



The State of the Block Association, One Year Later

By Hedy Campbell

Just a year ago, on the front page of the newsletter, we wrote that the Block Association was facing a crisis. We were in need of money and, equally important, we were in need of volunteers. Following publication, we saw an increase in contributions and several residents let us know they were available to help. Last December, we expressed our appreciation.

As of now, we're doing okay financially. The board isn't in a constant state of concern about paying for the guard service, which represents almost all of our budget. A handful of you who stepped forward last fall have filled empty posts or spearheaded new initiatives. A larger handful stopped by but didn't linger, leaving us pretty much where we were, after the departure of several board members due to major changes in their personal, professional, or health status. To avoid reaching a point of desperation again, we're asking for your help in a variety of ways, explained below. Find the one that fits you best and make sure to act on it as soon as you possibly can. We've found that almost everyone who lends a hand finds it gratifying.

- If you made your first annual contribution last fall, make sure to renew by writing a check and submitting it in the envelope provided.

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

Halloween Parade Seeks Blood, New Blood, That Is

By Marc Reiner

*Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Boo.*

Boo who?

*Aw, don't cry, Halloween's right
around the corner!*

On a normal Wednesday night, residents of W. 102nd and W. 103rd St. who seek terror must travel all the way over to Columbus Ave. to see what Whole Foods is charging for ostrich eggs. But on All Hallows Eve, Weds., Oct. 31, the Block Association will save you the walk. Once again it will unleash its annual spooky Halloween festivities.

Every year, hundreds of costumed kids and their sociable (and sometimes costumed) parents and neighbors join together for a mammoth parade and block party. Closing W. 102nd St. between Riverside Dr. and West End Ave. allows revelers to munch and mingle after the parade. When the Witching Hour strikes at 8 p.m., alas, our chilling chilluns must find other hollows to haunt, as W. 102nd St. must be re-opened to traffic.

The evening's events begin just before 6 p.m., as the throng gathers along the northwest corner of W. 102nd St. and West End Ave. Soon thereafter, the Spooky Stroll begins, heading north along West End Ave., then west down W. 103rd St., south on Riverside Dr., and then east up the hill on closed-off W. 102nd St. Homeowners help set the

mood by decorating their stoops with pumpkins, ghosts, spider webs, dancing monsters, and bowls of candy. This year we hope to see homeowners on W. 103rd St. joining the fun. Tables full of treats on W. 102nd St. will soothe savage beasts of all sorts.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Phillip.

Phillip who?

Phillip my bag with candy, please!

In years past, we've distributed trick-or-treat bags that we'd pre-filled with donated candy to attendees as they reached the end of the parade. This year, however, we propose to try something new. We'd like to have people stationed along the parade route giving out candy as the parade passes. We think the change will add interest and enthusiasm along the entire parade route, especially in the middle, where the thrill factor sometimes drops off a bit. Similarly, this year we would like

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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 Sept. 11, Oct. 9, and Nov. 13.

Review: Fresh Spices, Complex Flavors at Amla

By Hedy Campbell

It didn't come as much of a shock when Calcutta Café (on the west side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts.) closed its doors. With newcomers Indus Valley and Aangan to the south and the old favorite Indian Café to the north, something had to give.

You could have knocked me over with a *pappadam*, however, when signs announced yet another Indian restaurant in the space. And I was even more surprised to discover that Amla and Indus Valley share a partner. Wouldn't four blocks between the restaurants be too close for mutual profitability? We shall see. Meanwhile, several neighbors have tried the offerings and provided input for the comments below. They unanimously recommend Amla.

Atmospherically, everything is fresh with wood paneling below painted walls, vaguely Lalique-style metal-and-frosted-glass light fixtures, and comfortable leather-backed chairs. White cloth napkins and tablecloths lend a touch of formality, as do the fresh flowers on each table. A sense of spaciousness is a pleasant discovery. Indian music, played at a volume that allows for con-

versation, contributes to the mood.

The large menu starts with lunch/brunch dishes, moves on to appetizers, includes a large assortment of main dishes, and concludes with breads and desserts. According to manager Shekar Gowda, the cuisine hails from southern India, and is characterized by the flavors of many spices and herbs, all of which are ground and prepared fresh daily.

The lunch special, \$10.95, offers an appetizer, entrée, bread or rice, and dessert. I tried and enjoyed two appetizers: *anar* onion *bhajia*, a crispy fritter, and Bombay *bhel poori*, an amalgamation of well-seasoned puffed rice, carrot shreds, and diced potatoes served atop crispy *papdi* and drizzled with *raita*. Of the eight entrées, I've sampled two: very tasty Coorgi chicken curry and lamb vindaloo, which should satisfy the fire eaters among us. The menu also offers eight South Indian *dosas*, which are only available at lunchtime. *Dosas* are rice flour crepes with various toppings or fillings. They are served with *sambar*, a light vegetable soup (\$7.95 to \$11.95).

