

West 104th Street

DECEMBER 2021

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Some Very Quiet Neighbors

The statues near West 104th Street commemorate history—and scandal.

By Gilbert Tauber

Within a few minutes' walk of our block are some of New York's finest examples of public sculpture, each with a story behind it.

Probably the most beloved is the reclining female figure of Memory in Straus Park, at 106th Street and Broadway. The touching statue and the entire park are a memorial to Isidor and Ida Straus, who died in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. Straus, a civic leader and philanthropist, was the principal owner of Macy's. The Straus home was at the northeast corner of 105th Street and West End Avenue, the site now occupied by 924 West End Avenue. The 1915 sculpture is by Henry Augustus Lukeman (1872-1935). His model was Audrey Munson (1891-1996), whose classic features and figure were reproduced in stone and bronze by several of America's most prominent sculptors in the early 20th Century.



Firemen's Memorial

A block to the west, overlooking Riverside Drive at the foot of West 106th Street, is the equestrian statue of General Franz Sigel, a German-American educator, journalist, and politician. Sigel (1824-1902) was one of a wave of Germans who came to the United States in the wake of the failed revolutions of 1848. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was instrumental in persuading large numbers of German immigrants to enlist in the Union cause. Sigel himself commanded troops in several battles, but with limited success. However, his importance in recruiting German immigrants led Lincoln to promote him to the rank of Major General. After the war, he was appointed to several government posts and was later

continued on page 3

A Perfect Day

The Yard Sale's return had people dancing in the streets.

Blamey weather, brilliant sunshine and soaring spirits made the 31st Annual Yard Sale a success. Last year's event was cancelled due to the pandemic. So there was a sense of exhilaration as shoppers, sellers, volunteers and neighbors streamed up and down the block on September 25, remarking on the beautiful weather and celebrating being together again at a favorite event.

Live music added to the festivities. The Peter and Will Anderson Jazz Quartet kicked off the afternoon with fresh

riffs on jazz classics like "St. Louis Blues."

Making a special appearance with the group was tuba player David Ostwald. The New Orleans sound was followed by classical guitarist Nora Spielman, a teacher at the nearby Bloomingdale School



Shailah Edmonds performs at the Yard Sale

of Music. And Shailah Edmonds rounded off the day's entertainment with rousing versions of Motown classics that—by the time she ripped into "Stop In the Name of Love"—had everyone dancing in the street.

When all was tallied, the Block Association earned \$7906 from the event, almost a record. The Book Table raked in \$1475, the Bake Table scored \$1630 with home-made treats, and the Silent Auction earned \$2711. The 50-50 raffle brought the Block Association \$1816, and generous winner Lynn Mandel donated \$1000 to the block from her share of the pot.

The board will use the Yard Sale revenues to undertake several long-postponed projects, including pruning the block's trees and restoring the guard patrol to six evenings a week.

The block's volunteers, residents, participants and donors are what makes the Yard Sale special. This year, we asked some of them what they felt about the event:

continued on page 5

**The Block Association
Holiday Food Drive is back!**

See page 10.

IN THIS ISSUE

Neighborhood Statuesp. 1
 A Great Yard Sale.....p. 1
 Block Financialsp. 2
 Raffle Winnerp. 2
 Yard Sale Photo Essay.....p. 6
 Elm Tree Salutep. 10
 Holiday Food Drive.....p. 10
 Green Gifts..... p. 11
 Eleanor Ledogarp. 11

Contributors to the December Issue:

Barbara Boynton, Stephen Helman, Peter Littlewood, Lynn Bender Max, Joyce Mann, Joe Rappaport, Hanna Rubin (editor), Larry Stern, Sharon Waskow, Steve Zirinsky. Newsletter designer: Brian Hajjar.

WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2021

OPENING BALANCE	\$32,588.25
Income	3131.00
Dues.....	250.00
Merchandise.....	170.00
Yard Sale.....	2711.00
EXPENSES	4668.86
Guard Service.....	3421.50
PayPal Fees.....	34.56
Bank Fee.....	26.26
Yard Sale.....	1186.54
CLOSING BALANCE	\$30,128.67

A Generous Winner

Lynn Mandel was the winner of the 50-50 raffle, with a pot that reached \$3782. Mandel, who lives on West End Avenue near West 104th Street, donated \$1000 of her share back to the Block Association. "I've lived in the neighborhood over 40 years," Mandel said. "West 104th Street has always been important to me, especially as my gateway to the park. The friendly faces, the plantings, the security guard, the annual block fair all help make this a safer and more welcoming neighborhood. I appreciate the Block Association's work in helping to maintain and strengthen the specialness of the block."



