

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

DECEMBER 2025

BLOCK ASSOCIATION

## The Tulip Brigade

Board members, neighbors and helpers planted 1200 bulbs for spring



From left, Lynn Bender Max, Minerva and Eric Zhang, Mary Jo Gennaro, Mary Pat Draddy, Larry Stern

On a damp and chilly November Saturday, a hardy group of volunteers gathered to lay the groundwork for a springtime splash of color on West 104th Street. The Block Association's beautification committee--Mary Jo Gennaro, Larry Stern and Lynn Max--led the planting of hundreds of Easter Joy tulips in the block's 20 tree beds. The Block Association thanks them and the volunteers who made this effort possible: Steve Akeson, Mary Pat Draddy, Steve Max, Ian Rosenshine, Julie Weisman, Steven Zirinsky and Minerva and Eric Zhang. Longtime horticulturalist and help Chris Freimuth facilitated the entire effort.

## New York Groove

The 35th Annual Yard Sale brought its own special vibe to the block.



Shailah Edmonds

Shoppers, neighbors and passersby thronged the block on September 27, turning a quiet enclave into a buzzy bazaar for a few hours.

There were the usual quirky items, great New Orleans-style jazz from David Ostwald and band and Motown classics from Shailah and the Shaylettes to wrap it up. The book table at the foot of the block drew crowds and set a sales record of \$2468. Crowds also thronged the What-a-Bargain Tables and the Silent Auction at the top of the block and the Bake Table did a booming business in homemade treats. The 50-50 raffle topped \$7000 before the drawing; this year all the winners lived in the neighborhood. Iva, the first place winner, took home \$3649 and the third place winner kindly donated his \$50 prize back to the block.

Best of all, the event yielded a total of \$18,308 for the Block Association. The block uses these funds for core expenses like the block security guard and beautification projects. These include bulbs for the spring plantings (see article at left), tree pruning and other projects.

### Inside:

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## 3rd Edition of Bloomingdale Bites — a Success

By Steve Zirinsky

The third edition of Bloomingdale Bites took place on October 9th, featuring a lively Upper West Side film-history trivia contest. Before the contest began, The Metro Theater Project screened a short, fast-paced film about cinema and the neighborhood—an entertaining way to set the tone for the evening.

As president of the West 104th Street Block Association (a sponsor of the event), I worked the door, greeting people as they entered. The event has developed a real following. Guests picked up food as they came in and sat down with new people, making it all that more interesting. Some were so engaged in conversation that they barely paused to play the game! The winning team walked away with a \$100 gift certificate.

While the event required a good deal of planning, the Columbus Amsterdam BID handled most of the heavy lifting, with additional support from the 104th Street Block Association and the 102/103 Block Association. Overall, it was a fun and successful evening—a great way for neighbors to mix, meet, and enjoy the community.

## W 104 ST BLOCK ASSN FINANCIAL REPORT

### 3RD QUARTER FINANCIALS - 2025

**Opening Balance July 1 ..... \$14,110.33**

**Income ..... \$24,236.29**  
 Dues ..... \$1,816.51  
 Contributions ..... \$497.60  
 Yard Sale ..... \$18,377.26  
 Merchandise ..... \$3,514.92  
 NL Ads..... \$30.00

**Expenses ..... \$18,775.09**

Guard Service ..... \$10,354.31  
 Tips ..... \$100.00  
 Newsletter..... \$742.61  
 Beautification-Tulip ..... \$2102.78  
 Supplies ..... \$96.69  
 Merchandise ..... \$1,945.53  
 Yard Sale ..... \$3,083.18  
 Pest Control ..... \$349.99

**Closing Balance Sept 30..... \$19,740.31**

## Block Holiday Food and Toy Drive

The Block Association's sixth annual food and toy drive will run from **Saturday, December 6 through Sunday, December 14**. Donation boxes will be set up in 315 Riverside Dr.; 320 Riverside Dr.; 895 West End Ave.; 905 West End Ave. and 309 West 104<sup>th</sup>. If your building is not hosting a box, please leave donations neatly packaged in the 320 Riverside Dr. lobby. The block is partnering with City Harvest for the food drive. Donations should be non-perishable, like soup, pasta and juice. Please do not include items past their use-by dates. Toys will be distributed to organizations like Womankind and Toys for Tots. Please consider donating new unwrapped toys or very gently used toys like card games. If you have questions, please email [peter.b.littlewood@gmail.com](mailto:peter.b.littlewood@gmail.com).

