

# West 104<sup>th</sup> Street

DECEMBER 2023

BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## November Showers, April Flowers

Block Association Plants 1400 Bulbs



Clockwise from top left: Alex Grannis plants tulips; Chris Freimuth helps prepare a tree bed; Larry Stern, Lynn Max, Alex Grannis and Dorothy Zweighaft help plant bulbs.

**O**n November 11, Block Association board members, volunteers and helpers got together to plant the block's 20 tree beds. The Block Association has installed planter boxes in several tree beds that had a rodent problem, so when the warm weather returns, there will be blossoms at two levels. The tree beds will bloom with tulips, and the planter boxes with hyacinths. In all, the Block Association planted 1400 bulbs. The Block Board thanks Alex Grannis, Lynn Max, Steve Max, Larry Stern, Chris Freimuth and Dorothy Zweighaft for all their hard work.

## Winning Out Over Weather

Yard Sale Succeeds Despite Postponement



Naomi Sylvia Rifkin gets ready to pick a raffle winner; Shailah Edmonds closes out the day with Motown hits.

**W**hen Tropical Storm Philippe threatened on September 29 to wash out the next day's Yard Sale, Block Association president Steve Zirinsky sprang into action. A quick board meeting determined that most people involved were available on Sunday, October 1. So Zirinsky reached out to Councilwoman Gail Brewer to help him quickly shift the permits. Brewer was trapped in a flooded subway for some hours, but when she surfaced, the permits were secured.

Sunday October 1 dawned clear and temperate, and the Block Association, volunteers and vendors hit the street to set up. Soon tables and their wares were on display in the bright autumn sunshine. David Ostwald and his New Orleans style jazz band arrived at noon to play classic jazz, and Shailah Edmonds of Shailah and the Shaylettes closed out the afternoon with her stirring Motown covers.

People streamed up and down the block, ignoring the drilling by Con Ed that accompanied the nice weather. Several popular tables including the bake table came close to setting records. When the day was over and everything tallied, the Block Association netted \$11,069.92 (see a detailed breakdown on page 3) and the raffle winner got a check for \$2623.74. (See item on page 3) The money earned by the Yard Sale helps the Block Association cover the cost of the block guard, plantings and efforts to reduce the rats.

## Please Donate to the Block Food and Toy Drive!

The Block Association will host  
a food and toy drive  
from December 11-17.  
Please see Page 3 for details.

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Contributors to the December Issue:

Stephen Helman, Mary Koval, Lynn Max, Hanna Rubin (editor), Marlene Schoenbrun, Sharon Waskow. Newsletter designer: Brian Hajjar

*Happy Holidays from  
the West 104  
Block Association!!*

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## W104 BLOCK ASSN 3RD Q FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Balance ..... \$26,734.01  
INCOME ..... \$17,726.84

Dues ..... 673.86  
Rodent Fund..... 50.00  
Merchandise ..... 1,168.84  
Yard Sale ..... 5,125.08  
Coop Contributions..... 10,684.06  
Credits ..... 25.00

EXPENSES ..... \$18,663.76

Guard Service..... 8,755.44  
Printing Costs ..... 1,814.46  
Beautification-Tulip ..... 802.80  
Rodent Control ..... 3,553.36  
Merchandise ..... 2,218.04  
Yard Sale ..... 1,489.66  
Accounting..... 30.00

CLOSING BALANCE..... \$25,797.09

## WEST 104 BLOCK ASSN BOARD

President Steven Zirinsky 315 RSD 212.866.6732  
VP Mary Jo Gennaro 315 RSD 917.547.9557  
Treasurer Mary Koval 895 WEA 917.969.1984  
Secretary Larry Stern 315 RSD 212.794.2288

### MEMBERS

Hayley Elasz 314 W 104 440.231.1441  
Alex Grannis 895 WEA 212.316.1644  
Stephen Helman 315 RSD 917.853.8590  
Jennifer Jones 315 RSD 212.749.3865  
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  
Nancy Lian (ex officio) 320 RSD 212.316.6112





## And the 2023 Raffle Winner Is....

Despite the weather problems, the raffle pot at the Yard Sale easily topped \$5000 before the afternoon was over. Last-minute ticket buyers lined up for a shot at splitting the pot with the Block Association.

The first place winner was Jacob Ben Winsten, shown here receiving his check for \$2623.74 from Block Association president Steve Zirinsky. Second place winner Brigid Sheehan donated her \$100 winnings back to the Block Association. So did third place winner—and former Block Association vice president—Jeff Howitt with his \$50 winnings. A big thank you to all!



