



Block Associations to Sponsor Electronics Recycling Days

By Alan Leidner

Once upon a time, typewriters and telephones were simple and utilitarian and lasted for 25 years. No more. Many of these household devices have gone from being mechanical and electrical to electronic and have much shorter useful lifetimes (remember the Walkman, boom box and CRT computer monitor?). Even worse, they now contain materials that shouldn't be arbitrarily abandoned in garbage landfills.

To our rescue comes Joe Rappaport, a member of our Green Team, who has enlisted the Lower East Side Ecology Center to collect these materials for proper recycling right in our neighborhood. Sponsored by the West 102nd & 103rd Streets and the W. 104th Street Block Associations, the event will take place on **Saturday, May 17** and **Sunday, May 18** from 10 am to 4 pm and **Monday, May 19** from 4 pm to 7 pm. Christine Datz-Romero, the director of LESEC, will be on the west side of Broadway between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. to accept your unwanted computers, TVs, VCRs and so on.

These devices will be "de-manufactured" to retrieve usable parts and properly dispose of the unusable residue. There is no charge for this service (personal items only, please; no items from businesses) and tax deduction information will be available. If you need help

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The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association *NEWSLETTER*

Yard Sale Set For Saturday, May 3; Volunteers Needed

By Hedy Campbell

The fifth Annual Block Association Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 3** from 10 am to 5 pm on W. 103rd Street between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. The rain date is Sunday, May 4. Admission to the Yard Sale is free; vendors pay a fee. This year, in response to many requests, we will have a Community Sale Table to which residents can donate good quality items they no longer need but don't want to put in the trash (see box below). The Block Association will recycle (sell!) these items and use the proceeds for the good of the neighborhood. Here's how you can participate in the 2008 Yard Sale:

Help organize the sale: here's an opportunity to spend a couple of productive hours in service to your community. We need volunteers who can lend a

Community Sale Table

What to donate: new or gently used, easily portable, clothing, toys, games, CD/DVDs, art, crafts or household items *in good working order*. In other words, things that you would give or sell to a friend.

When: April 23-May 2, 8 am - 11 pm

Where: Lobby of 240 W. 102nd St.

Contact: sale@w102-103blockassn.org
or (212) 316-0434

All proceeds to Block Association

hand in advance of the Yard Sale as well as help set up and clean up on the day of the event. There will be flyers to be made and posted, other publicity to be placed, silent auction and raffle prizes to be solicited, the refreshment and Block Association tables to staff, some setup work in the morning and dismantling and cleaning up in the afternoon when it is over. You get the idea. To get involved, please contact Marlene Lee at (212) 316-0434. If you are a great baker or want to contribute other items for the refreshment table, please contact me at (212) 865-8524.

Be a vendor: if you are a Block Association resident (that is, you live on W. 102nd or W. 103rd St. between Broadway and Riverside Dr. or on West End Ave. between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts.), you can rent one of the 66 spaces, measuring 10 feet wide by 8 feet deep, for \$35; nonresidents pay \$50. The Block Association won't be providing tables so you will have to bring your

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BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Regular Block Association meetings are held twelve times a year, usually on the second Tuesday of every month.

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: 306 W. 102nd St.

The next three meetings are scheduled for March 11, April 8 and May 13.

Yard Sale Set For Saturday, May 3; Volunteers Needed

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own if you need one. As this is a neighborhood event, local, noncommercial vendors will be given priority.

Each vendor will need to read the simple rules we have established for the Yard Sale and return a completed Vendor's Agreement. The rules and a link to the agreement can be found by visiting w102-103blockassn.org; just click on "2008 Yard Sale." You can print a blank Vendor's Agreement from the website. If that doesn't work for you, call Yard Sale organizer Anthony Bello at (212) 663-6748 for assistance.

Come and shop: it's fascinating to see what your neighbors bring to the table, so to speak. Last year there was an impressive array of items from gowns and jewelry to toys, books, CDs, games, small appliances and artwork. No doubt you'll go home with some fabulous finds.

Don't forget the Block Association table for mugs and baseball caps decorated with our logo and postcards with scenes of old Broadway. The Silent

Tree Well Planting and Neighborhood Cleanup Scheduled for May 31

Did you notice that in January and February, the middle of winter, spring bulbs were pushing up from under the matted leaves in tree wells? They will survive even if we do get more snow but they are a reminder of one of the Block Association's most satisfying events: the annual tree well planting and spring cleanup day.