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 Nancy Lian (ex officio) 320 RSD

### Contributors to the December Issue:

Jennifer Jones, Mary Koval, Nancy Lian, Lynn Bender Max, Joyce Mann, Hanna Rubin (editor), Paula Zirinsky, Steve Zirinsky. Newsletter designer: Brian Hajjar.  
 Advertising: Jennifer Jones



# Making a Splash

Stephanie Azzarone's new book celebrates New York's fountains. Here are 5 in the neighborhood.

By Joyce Mann

A journalist by training, Stephanie Azzarone says that digging deep into a subject came easily as she researched and wrote her latest book, *Fabulous Fountains of New York*. She started work on it after the successful publication of her first book, *Heaven on the Hudson: Mansions, Monuments and Marvels of Riverside Park*, both by Fordham University Press.

A lifelong New Yorker and a resident of the Upper West Side for more than 40 years, Azzarone says that New York City history and architecture have always fascinated her. Why fountains in particular? "Because they are not only historical landmarks, but also both works of art and oases where you can relax and unwind from the frenetic pace of the city around you," says Azzarone. In many instances, the fountains tell "the story of New York," she says. In her research she discovered that many of the sculptors who created the works were also artists with work in the city's museums.

As she criss-crossed the city, she found that fountains are only functional part of the year and many have remained dry for years or are often in serious need of repair. New York's fountains come under the oversight of various entities. In most cases, if a fountain is in a park the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation has overall responsibility for its maintenance and operation. In some cases, when a historic fountain needs major repairs, organizations such as the Riverside Park Conservancy have raised the funding necessary for the restorations, as the Conservancy did for two fountains in Azzarone's book: the Hamilton Fountain and Firemen's Memorial. Sometimes private management companies, most notably the Bryant Park Corporation, become fully responsible for park and fountain operation and maintenance.

The five fountains that Azzarone writes about closest to our

neighborhood are:

**The Firemen's Memorial at 100th St. and Riverside Drive.** It has been dry for over a year due to a broken pipe. Here is where the annual ceremony for firefighters lost on 9/11 takes place as well as a separate event later in the fall for all firefighters who died the previous year.

**Straus Park at 106th St. and Broadway.** This fountain is cared for by "The Friends of Straus Park" and honors the moving story of Ida and Isidor Straus, the founders of Macy's, who chose to meet their deaths together on the Titanic as it sank.

**The Woman's Health Protective Association fountain at 116th St. and Riverside Drive.** On the promenade at the entrance to Riverside Park, this is actually a drinking fountain. It honors a remarkable group of women who fought in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to improve the sanitary conditions of the city. These improvements contributed to the decline of disease

throughout the city.

**The Peace Fountain at St. John the Divine on Amsterdam and 111th St.** This modern work represents the Archangel Michael amid a huge sun, a moon, a lion and various other creatures. The fountain is the property of the church, but hasn't functioned for years. The plaque on it reads: "This fountain celebrates the triumph of Good over Evil and sets before us the world's opposing forces: violence and harmony, light and darkness, life and death which God reconciles in his peace."

**The Frederick Douglass statue and water feature:** Dedicated in 2011, this sits at the West 110th St. and Central Park traffic circle. It honors the Civil War orator and abolitionist Frederick Douglass and deliberately faces north towards Harlem. This isn't a traditional fountain but rather a water wall, decorated with the North Star, which guided slaves on the Underground Railroad as they traveled north to freedom.

Asked if she had a personal favorite or two and Azzarone says she finds the reclining sculpture above the fountain at Straus Park called Memory—whose model was Audrey Munson, a well known figure of the day—to be both beautiful and touching, as is the tragic love story it commemorates. The book is filled with the stunning photographs of Robert F. Rodriguez, a retired professional photographer who happens to also be Azzarone's husband of more than 40 years.

*Fabulous Fountains of New York* is available in the neighborhood at Book Culture and also on Amazon.



The Firemen's Memorial at 100th Street and Riverside Dr.