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



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.

WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN BOARD



President Steven Zirinsky	315 RSD	212.866.6732
Acting Treasurer		
Gary Waskow	320 RSD	212.932.9082
Secretary Larry Stern	315 RSD	212.794.2288
Vice President		
Mary Jo Gennaro	315 RSD	

MEMBERS

Alex Grannis	895 WEA	212.316.1644
Stephen Helman	315 RSD	917.853.8590
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
Nancy Lian (ex officio)	320 RSD	212.316.6112

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

Some Very Quiet Neighbors *continued from page 1*

publisher of a German-language periodicals.

The statue is the work of Karl Bitter (1876-1915), another leading American sculptor of the early 20th Century. In addition to several statues of military heroes, Bitter created the figure of Pomona, the Roman goddess of abundance, atop the Pulitzer Fountain at Fifth Avenue and 59th Street. Tragically, Bitter had done only the plaster maquette of the goddess when he was killed in an automobile accident. The statue was completed by his fellow sculptor Isidore Konit, using Audrey Munson as his model.

TRIBUTE TO HEROISM

Six blocks south on Riverside Drive at 100th St., is the Firemen's Memorial, built at the suggestion of Bishop Henry C. Potter to honor New York Firemen who had died in the line of duty. It was dedicated in 1913. Isidor Straus, who had perished on the Titanic the previous year, had led its fund-raising committee. The monument was designed by architect H. Van Buren Magonigle.

The two allegorical sculptural groups on either side are titled "Duty" and "Sacrifice," each with a seated female figure and child. Both are by Attilio Piccirilli (1866-1945), one of six sons in a family of stone carvers who emigrated to the U.S. from Italy in 1888. At their studio in the Bronx, the Piccirillis made a specialty of carving enlarged stone versions of the clay or plaster models made by the original sculptors. Their most famous project is the 19-foot-high figure of the seated Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, scaled up from the original by Daniel Chester French. Attilio, however, was a sculptor in his own right. Among his other works in New York are the Maine Monument at Columbus Circle and the sculpture on the exterior of Riverside Church. Piccirilli's model for the female figures of "Duty" and "Sacrifice" was Audrey Munson. In 1919 she was caught up in a scandal involving a love-addled former landlord who murdered his wife in order, he claimed, to marry Audrey. She denied any romantic involvement with him, but her career was ruined. In 1931, she was committed to an upstate insane asylum where she remained for the next 65 years until her death at the age of 104.

In 1919 Audrey Munson was caught up in a scandal involving a love-addled former landlord who murdered his wife in order, he claimed, to marry her.



"Memory," above;
General Franz Sigel, below.



The Block Association is looking for a few good neighbors to help us on the block. Interested in joining the board? Please contact Steve Zirinsky at szirinsky@cs.com.

If you enjoyed the Yard Sale, please thank our Generous Donors

Amity Hall	Fumo
Arco Café	Jack's Art Gallery
BeFitNYC	Martin Brothers Wine & Spirit
Ben & Jerry's	New York Tours by Gary
Bloomington School of Music	Pan Asian Repertory Theatre
Book Culture	Paris Frameworks
Bosino's	Regional Bar & Restaurant
Café du Soleil	Riverside Liquors
Casa Mexicana	RoboFun
Community Food & Juice	Silver Moon Bakery
Creative Health Foods	Thai Market Restaurant
Dive Bar 96	University Hardware
Dive Bar 106	V & T Restaurant
The Ellington	Westside Market
Friendly Valet Cleaners	

West 104th Street Yard Sale

Sponsored by the West 104th Street Block Association

A Perfect Day

continued from page 1

"This was our first 104th Street yard sale and we had a great time. Our 4 year-old was so eager to tear open the games and toys he picked up that we opened them on the sidewalk before we could even get back upstairs to our apartment. Since we were having such fun playing Candy Land and Go Fish on the street, we also scooped up a pair of beach chairs so we could play comfortably, and called up a few friends and family to come spend the day. We ended up spending the entire day at the sale. When we got hungry we just ordered Sal and Carmine's to the street and washed the pizza down with Janie's Pie Crust cookies, which were absolutely delicious. We are already looking forward to next year!"

