

West 104th Street

FEBRUARY 2021

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Famous, Infamous, or Cool

A new book looks at the neighborhood's celebrated residents.

Have you ever strolled along an Upper West Side street and noticed a placard on a building denoting that someone famous once lived there? If that kind of information intrigues you, check out *Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side: Bloomingdale-Morningside Heights*, published this past November by Fordham University Press.

The author is longtime neighborhood resident Jim Mackin. He and his wife Janet moved to their home on Riverside Drive at 109th Street in 1989. While his book includes some familiar names, like Humphrey Bogart and the Gershwins, it also features many intriguing now-forgotten West Siders. Macklin recently discussed the book with Block Association board member Joyce Mann.



A plaque at 245 West 103rd St., where Humphrey Bogart grew up.

famous people from all walks of life once lived here. I began to compile my own database. It started with a few hundred names and it ultimately grew to over 1400.

How long did it take you to research and write it? Did you have help? The research was all me, but I hired a copy editor and friend, Kathy Bernard, to work with me. She was a wonderful help—just fabulous. It took two years to research and write and another to edit, so a total of three years.

How did you decide to organize the book? I researched the neighborhood from West 90th Street to 125th Street, from the Hudson River to Central Park. The book is divided into chapters covering approximately 10 blocks each, such as the West 90s, the West 100s, with a separate chapter for Riverside Drive. I ended up including 591 notables.

Some of the more famous people in the book include Marion Davies,

continued on page 3

Letter From the Block President

What a difference a year makes. Or does it? This past year has certainly presented challenges to all of us. Yet at the same time, the generosity and closeness of our block has never been more evident.

Even though we did not have the lobby sits encouraging memberships and selling merchandise.

Even though we did not have the Annual Yard Sale.

Even though we did not have a drinks event in Riverside Park.

Our members did not let us down. They stepped up and met our financial crunch by participating in the \$50/50th Year Appeal. We are deeply appreciative and extend a huge thanks for member support in both dollars as well as concern for each other.

During what would have been the run-up to our Block Association Yard Sale, we did have a raffle and merchandise table set up at the top of the block. It was heartwarming how happy so many were to see us there, reinforcing some sort of normalcy and continuity even in the pandemic. The relief and joy were palpable. I went home after a stint very pleased that this was a community service we could offer that people needed and wanted because it provided something incredibly important—connection. I realized one of the definitions of what the Block Association does: it makes neighbors out of neighbors. I do believe our top of the block tables helped bridge a gap.

We did have a food drive. I can't tell you how many resident emails I got saying what a great idea this was. And then I realized that this was another definition of our Block Association: giving back. People wrote me some very passionate emails about wanting to contribute. I am glad we were able to provide that outlet.

We did have block and park clean ups- even in these COVID times- both in groups and individually.

At some point this pandemic will end. But the community spirit will not.

I am very proud to be part of this group. I don't think we realize how fortunate we are to have a Block Association. And that is ok—it is there for us to use in different ways for different needs. Do you see something that needs to be done? Let us know! Please continue to support the Block Association financially by paying your dues if you haven't done so yet, and volunteering to help with various projects.

See you on the block.



Board member Larry Stern plants tulip bulbs.

—Steve Zirinsky

IN THIS ISSUE

Notable Neighbors p. 1
 President's Letter p. 1
 Block Financials p. 2
 Tulip Planting p. 3
 Local Winter Scenes p. 4
 Green Investing p. 7
 Food Drive p. 7
 Riverside Owl p. 7

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FEBRUARY ISSUE:
 Barbara Boynton, Stephen Helman, Joyce Mann,
 Lynn Max, Peter Littlewood, Hanna Rubin (editor),
 Larry Stern, Sharon Waskow, Steve Zirinsky.
 Newsletter designer: Brian Hajjar.

WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 2021

OPENING BALANCE	\$22,185.53
Income	3,240.00
Dues.....	3,240.00
EXPENSES	\$2018.77
Guard service.....	1,959.49
PayPal Fee.....	59.28
CLOSING BALANCE	\$23,859.20



More snow scenes on pp. 4-5.

WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN 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

MEMBERS

Mary Jo Gennaro	315 RSD	
Alex Grannis	895 WEA	212.316.1644
Stephen Helman	315 RSD	917.853.8590
Nancy Lian	320 RSD	212.316.6112
Peter Littlewood	320 RSD	612.501.6919
Joyce Mann	309 W 104	212.721.6341
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



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



1995 Broadway, 4th Floor
 New York, NY 10023
 646.505.6992 e-fax: 646.497.5145
 JIBERGER@elliman.com
 www.elliman.com

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



MARTIN BROTHERS
Wines & Spirits Inc.

INFO@MBVIN.COM
 2781 BROADWAY • NEW YORK NY 10025
 TEL 212.222.8218 • FAX 212.222.6545
 WWW.MBVIN.COM

Famous, Infamous, or Cool

continued from page 1

George Carlin, Dorothy Parker, Thurgood Marshall, Duke Ellington, and most of the titans who eventually became Hollywood moguls: Adolph Zukor, Samuel Goldwyn and Jesse Lasky. But can you highlight some lesser known folks who lived nearby you found personally fascinating? Here are a few of my favorites:

An actress named Julia Marlowe, who in 1910 was one of the best known performers of her day.

Eleanor Smith, the only person in the 1920s who flew an airplane under all four of the New York bridges: Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Manhattan and Queensboro.

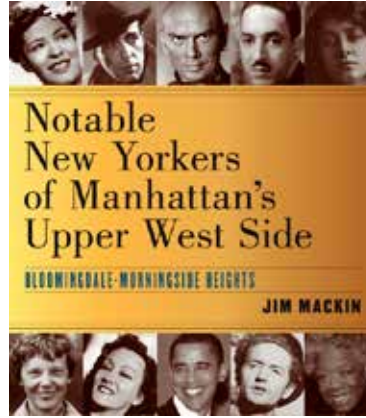
Augustus Meyers, who enlisted in the Union Army in the Civil War when he was twelve. He was only 4 feet 10 inches.

Ned Harrigan, who was celebrated as part of the vaudeville team of Harrigan & Hart in the 1870s and '80s.

Harriet Brooks, who was the first female North American nuclear physicist (she was friends with and worked with Marie Curie) and who taught at Barnard College in 1906 but was forced to leave because she became engaged.



Jim Mackin's "Notable New Yorkers" highlights familiar and not-so-familiar names.



How can interested readers get your book, and are there any plans for a second one? It's actually undergoing a second printing now, which was delayed because of Covid. It's available at Barnes and Nobles on West 84th Street, Book Culture on 112th Street, at the gift shop of the New York Historic Society and online.

I am working on a second stand-alone book that connects the Pomeroy family, which established the Copake Iron Works, to a very important

figure in New York history (whom I am not ready to reveal yet). Janet and I have a log cabin about 100 miles north in Copake Falls, and I am the president of the Friends of Taconic State Park, which includes the remains of the historic Copake Iron Works.

I am not finished with this neighborhood, though; perhaps a third book is in the future.

Spring Is (Nearly) Here

Spring blooms mean digging in the cold to get the bulbs in the ground before it freezes. On a chilly December morning, a group of 11 Block Association board members, neighbors and helpers assembled to plant 1500 "Tulips on Fire" in the block's tree gardens. The bulbs cost \$496.80 and the Block Association supplied tools. Keep your eye out as the days get warmer for the first green shoots breaking through.



Block Association board members, residents and helpers braved the cold to plant tulip bulbs.



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

890 WEST END AVENUE
 NEW YORK, NY 10025
 WOHLFARTH.COM

Winter's Spell

Back-to-back snowstorms transformed West 104th Street and Riverside Drive. Neighbors turned out to stroll, exercise and photograph the scene.





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

Investing Sustainably

As a new presidential administration seeks to address climate change, the ways that citizens can help are expanding as well. Government on its own cannot create a carbon neutral planet. Significant progress in mitigating the effects of climate change, according to a recent Yale Insight report, will require that large financial institutions shift from financing fossil fuels to a focus on sustainable investing.

A recent development in the financial sector may signal a tipping point as climate change is now seen as a risk to business. Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock, an international investment fund, released a letter to CEOs stating that climate change will be “a defining factor in a company’s long term prospects.” Fink affirmed his support for guidelines that help companies align with environmental, social equity, and good governance principles (ESG) with performance goals.