At dinnertime, many selections ap-

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Halloween Parade Seeks Blood, New Blood, That Is

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to include more games and activities in addition to the traditional Halloween-themed stories our very own not-too-scary buccaneer reads to amuse our tiny treatseekers. In order to make either of these innovations realities, however, we'll need some additional adults or able teens to help out.

Knock, Knock.

Who's there?

Witch.

Witch who?

Witch of you will volunteer to help?

Here are all the ways you can lend a hand: contribute baked goods, candy, or other refreshments; volunteer to chaperone the parade, give out candy,

or just clap and cheer along the route; create and/or help run a new activity (a photo station, an arts-and-crafts project, a scavenger hunt, or even projecting age-appropriate images on the outside walls of one of the buildings); be available for setup or cleanup; stand guard at Riverside Dr. to thwart motorists who try to evade our barricades.

To volunteer, please write to me at mreiner@andersonkill.com or call me at (212) 278-1449. Community service credit is available for teens. Can you think of a better way to spend a couple of hours than making it possible for hundreds of kids to celebrate Halloween happily and safely right in their own neighborhood?

**The West 102nd & 103rd
Streets Block Association**
info@w102-103blockassn.org

Newsletter

Published four times each year. **Hedy Campbell** and **David L. Reich**, co-editors. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Address letters to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025. Email may be sent to editor@w102-103blockassn.org. Phone messages may be left at (212) 865-8524. Recent issues of the Newsletter are available online at bloomingdale.org/newsletter/102-103.htm

Email List

The Block Association maintains an email list to notify residents about important matters that arise between issues of the Newsletter. You can join the list by sending your email address, full name, home address (with apartment number) and phone number to email@w102-103blockassn.org.

Street Guard

Your contributions to the Block Association provide funding for our street guards, Rafael Hernandez, who makes rounds from 5 p.m. to midnight, Sun., Weds. and Thurs. and from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Fri. and Sat. and Roy Chavarriaga, on duty Mon. and Tues. from 5 p.m. to midnight. The guards can be reached, through the office of Starr Security, at (212) 767-1110, to report neighborhood security issues or to request assistance on the street.

Neighborhood Artists To Be Seen and Heard this Fall

By David L. Reich

Editor's Note: We found five Block Association residents who will be performing or exhibiting their creative work this fall: two singers, one musician, and two visual artists. Now you can discover them as well.

Ken Hitchcock and Sue Halloran

Soprano Sue Halloran and saxophonist/clarinetist/flutist Ken Hitchcock have lived in our neighborhood for the past four years "and love it," they tell us. After several decades in the music business, they have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with the release of "I Can Cook Too", their first CD together. In case that title doesn't ring a bell, it's a song from the 1940's musical *On The Town* with both lyrics and music by Leonard Bernstein. It is one of the "forgotten gems" included on the CD along with several classics from the Great American Songbook such as "Let's Fall in Love," "I'll Take Romance," and "My Funny Valentine."

Halloran's vocals are "pitch perfect," "warm and inviting," and "sweetly swingin'," to quote a couple of reviewers. Hitchcock, "a woodwind virtuoso," provides a multi-tracked array of saxes, clarinets, and flutes, along with a few other instrumentalists to produce "the unique live feel of a small jazz orchestra." More information about the CD, the songs, the arrangements, and the artists can be found on Sue and Ken's website suehalloran-kenhitchcock.com.

Peter Kuper

The graphic novelist and illustrator, Peter Kuper, who was profiled in this newsletter in March of this year, will be appearing at the Brooklyn Book Festival on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Brooklyn Borough Hall and Plaza, 209 Joralemon St. in, of course, Brooklyn.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Peter will be on one panel titled "Rabble Rousers: Activist Comics," along with artists Mr. Fish and Fly, and moderated by Jonathan Gray, a comics scholar. He will also be on another with cartoonists who use New York City as a regular setting in their work. The times for these panels have not yet been announced. There will also be "bookend events" during the preceding four days at various locations in the area. For more details about the festival, visit brooklynbookfestival.org.

Peter will also be at New York Comic Con from Oct. 11 through 14 in Artists' Alley at the Jacob Javits Center.

Cushla Naegele

Painter and neighbor Cushla Naegele currently has two pastel portraits on display in the PicNic Market & Café. They depict Farmer Ray and Hardeeb from the W. 97th St. Farmer's Market. More of her work can be seen at her website cushlanaegelestudio.com.