Here's your opportunity to get close to Mother Earth, to show your kids (if you don't have any, borrow some!) how things grow, while spending an afternoon working with some like-minded neighbors. **Mark Saturday, May 31**

Auction will entice you with restaurant meals, memberships, services, art and more. And you must try your luck on a raffle ticket! The refreshment table was a sellout last year with drinks, snacks, homemade cookies and cake and other goodies so be sure to stop by early in the day.

Perhaps, after looking around, talking with the vendors, and encountering your neighbors, you'll unearth the most valuable treasure of all: a heightened sense of connecting with your community.

on your calendar, make a note to get gardening gloves and send an email to planting@w102-103blockassn.org or call John Hewitt at (212) 866-0229 to join the crew.

The Block Association will buy the plants, potting soil and fertilizer to beautify our neighborhood. We will also provide trash bags for a general cleanup of the sidewalks and the tree wells on all our blocks.

If you would like to plant a particular tree well, perhaps one in front of your building, you should specify the location when contacting John. We will distribute our limited resources based on the needs expressed by the volunteers. Our deadline for receiving planting requests is **May 17** to allow time for acquiring the necessary materials.

Details of the hours and locations of the cleanup and planting will be posted around the neighborhood in the weeks before May 31. If you have any questions about the project, please contact John. It's not too early to sign up now!

Security Service Responds to Neighbor's Report

Most of the time, our Block Association residents encounter our guard service, Starr Security, when they see either John Seney or Rafael Hernandez making his rounds in the evening. They usually split the week, with Rafael taking the weekend evenings (Friday and Saturday, 6 pm to 1 am and Sunday, 5 pm to midnight) and John working mid-week (from 5 pm to midnight).

Recently, a member called the Block Association in the early evening concerning a stranger loitering and panhandling on W. 102nd St. She wanted to know if there was a way to contact the

guard about this situation on the block.

The answer is yes. The procedure is for anyone to call the Starr Security dispatcher at (212) 767-1110 during the guard's tour to report a safety problem. The dispatcher will call the guard on the company's communication system and record the incident. If necessary, the guard will call the police. Outside the guards' regular hours, a Block Association resident should call 911 directly with any security issue.

In the earlier case, the guard was contacted and he found that the panhandler had moved off the block.

The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association Newsletter

Published four times a year.
Hedy Campbell and David L. Reich, co-editors. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Send US Mail to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025 or email to info@w102-103blockassn.org. Phone messages may be left at (212) 866-5769. Faxes may be sent to (212) 866-5916. Recent issues of the Newsletter may be viewed at [//www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)

Carolers Ring In Silver Anniversary With “Silver Bells”

By Hedy Campbell

In terms of hours, Friday, December 21st was surely the longest night of the year. For those who participated in the Block Association’s annual holiday caroling, however, the evening flew by faster than a Timex tossed from a window. For the old-timers in our group, the heart-warming, if toe-numbing, event was especially gratifying: our stroll around the neighborhood marked the 25th year of this annual Block Association event!

Contriving to stay warm, at first our crowd gathered in the lobby of 865 West End Ave. Thanks to the residents for their forbearance! With the arrival of choirmaster Anthony Bellov and his able assistants Dayle Vander Sande and Roberta Belulovich, our numbers quickly grew and we soon relocated to the sidewalk. As we set off down W. 102nd Street, we numbered about 70, including several babies snug in their carriers but not counting a small contingent of four-legged friends.

On each block we entertained our neighbors with cheery seasonal songs and raised our voices with “Dona Nobis Pacem” (“give us peace”). The residents of 300 Riverside Dr. appreciated our synchronized singing skills in “The Twelve Days of Christmas” with enthusiastic applause. And just as our

Superman At a Loss Over Vanishing Street Pay Phones

Early in February, Verizon removed the last nearby sidewalk pay phones from West End Ave. (northwest corners of W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts.) and Riverside Dr. (southeast corners of W. 101st and W. 103rd Sts.). A company manager, Patrick Dowling, said that the pay phones were removed following a review of the Community Board 7 district because of low revenues and high maintenance costs. “Increasingly, the proliferation of cell phones, hand-held computers and laptops has replaced the prosaic pay phone,” he said.