—Gul Stampur



"This year's event was a particularly festive celebration. It's a fundraiser - yes - but after the year we've had it seems appropriate to also call it a celebration. Many in the crowd appeared to be joyful to be (a) together (b) outside (c) on the block (d) on a warm fall day. One of the things I find to be so appealing about the block and the neighborhood is the friendliness of many residents; this contributes to a sense of belonging which is sometimes not easy to find elsewhere in the city. I volunteered this year for the first time because I appreciate the role played by the Block Association in fostering this sense of community."

—Tom Monaco



"The block party brought an incredible sense of community and joy to the neighborhood. There were so many little treasures to be uncovered. My two-year-old daughter is still clinging to her secondhand lemur with a leprechaun hat stuffie as her new favorite. We can't wait until the next one!"

—Henry, Dori and Alice Haber

"I've always loved the event—this year was just more so squared. It felt triumphant! What happiness to be out in that beautiful day and see so many neighbors that I hadn't seen in a long time. And of course the dancing!!! Never like that before."

—Miriam Duhan

"I'm not a haggler by nature, but it's always fun to have a bit of a back-and-forth with buyers at the What a Bargain table, where I've volunteered for several years. Beyond that, the weather always seems to be perfect at the top of the block and the longtime volunteers Joyce Mann recruits every year are easy-going, making it a choice assignment."

—Joe Rappaport

"Our Yard Sale is always a heartwarming event for me -- a chance to share in community spirit galore! And this year's seemed an especially wonderful remedy for pandemic angst and isolation—with thanks to the gods for the balmy weather! I started at the 50/50 raffle (my volunteer assignment later in the day). Then to heavenly baked goods, a struggle to balance my husband's choices and mine along with our favorite lemon poppyseed cakes. I liked the mix of vendors, the fabulous arts and crafts, and had to resist the siren songs of the book emporium. And always a sweet ending, as Shailah and musicians send us home with the deep vibes of classic R&B!"

—Lani Sanjek

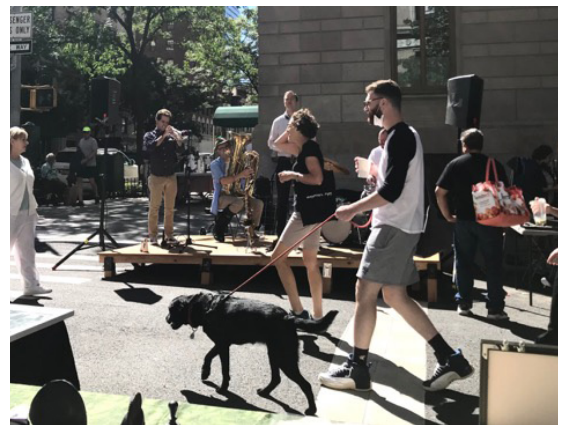
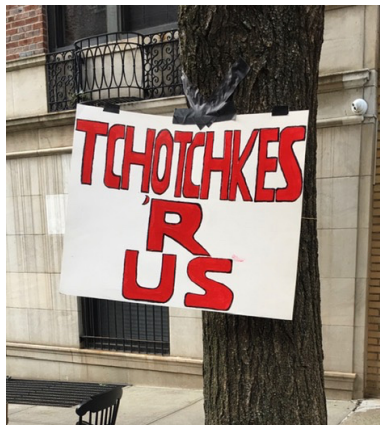
"I've always enjoyed being part of the Yard Sale—I love the whole event—but this year was exceptional. Felt so great to be back. I've been volunteering at the bake table at least 15 years. This year I made the Chocolate Beet Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting."