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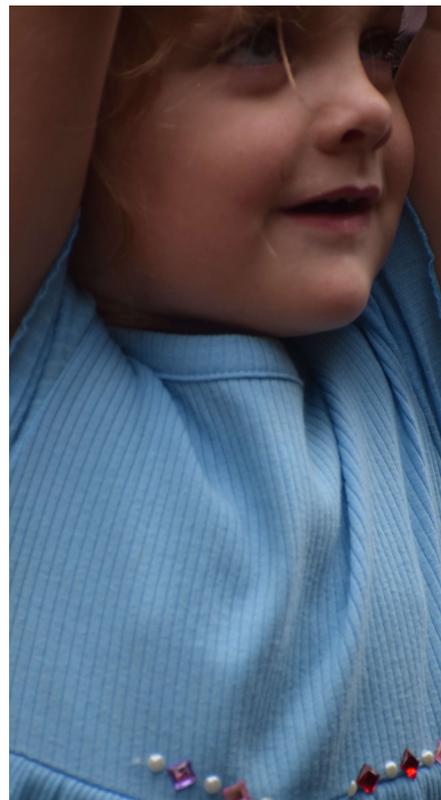
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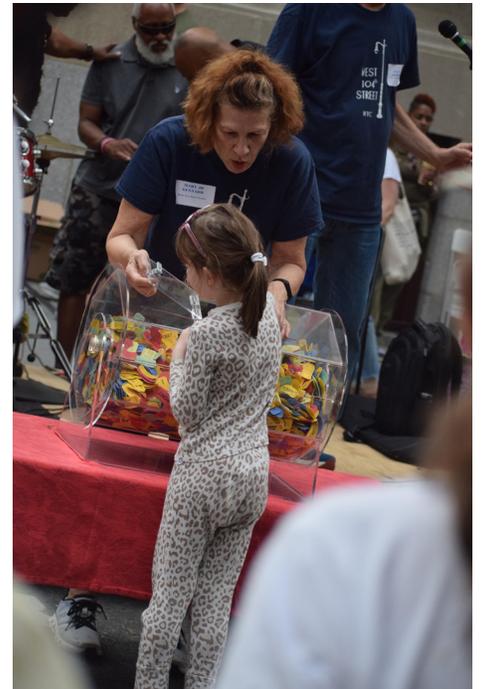
# A Yard Sale for All Comers

A mild fall day made the perfect backdrop for bargain hunting, great eats, live music and more.  
Photos by Stephen Helman and Paula Zirinsky

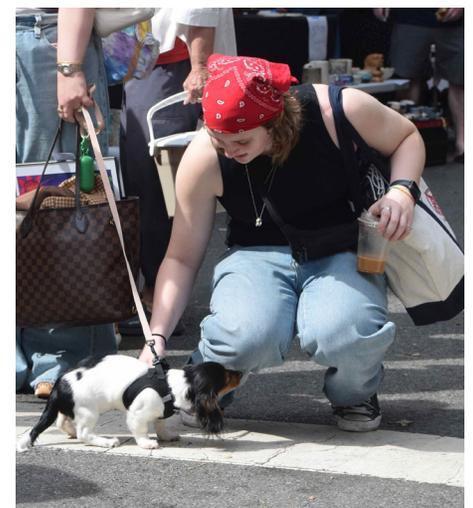
Clockwise from left: Setting up the book table, which set a sales record; it was organized by Jennifer Jones and Julie Weisman. Shailah Edmond closed out the day with Motown hits that got the crowd dancing. A reader digs into a find. An exuberant young attendee. Mary Jo Gennaro and Nancy Lian manned the top-of-the-block raffle.



# A Yard Sale for All Comers



From upper left: Trudie Grace, Silvia Abisaab, Liz Titus and Steve Zirinsky man the mid-block raffle; a young helper assists Mary Jo Gennaro in selecting a raffle winner; a shopper takes a closer look; meeting a new (four-legged) friend; when you've seen one Yard Sale, you've seen them all; by mid-afternoon, more than \$7000 in raffle tickets were sold.



# A Yard Sale for All Comers



Clockwise from upper left: Domingo Rojas, who helped with set up; David Ostwald's New Orleans style jazz band; David Reich with current BAiP President Jean Schmidt; two strollers reviewing the scene; a book shopper checking out the wares.



