guard service.....	2967.73
Pay Pal Fee.....	45.92

CLOSING BALANCE \$20,945.11

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MAY ISSUE:

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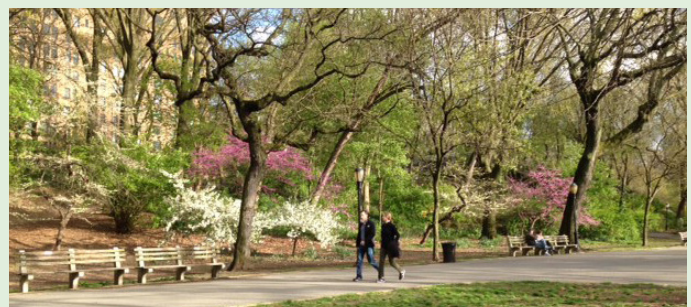
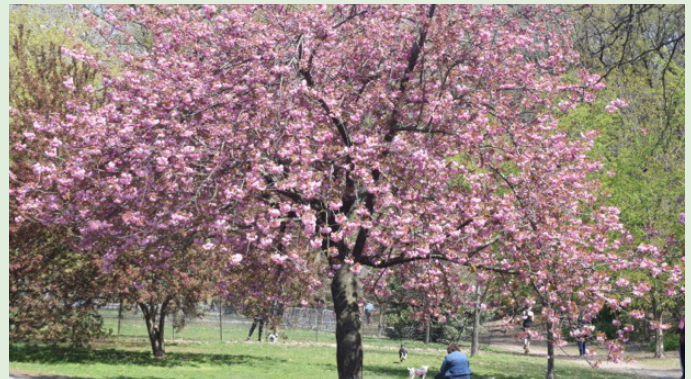
 We fully support Fair Housing, both in the spirit and the letter of the law.

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A Spring Salute to Riverside Park

During the Covid crisis, residents have found the park a special refuge. Many sent photos; here is a selection of blooms and neighbors.



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can no longer lead BAiP brisk walks, four mornings a week, I host a weekly Zoom call for the walkers, giving us a chance to vent, share and stay in touch. (I'd be doomed without Zoom!)
—*Teresa Elwert*

At 7pm, I just clap, but I'm enjoying seeing my neighbors and hearing their horns, pots and tambourines. I had been skeptical about the gesture, but decided it was a good way of keeping in touch with others and getting out of the house (mask on, of course) on days I hadn't emerged. (Since I live in a back apartment, I have to go out to the street to see anyone else.) Aside from saluting health workers and other essential workers, I see it as a way of everyone connecting with neighbors and proclaiming, "We're still here. We've survived another day!" —*Joe Rappaport*

I am at my window or on the street every night at 7pm to cheer for our front line health workers and I have cheered from my courtyard windows and from the street and even went up to 104th and WEA and I have to tell you.... no other block cheers with the volume and enthusiasm as our little 104th St. We have every right to be very proud of the community spirit we have built here over the years. It's really humbling and moving, and we are so grateful to be a part of it. This is a very special place to live. —*Joyce Mann*



Tulips Galore!

Many residents singled out the tree garden tulips as an especially bright spot:

"Thanks for the magnificent display of yellows, reds etc. in the tree beds. They cheer me every time I leave my building. The flowers make our unpleasant predicament somewhat bearable."

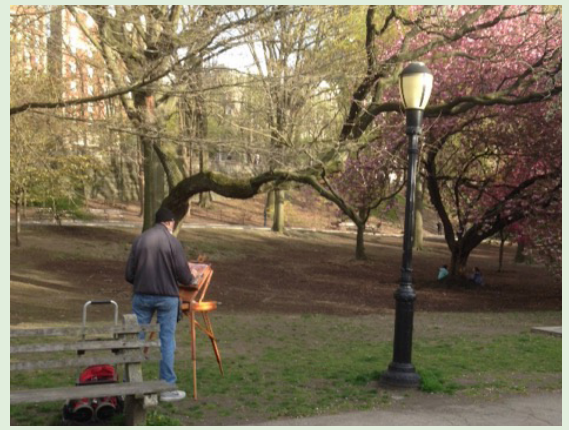
Roses Katz

"These flowers have brought great joy to my husband and myself during our short jaunts through the neighborhood. Thank you for your effort"

Isabella Calisi-Wagner

"The tulips are fantastic this crazy spring." THANK YOU!!!

Mark Smith



(Clockwise from top left) Indigo bunting—look for them on low branches or foraging; scarlet tanagers seek the high branches; an artist is inspired; apple blossom time; a resident of the wall near 108th Street; winter wren.



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 917-526-2862 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

2020 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
 A. Grannis: 895 West End Ave. J. Howitt: 315 RSD, Apt. 8C