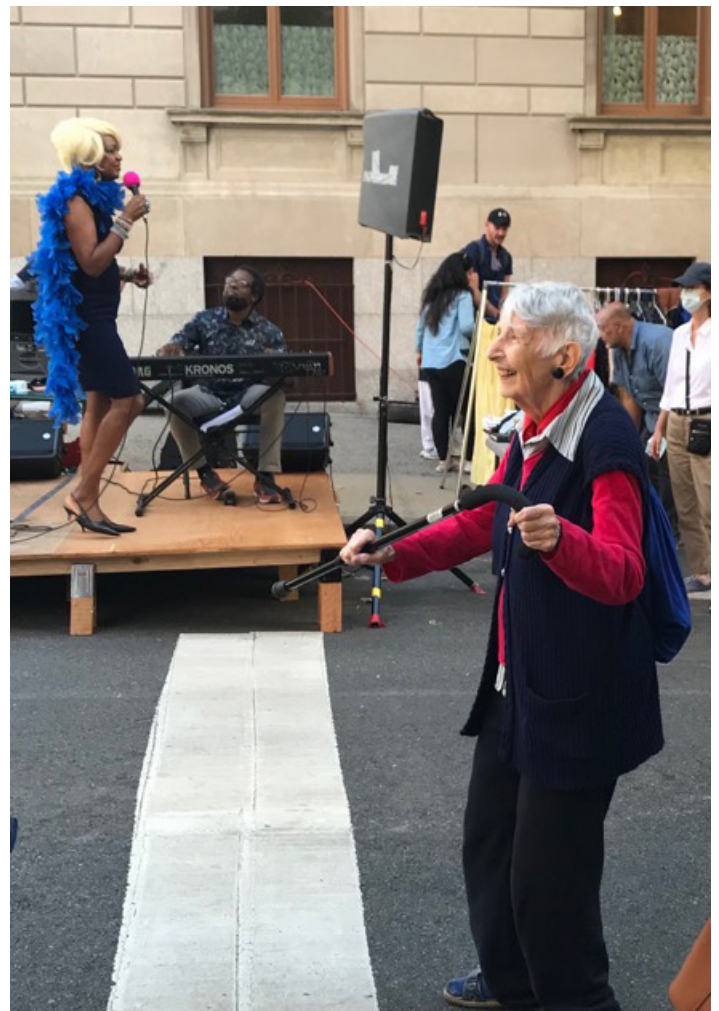
--Carol Prager



Back with a Bang

It was an all-day celebration at the 31st Annual Yard Sale. The crowds came, the music soared, and the sun shined down on West 104th Street.





Opposite page: (Top) Shailah Edmonds belting out “Stop In the Name of Love;” strollers human and canine; What-a-Bargain sign; a bronze deer at the Silent Auction; Jeff Hewitt hands off Silent Auction duties to Larry Stern; the Anderson Quartet kicked off the entertainment with New Orleans-style jazz. This page: (Clockwise) Mary Jo Gennaro and Nancy Lian sell raffle tickets; browsing the book table; Mildred Spicer steps out to Shailah’s beats; Everest de Montebello lends a hand at the bake table.

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



Clockwise from top: Bake table volunteers Cathy Cuthell, Everest de Montebello, Carol Prager, Miriam Duhan; Silent Auction volunteer Lydia Dufour; Steve Zirinsky, sound system manager Steve Max and Councilmember-elect Gail Brewer; raffle table volunteers Tom Monaco and Margaret Beels; members of the schlepper crew Rebecca Silber, Nina Hobbes, Heptig Hobbes, Isaac Silber

Thank You, Yard Sale Volunteers and Helpers!

Bakery

Michelle Barre
Pauline Brookfield
Rodica Cristea
Cathy Cuthell
Everest de Montebello
Miriam Duhan
Benetta Dunning
Shani Erdman
Alex Grannis
Rita Houlihan
Lynn Max
Carol Prager
Marlene Schonbrun

Bakers

Michelle Barre
Pauline Brookfield
Mary Cargill
Karen Collins
Sandi Cooper
Barb Cowling

Jennifer Cowling

Cathy Cuthell
Kay Cynamon
Arlene Danford
Janie Deegan
Miriam Duhan
Lauren Flowers
Mary Jo Gennaro
Tova Geoff
Miriam Grabois
Alex Grannis
Mary Koval
John Krinsky
Daniel Jenkins
Nancy Lian
Kayla Massick
Kim Max
Lynn Max
Carol Prager
Katherine Randall
Hanna Rubin
Ray Schwartz

Elizabeth Stone

Donna Tapper
Suzanne Wachtel
Paul Zeigler

Book Table

John Damstra
Tova Getoff
Steven Helman
Mary Koval
Peter Littlewood
Tom Monaco
Barbara Rothenberg
Patty Smith
Robin Willner

Raffle Table

Margaret Beels
Laura Bronson
Barbara Rothenberg
Haley Elszasz
Mary Jo Gennaro

Tova Getoff

Stephen Helman
Mary Koval
Nancy Lian
Tom Monaco
Lisa Rabinowicz
Barbara Rothenberg
Lani Sanjek
Paula Zirinsky

Silent Auction

Lydia Dufour
Hanna Rubin
Larry Stern

What-A-Bargain

Hilda Darre
Carol Goodfriend
Joyce Mann
Martin Mann
Karen Odom
Joe Rappaport

Connor Stewart

Elizabeth Stone
Lisa Zeitz
Paul Zeigler

Set-Up, Entertainment

Teresa Elwert
Dan Jenkins
Steve Max

Schleppers

Brian Almonte
Heptig Hobbes
Nina Hobbes
Connor Stewart
Isaac Silber
Rebecca Silber

Special Thanks To...