These particular phones had become something of an eyesore with missing panels and ugly graffiti. Dowling said that the sidewalks where the phones were located would soon be restored.

The Verizon pay phone on the southwest corner of Broadway at W. 102nd St. is still in operation.

fingers and toes started to complain, it was time to retire to the lobby of the Master Apartments (310 Riverside Dr.) for warm cider and light refreshments. Thanks to building manager Seth Jucovy and the building’s residents for their hospitality.

Thanks also go to Nancy Wight, Terri Chmurak, and Deborah Lott for their help with refreshments, and to Molly Campbell, for help with the redesign of our song sheets.

Block Association Offers Service Opportunity to Teens

Are you a teenager with a community service requirement to fulfill? The Block Association can offer a variety of ways for high school students to complete this important—and often mandatory—part of their educations.

For example, a student in need of a single-day commitment in order to earn a few extra hours this spring could help with our mailbox painting project (see page 4), lend a hand with tree well planting (see page 2), or volunteer to work at our annual Yard Sale (see page 1). Longer term participation can also be arranged. We organize events year-round and have several projects waiting for willing and able volunteers to see them to fruition.

In addition, we’re open to ideas. If a local student has a particular interest in a project that we might help launch, bring it to us for consideration. The board will discuss it and determine whether it’s feasible and, if so, how best to proceed.

Appropriate documentation of service will be submitted on the student’s behalf. Whether motivated by altruism or obligation, a student who partners with the Block Association in this way is sure to benefit him or herself, the organization and the neighborhood at large. For more information, write to service@w102-103blockassn.org.



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West Side to West Indies Across Three Centuries

By Susan Dessel and Lauren Stahl

An ancient cemetery, a New York coincidence and Jewish pirates? No, it isn't a Mel Brooks movie. It's the real story of eight volunteers from Arizona, Connecticut and New York in Kingston, Jamaica earlier this year.

The leader of our group, architect Rachel Frankel, had gathered us there to inventory the overgrown, 17th-century Hunt's Bay Jewish Cemetery with the prospect that our weeklong efforts would add to the knowledge of Jewish history and genealogy while contributing to the diminishing, yet vital, Jewish community of Jamaica. The site is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Kingston and one of the oldest in the New World. Individual Jews arrived in the Caribbean in the 1620s and 1630s with larger numbers joining them beginning in the 1650s. Most were Spanish and Portuguese *conversos*, Jews who had been forcibly baptized but continued to secretly practice their religion. Many arrived via Amsterdam where the Dutch had established the West India Trading Company and valued the business experience and geographically dispersed contacts in the Jewish community.

As we happily put aside our winter coats, two of us were delighted to meet for the first time though we live just a couple of blocks apart on W. 102nd St. Architectural conservator Lauren Stahl, from the Broadmoor, had participated with Frankel in a similar effort in Suriname (1998), and was interested in helping to restore and preserve the centuries-old gravestones. Susan Dessel, an artist from 299 Riverside Dr., was especially drawn to the imagery and symbols incised in many gravestones.

The project volunteers all shared an enthusiasm that was to get us through days of thorny bushes and blistering sun. Jamaica's famed beaches were at the other end of the island so, at the end

of each day, long, cool showers at the hotel were the destination of choice.

The cemetery was originally situated near the water of Hunt's Bay across from Port Royal. Many of the Jews of Jamaica in the 17th century lived in Port Royal and were brought in row boats to the cemetery for burial. The ships that brought the marble and slate gravestones carved in Europe docked in the harbor that has since been partially filled in. Now, the two miles from hotel to cemetery was a half-hour van ride ending on a dirt track past corrugated metal shacks, some of whose residents were employed to clear the tangled brush from the site. By week's end we were all teammates, the locals' interest and enthusiasm matching our own.

Underneath the brush lay the graves, typically covered by horizontal gravestones on a brick base. Lauren laid out the grid that would enable us to map the site for our work and Susan numbered identifying markers. Eventually we located 359 graves and future efforts may uncover still more.