## YARD SALE FINANCIALS

### INCOME 2023

Raffle.....	\$2,623.74
Merchandise .....	\$1,622.72
Baking .....	\$1,846.00
Book.....	\$1,496.01
Silent Auction .....	\$2,901.76
Bargain.....	\$811.70
Vendor Tables.....	\$4,103.50
Donation.....	\$277.00
Misc E Sales .....	\$125.44

### EXPENSES 2023

Flyers/Signs.....	\$1,319.01
Permits/Fee.....	\$844.08
Tips/Movers.....	\$990.00
Supplies .....	\$46.58
Insurance .....	\$330.00
Music.....	\$800.00
Bathroom.....	408.28

**NET.....\$11,069.92**

## Help Make the 2023 Food and Toy Drive the Best Yet!

The West 104<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association has partnered again with City Harvest and several women's shelters that receive support from Not 4Gotten NY and Womankind for a holiday food and toy drive. It will be held from December 11-17 in most of the block buildings. Last year, the Block Association collected about 10 boxes of non-perishable food and 10 bags of toys. Food is



distributed to New York City food pantries to help neighbors in need. Among the most useful food items are soups, canned fruit/vegetables, canned proteins (such as tuna or beans), peanut butter, cereal and juice packs. The Block Association welcomes food items that are not past their use-by date. Toys should be for toddlers to 18 years-old and be new or gently used. Signs will be posted in mailrooms and laundry rooms on where to put donations. Please keep an eye out for an upcoming Block Bytes enews with this information as well. If you want to help organize the drive in your building, please contact Peter Littlewood at [peter.b.littlewood@gmail.com](mailto:peter.b.littlewood@gmail.com).



**Jesse I Berger, MBA**  
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# Shine On

The sun and everyone else came out for the Yard Sale.  
Photos by Stephen Helman and Marlene Schonbrun



Clockwise from top left: Bake Table volunteer Pauline Brookfield joined Lynn Max and Miriam Duhan. A vendor makes his pitch. Gary Waskow instructs granddaughter Naomi in how to pick raffle winners. Henry Pita with son Kento. David Ostwald (at left) and bandmates entertained with classic New Orleans jazz. Some tchotchkes for sale.







Clockwise from top left: Shailah Edmonds performs Motown favorites; Sharon Waskow leads the It's Easy Being Green gang; a young shopper canvasses the block; Larry Stern and Phyllis Sperling dance to Shailah's cover of "Stop In the Name of Love;" Liz Titus and Stephen Helman at the Block Association table, with Block President Steve Zirinsky and Gary Waskow.





Clockwise from top left:  
Dancing to Shailah;  
clapping to Shailah; a  
careful shopper; dad  
and daughter listen to  
the music; Donna Tapper  
volunteers at the Bake  
Table.







Clockwise from top: All the right moves to Shailah; a vendor preps her display; New York images, some from the neighborhood, for sale; David Ostwald and friend.



# *Please Thank Our Generous Donors Who Supported the Yard Sale*

<b>Amity Hall</b>	<b>Kyuramen</b>
<b>Arco Café</b>	<b>Makana</b>
<b>Bloomington School of Music</b>	<b>Manhattan Valley Indian Restaurant</b>
<b>Book Culture</b>	<b>Manhattan Valley Wine &amp; Spirits</b>
<b>Bosino's</b>	<b>Martin Brothers Wine &amp; Spirits</b>
<b>Café du Soleil</b>	<b>Mel's Burger</b>
<b>Community Food and Juice</b>	<b>New York Tours by Gary Dennis</b>
<b>Cookies for College-Hedy Campbell</b>	<b>Resume Review-Tom Monaco</b>
<b>Creative Health Foods</b>	<b>Serafina</b>
<b>Dive Bar</b>	<b>Silver Moon Bakery</b>
<b>The Ellington</b>	<b>Spring Studio-Life drawing classes</b>
<b>Friendly Valet Cleaners</b>	<b>with Minerva Dunham</b>
<b>Fine Dental</b>	<b>Thai Market</b>
<b>Fumo</b>	<b>West Side Market</b>
<b>The Grand Feast</b>	<b>University Hardware</b>
<b>Jack's Art Gallery</b>	<b>V&amp;T Restaurant</b>
<b>Just Pho You</b>	

**West 104<sup>th</sup> Street Yard Sale**  
**Sponsored by the West 104<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association**