# Thank You Volunteers and Helpers

*We couldn't do it without you!*

## **Bakers**

Steve Akeson  
Pauline Brookfield  
Sarah Carney  
Karen Collins  
Sandi Cooper  
Barb Cowling  
Rodica Cristea  
Kay Cynamon  
Arlene Danford  
Janie Deegan  
Miriam Duhan  
Eloise Elish  
Lauren Flowers  
Tova Getoff  
Deborah Goldberg  
Alex Grannis  
Orli Himmelweit  
Dan Jenkins  
Mary Koval  
Carla Krasner  
John Krinsky  
Nancy Lian  
Kim Max  
Lynn Max  
Tom Monaco  
Carol Praeger  
Steve Pred  
Katherine Randall  
Cathy Roskam  
Vicki Roth  
Miriam Shray  
John and Patty Smith  
Mark Smith  
Donna Tapper  
Nancy Tarshis  
Paul Ziegler

## **Bake Table Volunteers**

Pauline Brookfield  
Carlotta Citanna  
Jane Cohen  
Miriam Duhan  
Bonnie Dry  
Lauren Flowers  
Tova Getoff

Deborah Goldberg  
Alex Grannis  
Janice Keuhnlian  
Victoria Kimbrough  
Roberta Marshall  
Lynn Max  
Carol Praeger  
Donna Tapper  
Robin Wilner

## **Pre-Yard Sale Raffle Table**

### **Volunteers**

Jessica Belinder  
Jesse Berger  
Barbara Boynton  
Barbara Bryan  
Gail Bryce  
George Carmel  
Susan Carson  
Karen Collins  
Barbara Cowling  
Lydia Dufour  
Hayley Elszasz  
Mike Fara  
Deborah Goldberg  
Alex Grannis  
Ruth Helfrich  
Eloise Hirsh  
Stacey Joslin  
Victoria Kimbrough  
Mary Koval  
Nancy Lian  
Peter Littlewood  
Richard Loebel  
Joyce & Martin Mann  
Lynn Max  
Steve Max  
Steve Medcraft  
Annie Pforzheimer  
Susan Vannucci  
David Sacks  
Karen B Scher  
Enid Schildkrout  
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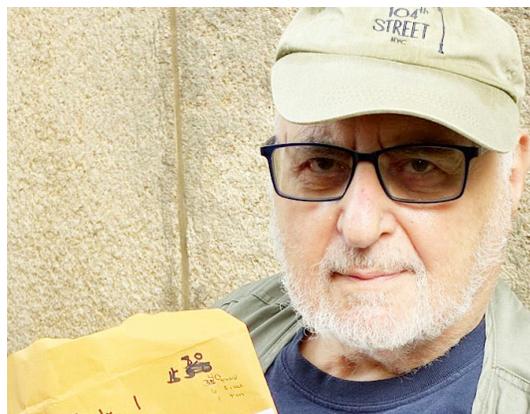
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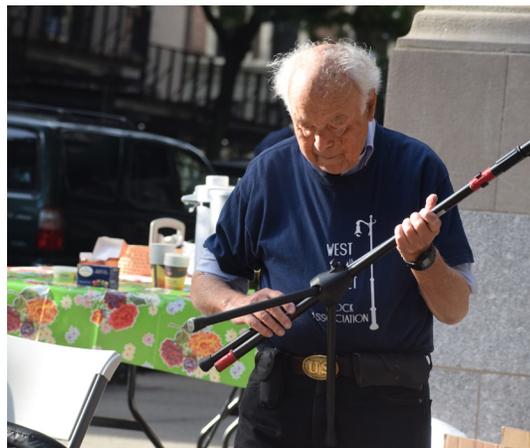
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# Thank You Volunteers and Helpers



left to right: Paul Zeigler, the bake table staff, Peter Littlewood

Una Walsh  
Karen B Scher  
Sharon Waskow  
Paula Zirinsky  
Steve Zirinsky

### Raffle Tables Day of Yard Sale

Silvia Abisaab  
Jesse Berger  
Susan Carson  
Mary Jo Gennaro  
Trudi Grace  
Nancy Lian  
Annie Pforzheimer  
Lynda Rader  
Barbara Rothenberg  
Carol Slade  
Mark Smith  
Elizabeth Titus  
Donna Washburn  
Paula Zirinsky  
Steve Zirinsky