Many of the graves did not have gravestones (only the brick bases remain). Two of the dead were the Levy brothers, born in Austria probably of Ashkenazi (German Jewish) heritage. All the other names (e.g., Nunez, Henriques, Rodriques) appeared to identify Sephardic Jews (those of Spanish or Portuguese descent). Original records are assumed to have been destroyed in the 1692 earthquake and the 1703 fire.

Each stone was gently brushed clean so that information could be collected, including the measurements, materials and condition. The data included descriptions of illustrations and transcriptions of Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese and/or English language epitaphs containing biographical information, beautiful poems and sad records of premature death. In addition, each grave was photographed.

The stones ranged from unadorned to those with lavishly sculpted elements and symbolic images including the unexpected skull and crossed bones. A debate arose as to their meaning but there was no doubt for our local on-site liaison, Ed Kritzler. His book, *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean*, will be published this fall.

Throughout the week we enjoyed the help of local drop-in volunteers and a visiting Argentinean rabbi whose knowledge of Portuguese was invaluable. On our last day of work, we were joined at the cemetery by the 70 participants in the annual conference of Jewish Communities of the Caribbean and Latin America including many Jamaican families, a community that is racially integrated in a manner that we in New York do not encounter. Witnessing some of the participants locate graves of their ancestors and gathering together to recite Kaddish, the prayer for the dead, we ended a week marked by hard physical activity on a very spiritual note.

Volunteers Needed For Mailbox Painting Saturday, April 26

Following the great success of our fire hydrant painting last September, the Block Association is now aiming its brushes at the six US Postal Service mailboxes on our streets, which have been defaced by graffiti.

Organizer John Hewitt will be getting green paint for the relay boxes and blue paint for the collection boxes from the Postal Service as part of their Adopt-a-Box program. Brushes and drop cloths will come from our collection and from local merchants. All we need is you.

To sign up for the **April 26** event, call (212) 866-0229 (9 am - 9 pm) or send your name, address and phone number to paint@w102-103blockassn.org.

New Transition Housing Offers Neighborly Opportunities

An organization you probably don't know is trying a bold initiative in our neighborhood, and we have an opportunity to help it succeed.

The Settlement Housing Fund (SHF) (settlementhousingfund.org) was established in 1969 as a nonprofit corporation to "increase the supply of decent housing for low and moderate income New Yorkers." SHF owns 55 buildings with 8,600 apartments housing more than 25,000 people. In the course of its work, SHF has found that some families coming from City homeless shelters "need additional support in order to successfully live independently in permanent housing."

A new 11-story apartment building at 210 W. 102nd St., between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave., may be the answer. With 23 apartments for single-parent families with children under the age of 10, Semiperm, as the development is called, will also have an on-site super and a staff of four providing services and support to the families. Since residency in the building is intended to be transitional or "semi-permanent," families will be expected to move on to permanent housing within five years.

The Community Program Coordinator, Tricia Blanchard, believes that the adult residents, all of whom will have to "work, attend college or enroll in a full-time vocational training program," would greatly benefit from opportunities to become part of the community. The Block Association plans to invite residents to participate in our events. We hope to arrange activities such as tutoring children or providing knowledgeable advisors on subjects such as computer use or household finance.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, or for more information, write to semiperm@w102-103blockassn.org or call (212) 866-5769.

Aging In Place Questionnaire

(See Article Below)

Please answer these questions **by 3/31** and mail to Block Association, P. O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025 or leave at 299 Riverside Dr. (3 pm - 11 pm).

1. Are you interested in learning more about Aging in Place networks? (Y/N) []
2. Would you attend a neighborhood forum that presented different ways to organize Aging in Place support?.....(Y/N) []
3. Would you be willing to contribute time to an Aging in Place volunteer network?(Y/N) []
4. If you are interested, please provide your name and phone number:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

5. Comments or suggestions:

Block Associations Query Resident Interest In "Aging In Place" Networks

Aging in Place initiatives are springing up in cities across the country to help neighbors remain in their homes and their communities as they grow older. These volunteer-based networks come in many forms (see "A Grass-Roots Effort to Grow Old at Home," by Jane Gross, www.nytimes.com/2007/08/14/health/14aging.html).

Recently, two W. 104th St. residents, Phyllis Sperling and Howard Sands, who had attended a workshop on Aging in Place models, presented an overview to their Block Association's board. The board decided to survey their residents on the level of interest in a panel discussion of various ways to create such a neighborhood support network.