Jeff Howitt for his
Yard Sale guidance and
leadership.

Farewell to a Beloved Neighbor

Photos & Text by Larry Stern

The venerable elm tree, which graced us with its presence at 104th Street in Riverside Park, succumbed to illness and was removed in August of this year. It stood with majestic outstretched branches through all seasons until it could no longer. We honor it with these photos taken over the past few years.



Donate to the Block Food Drive!

The Block Association has once again teamed up with City Harvest to run a food drive this December in block buildings. Many families are still struggling to afford basic staples and City Harvest is seeking non-perishable items, which it will distribute to local food pantries. These include canned goods such as fruit and vegetables, proteins such as tuna and beans, juice packs, peanut butter and similar items.

The food collection will take place the first two weeks of December (Dec 6 to Dec 17). Please keep an eye out for signs in your building and more details in Block Bytes. Residents of buildings without collection boxes can drop off their donations in the lobby of 320 Riverside Drive (please wear a mask when you drop off your donations). We will be having a donation box decorating contest this year! Get ready to get artsy-craftsy with fellow building residents to spruce up our lobbies and make the holidays even more special.

We are looking for volunteers to manage the donation boxes in their buildings (particularly 315 Riverside, 309 W 104th Street, and 895 and 905 West End Ave). If you can help manage the donation box, please contact Peter Littlewood (peter.b.littlewood@gmail.com).

The Block Association is also looking at adding a toy drive to the collection, so watch for more information on that in an upcoming Block Bytes e-newsletter.

—Peter Littlewood

Green Gifts Planet-friendly options for the holidays

By Sharon Waskow

This holiday season gives us an opportunity to align our planet friendly values with gift giving choices. Here are gifts to build community, support local business and reduce environmental impact.

Audio Books

These are a great low-impact way to share favorite reads.

- Audiobooksnow (www.audiobooksnow.com) offers a club pricing plan.
- Audible.com has a huge selection

Health and Wellness

Letting people sample classes lets them find what suits them best. Here are some local and online options.

- Candlestick Pilates virtual classes (candlestickpilates.com)
- A Line Pilates online classes (www.alinepilatesnyc.com)
- Bridge for Dance (www.bridgefordance.com)
- BeFitNYC (www.befitnyc.me)

For Kids

See magazines for all ages at Cricket (cricketmedia.com). For board games, visit Hex on Broadway at 2911 Broadway (www.hexnyc.com). Or try dance lessons at Bridge for Dance (www.bridgefordance.com).

Consumables

If you do buy an item, look for these certifications:

Fair trade ensures fair trade compensation for people who grow our food. B corp ensures social, environmental and transparent accountability. Rainforest Alliance certification recognizes and chooses products that contribute toward a better future for people and the planet.

Gift your time and talents to family and friends.

- Offer help with childcare or cooking.
- Help someone declutter a closet, rearrange furniture, learn a skill, organize photos on the phone or on computer.

Most of all, enjoy the holidays and be safe!

Sharon Waskow is a founder of Itseasybeinggreen.org.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of Eleanor Price Ledogar, a cherished neighbor and friend, longtime member of the Block Association board and founding member of Bloomingdale Aging in Place. She died on September 9, leaving behind many memories of her great spirit, commitment to helping others, frankness, wisdom and humor.

We will miss her greatly.



Ursula Strauss, Peter Littlewood, Steve Zirinsky, Barbara Boynton and Lynn Max at a post-Yard Sale celebration at the Ellington.



Friendly Valet Cleaners



Quality Organic Cleaners

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



WOHLFARTH
& ASSOCIATES, INC.
REAL ESTATE

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

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

Contribute to the Newsletter

Interested in writing or photographing for the West 104th Street Block Association newsletter? Have suggestions about what to cover in the neighborhood? Want to share block news, suggest a profile, send a photo? Please send an email to Hanna.Rubin@verizon.net. Your ideas are welcome.

Check Your Junk Folder

Did you sign up for Block Bytes but have not received it lately? Check your junk folder. It may end up there unless you add the email to your permissions list.

2021 4th 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 vice president: Mary Jo Gennaro, 315 Riverside Dr., Apt. 7C, 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