General Motors’ announcement that it plans to transition to electric cars and trucks by 2035 is in a similar vein. While some have argued that corporate compliance with E.S.G. standards would go by the wayside as soon a crisis occurred, according to a CNBC report, the Covid -19 pandemic has brought a renewed interest in investment in sustainable companies, and sustainability-oriented mutual funds have soared in the past year.

At the local level, government pension funds and university endowments have begun divesting their fossil fuel and gas holdings. Columbia University has announced it will begin to divest from oil and gas holdings joining

The financial sector now offers many green options

By Sharon Waskow

Princeton, Cornell and others.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

But what about ordinary citizens? For starters, people can align their investments with their values:

- Read the FINRA report, “Clearing the Air on Social Investing Products” to learn about aligning investments with values.
- Check out the Fossil Free Funds website to find green funds (www.fossilfree-funds.org)
- Ask financial advisors about divesting from fossil fuel holdings
- Determine the green investment records of your bank and insurance company. Find bank rating charts at The Rainforest Action Network, “Banking on Climate Change, Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2020” and insurance rating charts at Consumer Watchdog’s “Top Ten U.S. Insurance Companies’ Investment in Climate Change.”
- Read Nerd Wallets’ “ESG Investing: A Beginner’s Guide”

It’s Easy Being Green is a Tri-Bloomingdale group sponsored by the 104, 102/103 Block Associations and Bloomingdale Aging in Place. Join the mailing list to receive monthly newsletters and personal action blasts. Contact us at itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com. Check out our website at www.itseasybeinggreen.org.

Food Drive Nets 33 Boxes of Donations

The Block Association partnered with City Harvest for a holiday effort

The Block Association’s first-ever food drive yielded generous contributions from residents. Coordinated by board member Peter Littlewood, it launched on December 7 with an announcement in Block Bytes, the Block Association’s news blast. By the time it wrapped up on December 20, 850 lbs of food had been collected and packed in 33 boxes.



The Block Association worked with City Harvest, which redistributes the food it collects to soup kitchens and pantries throughout the city. Many residents contributed staples like pasta, rice and soup, Littlewood reported. Canned fruits and vegetables and fruit juice packs also were common donations. City Harvest requires that all contributions be unopened and not at expiration date. Among the most unexpected donations were three bottles of Worcestershire sauce.

For those who wish to continue helping fellow New Yorkers who are struggling to keep food on the table during the pandemic, City Harvest and other food rescue organizations are taking cash donations. For those who wish to contribute food to neighbors, Littlewood flagged that Broadway Presbyterian Church at 114th and Broadway is taking in-person donations.

Going forward, the Block Association plans to hold a food drive annually.



FINE FEATHERS

Riverside Park had a special visitor arrive in mid-November and stay until the end of the year: a Barred Owl. Nicknamed Barnard (as opposed to Barry, who has been in Central Park since October), the owl could be seen most days roosting in a couple of favorite spots in the park’s Forever Wild area, which stretches from around 116th to 120th Streets. One of the best for a sighting was near 116th Street on a branch above the upper path in the park. While Barred Owls vary quite a bit in temperament, Barnard seemed unperturbed by his many admirers. During the day, the owl would spend most of its time napping, grooming, and ignoring the Blue Jays trying to mob him. At night, the owl would hunt squirrels, rats, mice, and small birds as well as investigate other raptors in the area. After leaving Riverside Park, Barnard joined fellow owl Barry in the Central Park Ramble for a few weeks before moving on. —Peter Littlewood



Friendly Valet Cleaners
Quality Organic Cleaners
2725 Broadway (b/t 104 & 105 St)
212-666-8080
www.fvcleaners.com
License: 0927344

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

MEDICARE & AARP/UNITED HEALTH CARE MEDICARE PLANS. I am a BAiP member and licensed independent agent with the AARP/United Health Care Medicare plans. I am happy to help you understand Medicare and Medicare plan options (no cost). Please feel free to contact me at (cell) 914-419-5499 or (email) susanmschorphd@gmail.com.

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 Jon Smith, 320 RSD or send to 104thstreetba@gmail.com
 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 (now via Zoom). 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

2021 1st Quarter Dues:

Please allocate my contribution to:

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
A. Grannis: 895 West End Ave.

G. Waskow: 320 RSD, Apt. 8G
H. Rubin: 315 RSD, Apt. 17C