Our board has discussed the issue and decided that jointly hosting such a forum would be a good idea if there was enough interest. To gauge that interest, we are making the questionnaire available above

and also at w102-103blockassn.org. On that web page, click on the "Aging in Place Questionnaire" link to bring up the survey in the form of an email that you can easily send to the Block Association. Please respond with either the printed version or the online version by **March 31**.

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Mamá's Boys
Juan Rojas Campos and his brother Bernabe grow up with six brothers in a tiny Mexican village, where their mother taught them to cook. Now, with their brother-in-law, the hermanos have opened Mamá Mexico, a festive cantina with a roster of frozen margaritas, a festive of Mexican village life, and a strolling mariachi singer. The extensive menu ranges from the traditional (nachos, burritos) to the less familiar (grilled marinated rack of lamb and red-spagher soup). (2672 Broadway, near 102nd Street.) Excerpt from New York magazine dated September 15, 1997.

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"Strong, full margaritas" and huge sangrias fuel the "fiesta" feel of this winning Upper West Side Mexican that also showcases an "over-the-top" mariachi band on Fridays. Compadres commend the "fab staff" and only "wish the place weren't so popular."
The New York Times
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Updates>>>News Updates>>>News Updates>>>News

96th St. Subway Renovation
 Work has resumed, since the beginning of January, on the sidewalk reduction from W. 94th St. to W. 97th St. to accommodate traffic flow around the widened Broadway mall. It should be completed by early March.

Other work in the station and on the mall has included installation of a temporary ventilation system, improvement of platform lighting and repair of platform edging. Some of these activities have required the closing of a platform, typically on a weekend. These partial closures will continue throughout the multiyear project.

Street Tree Replacement
 Last fall a dead ginkgo was removed from in front of 311 W. 103rd St. and replacement was promised for this spring. Alas, not only is that tree pit missing its tree, the Manhattan Forestry department's database seems to be missing it as well.

A call to that department has elicited a promise that the database will be corrected right away. Most of the available new trees have been assigned already for the spring planting but if an unassigned ginkgo can be found, we might yet get the replacement into the tree pit in the next few months.

W. 102nd St. Repaving
 In August, 2005, DOT Commissioner for Manhattan Margaret Forgione wrote that W. 102nd St., from Central Park West to Riverside Dr., would be repaved in 2006. It didn't happen and the street surface got worse. Potholes were filled and refilled. Street cuts were made and partially filled in conjunction with building renovations, notably between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. Now Ms. Forgione has written to the Block Association "I have been informed that we will repave this roadway when we are working on the west side this summer." Let's hope.



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How Many Lightbulbs Does It Take to Change Our Energy Demand?

By Alan Leidner

It's a twist on the old joke but it's not a joke any more. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), those twisty lightbulbs, can save us a lot of money and electric energy right now.

Your Block Association's Green Team has investigated the broad and confusing array of CFL products to produce its recommendations: replacing standard incandescent bulbs with CFL's can reduce electricity needed for lighting by 75%. They will pay for themselves in months and can go on to save you over \$100 a year on your electric bill in a typical apartment situation.

CFLs are readily available in our neighborhood. The best prices for a selection of GE and Sylvania products can be found at C&S Hardware on Amsterdam Ave. at W. 99th St. The two Home Depot stores in Manhattan carry highly rated N:VISION CFLs also at competitive prices.

Among the issues to consider when looking for CFLs are the color of the light, the size (physical dimensions) of the bulbs and their longevity. To read the details of our research into these factors, visit w102-103blockassn.org and follow the link to the Green Team home page. The CFL report also includes links to informative websites with reviews and explanations to help you make a good choice.

In addition to saving money, the benefit beyond your home will be in the reduced demand for the fossil fuels (and the pollution associated with their burning in power plants) that are used to generate most of the electricity in this region. That's something we, as individuals, can do to address global warming. To comment or for more information on this Green Team recommendation, write to leidnera@nyc.rr.com.

Green Team Urges 100% Wind Energy For Electricity Supply

By Amy Cherry

The good part of the huge global warming problem is that each of us can do something about it.

Electricity customers now pay separately for generation and distribution. ConEdison has a monopoly on distribution. Your choice for the generation company can, however, make a big difference. The more customers choose nonpolluting generators of electricity, the less CO₂, for example, will be dumped in the atmosphere by power plants. If all the households in our neighboring block associations switched to wind power electricity, we'd reduce our carbon load by 10,000 tons per year.