# Thank You Volunteers and Helpers!

## **BAKERS**

Steve Akeson  
Pauline Brookfield  
Ana Colos  
Karen Collins  
Sandi Cooper  
Jennifer Cowan  
Barbara Cowling  
Cathy Cuthell  
Kay Cynamon  
Arlene Danford  
Janie Deegan  
Miriam Duhan  
Lauren Flowers  
Tova Getoff  
Deborah Goldberg  
Alex Grannis  
Dori Haber  
Les Hayden  
Daniel Jenkins  
John Krinsky  
Nancy Lian  
Lynn Max  
Tom Monaco  
Meaghan Onofrey  
Carol Praeger  
Steve Pred  
Vicki Roth  
Marshall and Cathleen  
Sheehan  
John and Patty Smith  
Cullen Stanley  
Donna Tapper  
Nancy Tarshis  
Paul Ziegler

## **BAKE TABLE VOLUNTEERS**

Pauline Brookfield  
Everest deMontebello  
Miriam Duhan  
Tova Getoff  
Deborah Goldberg  
Alex Grannis  
Lynn Max  
Katherine Randall  
Marlene Schonbrun  
Cullen Stanley  
Donna Tapper

## **BOOKS: SORTING**

Emily Berleth  
John Damstra  
Jennifer Jones  
Mary Koval  
Nancy Lian  
Leah Lipton  
Peter Littlewood  
Thomas Monaco  
Steve Pred  
Katherine Randall  
Jon Rosenshine  
David Rumschitzki  
Patty Smith  
Sharon Waskow  
Gary Waskow

## **BOOK TABLE: SALES**

John Damstra  
Hayley Elszasz  
Steve Pred  
Gwen Pier  
Barbara Rothman  
Robin Willner  
Gillian Wolfe

## **YARD SALE DAY RAFFLE SALES**

Barbara Bryan  
Margaret Beels  
Mary Jo Gennaro  
Stephen Helman  
Nancy Lian  
Lani Sanjek  
Phyllis Sperling  
Elizabeth Titus  
Steve Zirinsky

## **YARD SALE RUN-UP RAFFLE SALES**

Jesse Berger  
Barbara Boynton  
Barbara Bryan  
John Damstra  
Hayley Elszasz  
Teresa Elwert  
Mike Fara  
Mary Jo Gennaro  
Deborah Goldberg  
Lucy Hoffman  
Ali Hassani  
Ruth Helfrich  
Stephen Helman

Lucy Hoffman  
Jennifer Jones  
Mary Koval  
Nancy Lian  
Richard Loeb  
Joyce Mann  
Martin Mann  
Lynn Max  
Steve Max  
Thomas Monaco  
Amy Mullen  
Ilene Pfeiffer  
Stephanie Pinto  
Hanna Rubin  
Karen B. Scher  
Mark Smith  
Cullen Stanley  
Larry Stern  
Elizabeth Titus  
Paula Zirinsky  
Steve Zirinsky  
Dorothy Zweighaft

## **SILENT AUCTION**

Lydia Dufour  
Jeff Howitt  
Hanna Rubin  
Larry Stern

## **VENDOR TABLES**

Gary Waskow

## **SET-UP, BREAK DOWN AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Kay Cynamon  
Teresa Elwert  
Mary Jo Gennaro  
Ira Gershenhorn  
Dan Jenkins  
Steve Max  
Steve Pred  
Gary Waskow  
Steve Zirinsky

## **WHAT-A-BARGAIN**

Hilda Darre  
Carole Goodfriend  
Orli Himmelweit  
Joyce Mann  
Martin Mann  
Karen Odom  
Stephanie Pinto  
Joe Rappaport

## **SCHLEPPERS**

Conor Stewart  
Reuben Miller-  
Rosenfeld  
Leo Miller-Rosenfeld  
Lucien Folender

\*\*Special thanks to the Block Association  
Security Guard Larnal Peterson, who frequently  
helped with break down.



Margaret Beels, Mary Jo Gennaro and Nancy Lian at the raffle table; bakery volunteers Marlene Schonbrun, Pauline Brookfield, Miriam Duhan, Katherine Randall, Everest de Montebello; Martin Mann at What-a-Bargain.



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# Eco-Friendly Gift Guide 2023

Memberships, cloth wrappings and more make the holidays a "green" one.