### What-a-Bargain

Carol Goodfriend  
Sari Goodfriend  
Annie Gross  
Ed Lehman  
Joyce Mann  
Karen Odom  
Stephanie Pinto  
Joe Rappaport  
Connor Stewart  
Elizabeth Stone  
Paul Zeigler



Joe Rappaport

### Book Table

Emily Berleth  
Jennifer Jones  
Peter Littlewood  
Martin Mann  
Alison Mclarty  
Julie Weisman

### Book Table Sorters

Emily Berleth  
Steve Pred  
Katherine Randall  
Patty and Jon Smith  
Sharon Waskow

### Silent Auction

Lydia Dufour  
Jeff Howitt  
Myra Mass  
Hanna Rubin  
Larry Stern

### Sound

Paul Everett  
Steve Max  
Gary Waskow

### Set Up

Teresa Elwert  
Dan Jenkins  
Peter Littlewood  
Tom Monaco  
Gary Waskow  
Steve Zirinsky

### Breakdown

Kay Cynamon  
Ali Hassani  
Steve Zirinsky

### Vendors

Gary Waskow

### Schleppers

Maeve Daiey  
Lucien Folender  
Reuben Miller-Rosenfeld  
Connor Stewart  
Julie Wu  
Fiker Zewdie

*We thank everyone for their generosity. If we have inadvertently left you off this list, please send an email to Hanna Rubin at [Hanna.Rubin@verizon.net](mailto:Hanna.Rubin@verizon.net) so we can thank you in the next issue of the newsletter. We would like to extend a special thanks to Deborah Goldberg and Teresa Elwert for recruiting raffle table volunteers, Paula Zirinsky for her marketing ideas, and Mike Fara for the daily set up and take-down of the raffle table.*

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

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- West Side Market

# Low Waste Holiday Cooking: Here's How

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

The statistics about food waste in the U.S. are not pretty. According to the USDA, in the U.S., 30 to 40 percent of the food supply is never eaten, and is wasted in the process of producing and selling it. Food waste is the single most common material landfilled and incinerated in the U.S. creating serious environmental problems.

So what can we do to be more thoughtful about food waste this holiday season and every day? Here are some plan-ahead tips to make a difference:

Estimate how much food you will need per guest. Try this guestimator <https://savethefood.com/guestimator>

**Shop Your Pantry:** Before you leave the house, check your pantry

and fridge to avoid duplication.

**Write a detailed shopping list:** Use your menu to create a detailed shopping list. Itemize what you will need and only purchase what is on the list.

**Prepare for Leftovers:** Provide or remind guests to BYO container for leftovers. You may have some take-out containers that can be repurposed. Try to avoid plastic wrap.

Freeze any leftovers or use them in days ahead.

**Create a Compost Plan:** Before you get to the leftovers, you'll likely create lots of food scraps as you cook. Compost them and encourage your guests to do the same if possible.

# Police Launch Quality of Life Teams

Local precinct visits Block Association to flag these services

By Jennifer Jones and Joyce Mann

The New York Police Department's 24th Precinct on Amsterdam and 101st Street is our neighborhood police precinct. The Block Association Board met with officers Brittany Lazar and Sergeant Sean Hackeling to hear how their Community Outreach unit has expanded its role to newly created "Quality of Life" teams.



Lazar and Hackeling

These teams operate day and night shifts with 5 officers during the day and 6 at night to address ongoing neighborhood problems such as excessive noise, parking problems, damage to cars, e-bike issues, homeless issues, disturbances caused by the disorderly or the mentally ill or other such situations. They do not deal with narcotics sales but are well aware of the problem in the neighborhood. They

emphasized that they are not an emergency response unit (that's a 911 call and a specialized unit) but no matter the issue to simply report but not intervene.

Instead of just issuing summonses to e-bike offenders, which are often ignored because they have no actual licenses, the team is now empowered to issue a criminal summons or seize the vehicles if they are endangering property or persons.

For regular quality of life issues they said to call or log onto 311 or use the New York City 311 app. A Quality of Life team will come as soon as possible. Be sure to leave your contact information, and to include as much pertinent information about the issue as possible. They noted that "information is wealth," and the more they hear about neighborhood issues the better they can address them.



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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.

### 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.

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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](mailto:steve@zirinskyarch.com)

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Please deliver 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**

**G. Waskow: 320 RSD, Apt. 8G**

**A. Grannis: 895 West End Ave.**