ConEdison Solutions, a subsidiary of ConEdison, is a generation company offering two options: Standard and Green Power. About 75% of Standard electricity comes from coal, gas and nuclear plants with the rest coming from oil and hydro. Green Power has two options: 65% hydro plus 35% wind or 100% wind (our preference). Standard is the cheapest and 100% wind the most expensive. It would cost about 2.5¢ more per kwh or about \$10/month on an average bill, which could be offset by using CFLs or other conservation measures.

For those who would like to avoid ConEdison, there are many other choices. The best rate I found for wind power (2-3¢ higher than ConEdison wind power per kwh) is from Accent Energy. Unlike ConEdison, Accent offers a group rate. If you are interested in trying to get a group rate, please write to acherry@wnnorton.com with Block Association in the Subject header.

For the full pricing details and recommendations of my Green Team research, including links to informative websites, please visit w102-103blockassn.org and click on Green Team Home Page.

Green Team Broadens Membership and Activities

By Alan Leidner

With members from the W. 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association and the W. 104th Street Block Association, our Green Team is meeting about once a month to discuss energy-saving and pollution-reducing ideas.

The newest volunteer to join, Jim Jubak, from 895 West End Ave., is interested in actions that building managers can take to reduce fuel consumption. His building is exploring improvements in their heat control system and the possibility of adding a gas-fired hot water heater. They are in the process of replacing single-paned windows.

Other members of the group are investigating roof options to reduce heat load and heat loss as well as the use of solar roof panels for electricity generation or water heating. An electronics recycling event and proposals for increasing the use of CFLs and buying electricity from low-pollution generators were presented to and supported by the W. 102nd & 103rd Streets board at recent meetings (see articles on page 1 and on this page).

To join the Green Team or for more information on any of our investigations, write to leidnera@nyc.rr.com.

Block Associations to Sponsor Electronics Recycling Days

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transporting your items from home to the recycling event on Broadway, please contact the Block Association (see box on page 2 for contact information).

For more information on what to bring and how it all works, visit LESEC online at lesecologycenter.org. Mark the days on your calendar now!

On Broadway

Openings and Closings: ♦♦From November 2007 through January 2008, four shops on Broadway were robbed at gunpoint, apparently by the same person. In our neighborhood, **Bazaar de la Paz**, a furniture and crafts shop between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. and **Rootchi**, a women's clothing store between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts., each had only a female salesperson in the store at the time of the robbery. At the 24th Precinct Community Council meeting in February, Deputy Inspector Kathleen O'Reilly announced that the robber had been caught. ♦♦The new restaurant, **Sookk** ("happiness" in Thai), which just opened on the east side of Broadway between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts., replacing **Ana's**, is the fifth one in Manhattan owned by four partners. One of the others is **Room Service** in Chelsea. ♦♦**West Side Stationers** on the west side of Broadway between W. 108th and W. 109th Sts. has closed. The sign on the window during the shop's last weeks said "Lost Our Lease. Rent Is Too High." The owner, Paul, has a second store with the same name on the east side of Broadway at W. 99th St. and two others further uptown that operate as **Ivy League Stationers**. He has been in the stationery business on the Upper West Side since 1978. The landlord at the closed location is Heller Realty, the same landlord that emptied three small shops on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. Those shops have remained empty for more than two years. ♦♦After more than seven months of renovation and construction, the new **Walgreens** on the southwest corner of Broadway at W. 97th St. is expected to open in April.

In Limbo: ♦♦This new category in the "On Broadway" column arises from the current situation where increasing amounts of retail space in our

neighborhood are remaining vacant for long stretches at a time. The vast property at **Ariel West** and the much smaller one at **Ariel East** both rate a listing here as does the former **Metro Theater**, all between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. Last August, the retail condo at Ariel West was sold by John Catsimatidis, the major owner of Gristedes, for about \$22.5 million. The purchaser, Hudson Island, LLC, is the development company that's putting up a residential building on the lot in SoHo where the Moon-dance Diner once stood. Back on Broadway, the super at Ariel East reports that **Jenny Craig** was slated to rent the commercial space but pulled out. The real estate firm **RKF** has just taken over marketing the property for the owner, **Extell**. ♦♦There is some interest in the former **Sterling Optical** and **Aerosoles** shoe store spaces on the west side of Broadway between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts., according to the realtor handling the properties. They are being marketed as one unit, but, as of now, no tenant has been

signed for either space separately nor the two together.