By Sharon Waskow, co-founder of It's Easy Being Green

It's holiday gift-giving time and who doesn't like to give and receive gifts? But with the joy and fun of our gift giving traditions we may overlook the true cost to the environment. Producing goods consumes energy, water and natural resources. Delivering them adds to greenhouse gas emissions. Throwing away wrapping paper, bows and ribbon produces lethal methane in landfills. What follows is a curated list of smile producing gift ideas that leave no or minimal negative imprint on our planet.

## GIVE MEMBERSHIPS

- Does someone on your list want to learn to swim or become a part of a community of swimmers? Try a local swim club such as Trinity Swim Club on 91st Street ([www.trinityschoolnyc.org/our-programs/trinity-swim-club](http://www.trinityschoolnyc.org/our-programs/trinity-swim-club)) or Imagine Swim Club on West End Ave. ([www.imagineswimming.com/about-us](http://www.imagineswimming.com/about-us))
- Gift a local gym membership to help jumpstart a fresh commitment to exercise. BeFit NYC on Broadway between 104 and 105th Street ([www.befitnyc.me/](http://www.befitnyc.me/)) offers classes in pilates, Zumba, tai-chi and more.
- A variety of dance classes is offered for all ages at Bridge for Dance [www.bridgefordance.com](http://www.bridgefordance.com) also on Broadway between 104th and 105th Street,
- We are fortunate to live in a city with world class museums. Museum memberships offer unique benefits such as free entrance, special visiting hours, tours of new exhibits before they open to the public, and discounts at gift shops.

## GIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES

- A membership to Libro.fm <https://libro.fm/membership> not only offers the rich experience of listening to an audiobook but also benefits the independent bookstore of your choice. Libro.fm shares profits from your audiobook purchases with your chosen bookstore, giving you the power to keep money within your local economy.
- Want to help someone relax? "Give someone you love less stress, better focus, and more happiness" states the meditation app Headspace. [www.headspace.com](http://www.headspace.com)  
Music, dance, theater lovers will always appreciate subscriptions or tickets to experience the art form of their choice. Consider a season subscription to The Joyce Theater [www.joyce.org/become-joyce-member](http://www.joyce.org/become-joyce-member) or concert tickets to nearby Miller Theater at Columbia. [www.millertheatre.com](http://www.millertheatre.com).

## ECO-FRIENDLY HOUSEHOLD GIFTS

- Here are some products that are naturally regenerative, biodegradable or recyclable or use green technologies.
  - There's no need for Saran Wrap when you use silicone lids for food storage and reheating in a microwave. Lilypod lids come in a variety of sizes on Amazon.
  - Give a Zojirushi, a leak-proof thermos which comes in many colors and sizes. It's good for water, or on-the-go coffee or tea purchased from a favorite local shop. Added benefit: when you use your own container you cut down on plastic waste.
- [www.zojirushi.com/app/category/vacuum-insulated-mugs-bottles](http://www.zojirushi.com/app/category/vacuum-insulated-mugs-bottles)



- Gifting a nice compost bin can encourage anyone who may have been on the fence to participate in New York City's compost program. Good Grips compost bins are an attractive option. [www.oxo.com/easy-clean-compost-bin-small.html](http://www.oxo.com/easy-clean-compost-bin-small.html)

## FOR YOUNG KIDS

- Consult Green and Simple [www.greenandsimple.co/2021/05/the-coolest-eco-friendly-toy-brands-on-the-planet](http://www.greenandsimple.co/2021/05/the-coolest-eco-friendly-toy-brands-on-the-planet) for a list of eco-friendly toys.
- For middle and high school age kids music, art, tennis, ski, cooking lessons
- Give things that connect young people with nature such as binoculars, a magnifying glass, a compass or a bird identification book.

## GIFT WRAP IDEAS

- Reuse brown paper shopping bags, fasten with twine and decorate with drawings, eucalyptus, leaves, pinecones etc.
- Or follow the Japanese tradition of furoshiki-wrapping in beautiful and reusable cloth squares. To find the cloths look on ETSY.
- Best of all give the gift of companionship. More important than ever in our troubling times.



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## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

### BABYSITTING

Responsible, experienced 29-year-old block resident available for babysitting during the evenings and weekends. Please contact Hayley by text or call (440-231-1441).

### 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.

### 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 Hanna Rubin, 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 (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](mailto:steve@zirinskyarch.com)**

### Contribute to the Newsletter

Interested in writing or photographing for the West 104<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 2023 4th Quarter Dues:

Please allocate my contribution to:

\_\_\_ Security \_\_\_ Beautification \_\_\_ Social \_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_ Board Decision (Suggested amt: \$40/quarter or \$160/year)

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E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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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**