Going Down, Going Up: ♦♦Major high-rise construction in our area is currently limited to Amsterdam and Columbus Aves. between W. 97th and W. 100th Sts. Both **Whole Foods** and **Modell's Sporting Goods** have signed long leases for large spaces in the Columbus Ave. buildings.

Block Association Elects Officers

At the December meeting of the Block Association board, officers were unanimously elected for the one-year term ending at the next annual meeting in November 2008.

David Reich will continue as chair and Marlene Lee has added the position of secretary to that of treasurer, which she has held for several years. Also at the meeting, David stated that this will be his last year as chair. He expects to continue co-editing the Newsletter.

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Thank You, Members!

To all of our contributors, heartfelt thanks. Your donations keep the Block Association going and the guard on the street. Names of those who are “paid up” through the *previous* quarter (approximately) appear below; please let us know of errors. We ask that you please fill out the envelope stub

**New and continuing donors:
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completely (including your apartment number) and legibly when making your contribution (the stubs are the basis of our record-keeping) and indicate if you prefer anonymity.

235 W. 102 St.: Awner, Cox, Einhorn/Futtermann, Fair/Guide, Kirkpatrick, Knight, Lyman, Mallow, Mitchell, Nelson-Schwartz, O’Hanlon, Rabbai, Schaeffer, Scheel/Drillinger, Stevenson, Timperley, Vargas/Weiner
240 W. 102 St.: Eisenstadt, Field, Fishman, Flanagan, Kalish, McGirt
244 W. 102 St.: Sugarman
247 W. 102 St.: Dunn
251 W. 102 St.: Mirsky/Bommarito
307 W. 102 St.: Zakaria/Throckmorton
308 W. 102 St.: Hilary
309 W. 102 St.: Baron
310 W. 102 St.: Albert
311 W. 102 St.: Doyle/Lauren
312 W. 102 St.: Plutzik/Goldwasser
313 W. 102 St.: Betts
315 W. 102 St.: Hansen, Knox, Ripps, Sparks, Weil
318 W. 102 St.: Erselcuk
320 W. 102 St.: Brail
244 W. 103 St.: Smith/de Souza
250 W. 103 St.: Falk, Hatcher, Katzer, Kotchen, Lee/Payez, Rahmani, Soskin, Sue/Lin
254 W. 103 St.: Feldman/Hasenpusch
303 W. 103 St.: Frishauf/Rice
305 W. 103 St.: Bertin
307 W. 103 St.: Tredanari
308 W. 103 St.: Ian
312 W. 103 St.: Aaronson
316 W. 103 St.: Iler/Krishna, Kleidon/Ahmed
855 West End Ave.: Coffman, Ehrenfeld, Hawke, Henwood, Solowiejczyk/Porjesz
865 West End Ave.: Axelrod, Beels, Blumm, Carroll/Bartlik, Currin/Lepore, Cushman/Sorkin, Davidge/Lott, Eisenstein, Hanrahan, Leshen/Mota, Lowenthal, Nye, Oppenheimer, Perchanok/Krasner, Sands, Von Moltke, Zakrzewski
870 West End Ave.: Wuorinen
875 West End Ave.:

Babush, Batterman, Borinstein/Vartanian, Canin, Canin/Sauer, Carll, DeCurtis/MacDowell, Fricke/Klimley, Garbers/Belth, Gordon, Gorelick, Grosz/Fisch, Hausman, Keane, Lasher, Leiman, Leon, Levin, Levine, Levine, Lohr/Trucco, Malatzky, Manley, March/Laferrère, McDermott, Rando-Channon, Reilly, Rogers, Silver, Smith/Chibnik, Sondik/Greene-Sondik, Stein, Straw/Gubitosa, Yahr, Zuckerman
878 West End Ave.: Adams, Foreman, Gross/Ochshorn, Hotchkiss, Lansdale, Stearns
884 West End Ave.: Booth/Newman, Cockey/Strohm, Cutler/Young, Davis, Dispenza, Finch/Fitzgibbon, Pines, Yin
885 West End Ave.: Bernstein/Bowen, Browning/Laffey, Cross, Friedman, Goldberg, Gruber, Parker/Fales, Sanders, Sherman/Chafetz, Spring/Miller, Stokinger/Maas, Talkow/Woodbury, Talkow/Woodbury, Tympanick/Gilman, Weiss
299 Riverside Dr.: Bankowsky, Bauchner/Weil, Cunningham, Dane/Rabinowitz, Fell, Field/Seidel, Flateman/Goldstein, Fleischer, Goldstein, Healy/Emery, Holtz/Horowitz, Kaplan, Kastanis, Kaufman, Leidner/Ruden, Reich/Dessel, Shear, Soltz, Tedoff, Wagner/Cecil, Wollos/Best, Wong
300 Riverside Dr.: Abramski, Clarke, Edelman/Gold, Eisler, Flint/McLeod, Forbes/De Prenger, Fox, Frank, Frizell, Greenwald/Struhl, Halberstam/Cohen, Hudson/Cherry, Krassner, Larned, Lerse, Livingstone, Maderer, Meer, Mills, Paul, Rack, Rapp/Zyberman, Rehberg/Greenman, Reich/Greenberg, Reiner/Lally, Ross/Myers, Sato, Schiff, Serra, Simon, Sinaiko, Stone, Taus, Themm/Clevenger, van Schaardenburg, Vaz/Moebius, Vinicor, Weissberg
305 Riverside Dr.: Avidon, Colon, Hoffman, Jacoby, Jurmain, Juviler/Stephens, Kaiden, Karnett, Liebowitz, McGinn, Meyer/Biestock, Minerva/Danzig, Roy, Sandlow
310 Riverside Dr.: Acero/Dyer, Barter, Deming, Godshall, Hagiwara, Huber, Hugus, Maffei, Mahoney, McKinney/Chin, Piper, PM Group, Inc., Sandberg, Solomon, Wiener, Woodward
Landlords/Co-ops: 235 W. 102 St., 240 W. 102 St., 247 W. 102 St., 248 W. 102 St., 249 W. 102 St., 250 W. 102 St., 252 W. 102 St., 254 W. 102 St., 302 W. 102 St., 315 W. 102 St., 316 W. 102 St., 250 W. 103 St., 308 W. 103 St., 319 W. 103 St., 854 West End Ave., 855 West End Ave., 856 West End Ave., 858 West End Ave., 864 West End Ave., 866 West End Ave., 868 West End Ave., 872 West End Ave., 875 West End Ave., 878 West End Ave., 885 West End Ave., 299

Riverside Dr., 300 Riverside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr.

Commercial: Fleischer, Kay French Cleaners, Mamá Mexico, New Amsterdam/Regency TV, Perez, Regional, Sorkin, Stahl, Wohlfarth & Associates

Driver, Take Us To This Restaurant That Isn’t On The Map

By David L. Reich

This isn’t a review of the food and ambience at Covo Trattoria, 701 W. 135th St. on the Very Upper West Side, though both were quite nice when we were there a few weeks ago. No, this is about the address and how we find our way in this electronic and Internet age.

Any web-savvy diner knows where to search online for restaurant information. A well-known source for Manhattan is *menupages.com*. When friends suggested Covo, I looked it up. MenuPages said it was at St. Nicholas Ave.

In the cab, our friend said “12th Ave.” and he was right. At the restaurant, in a newly-renovated old train station, the owner said that the Post Office wouldn’t even deliver mail to them.

Back home, I tried Yahoo Maps, MapQuest and Google Maps. None of them got it right. Yahoo’s marker was close, at the intersection of the elevated Riverside Dr. and W. 135th St., but that’s about 50 feet *above* the restaurant. You couldn’t see it from there. MapQuest had it at Broadway and Google was half a mile off at St. Nicholas Ave. That’s where MenuPages got its bad information. After I wrote to MenuPages, they made a correction. Attempts to contact the mapping services with the correct details have produced no results.

It all seems a result of the Post Office database. An inspector there was surprised that the address was listed as “undeliverable.” He said that the owner or landlord would have to request an investigation. By the way, “covo,” in Italian, means “lair” or “hidden place.”