Naegele is also available as an art portfolio tutor for middle school students applying to high schools such as LaGuardia and Art and Design.

Laura Guggenheim

They are the the New York Metro Raging Grannies and Their Daughters and they call their group a gaggle. On Saturday, Oct. 13, at 8 p.m., with neighbor Laura Guggenheim in their midst, they will perform their song parodies and satire to promote justice, global peace, and social and economic equality at the Peoples' Voice Café, in the Community Church, 40 E. 35th St. (between Madison and Park Aves.) A contribution of \$18 is suggested.

To learn more, visit the website at nycmetro.raginggrannies.org.

Trash Baskets Stolen From Street Corners

There has been a rash of thefts of Department of Sanitation trash baskets from street corners in our neighborhood, according to Penny Ryan, the manager of Community Board 7. Recently, the dark green baskets were missing from the southeast corners of the Riverside Dr. service road at W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. The basket that used to be on the northeast corner of W. 101st St. and Broadway had also disappeared.

Ryan suspects that they are being taken for their value as scrap metal or for use as barbecues. She has contacted the local representative of the Department of Sanitation who subsequently arranged for replacements.



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Reading In Place: BAiP's Neighborhood Book Groups Thrive

By Caitlin Hawke

For the past three years, Bloomingdale Aging in Place (BAiP) has been a nexus for a multitude of activities open to neighbors of any age. There is a vibrant photography group, a bridge club, a walking group, a ping-pong group and a watercolor club. It also boasts not one, but two book groups.

Led by David Greenberg, who is a financial advisor by trade, the first BAiP Book Group devotes itself to reading works of literary fiction. Sharon Waskow, a librarian and educator, leads the second and more recently formed BAiP History Book Group. With members ranging in age from their forties to their eighties, both groups easily serve BAiP's mission of fostering an inter-generational community. Age and the perspective it affords enhance the discussions, but it is the individual readers and their desire to come together to process the readings that provide the key to the groups' success.

David's group has been going strong since the BAiP's inception and will celebrate its third anniversary this month. It has come a long way from its first meeting when just two people—David and Martha Weissberg—attended. Soon thereafter, the group reached its maximum of nine members with little effort. David reported that it is rare for anyone to miss a meeting. He believes the reason for this is the members' broad consensus on the type of books they read. Recent or old, the books are all literary with authors who have ranged from Tolstoy (*The Kreutzer Sonata*) and Hemingway (*A Farewell to Arms* and *A Moveable Feast*) to Coetzee (*Disgrace*), Kingsolver (*The Lacuna*), and Franzen (*Freedom*), among many others.

A Bloomingdale resident for 20 years, David moved here with his future wife, Sheryl Reich, during his graduate studies in art history at Rutgers. They had

met nearby at the 1991 Paul Simon concert in Central Park. Their now teenage son was born in the neighborhood. Bloomingdale is home. So when BAiP launched, David was instantly attracted to its mission of neighbors helping neighbors. What he, perhaps, did not anticipate was how his involvement would make living in this urban area come to feel like living in a small town, something both he and Sharon Waskow agree is a cherished reward. Sharon said, "Through BAiP and the 104th Street Block Association, I am waving to people on the street whom I now know and whom I could only vaguely recognize before. Being a part of a community is a wonderful thing." She noted that the history group has evolved from a collection of strangers to a group that is growing closer, primarily due to members' willingness to discuss personal experiences and reflections with candor.

A Bloomingdale resident for the past 17 years, Sharon learned of BAiP's work through her husband Gary and was impressed by the early panels she attended. "The Aging in Place mission definitely appealed to me as a person at a beginning phase of the process," Sharon said with a laugh. With the capping of the original book group, BAiP co-founder Hanna Rubin and board member Phyllis Sperling encouraged Sharon, a neighbor, to launch a second group to meet demand. Hewing to her own particular interest, Sharon conceived of the theme of "reading history" and signed on last fall to lead her group, which is now poised to mark its first anniversary.

Eleven members strong, the History Book Group, like its fiction counterpart, is an ambulatory group, meeting in a different member's home each session. The rule for selections is that they be histories or historical fiction and written in a literary manner. Non-fiction titles have included Edmund de Waal's *The*

Hare with Amber Eyes, a masterfully-told Jewish family genealogy recited in parallel with the improbable survival, through two world wars, of a collection of netsuke; *The Warmth of Other Suns*, a chronicle of the great migration of southern black citizens northward by Isabel Wilkerson; and *Nothing to Envy* with its riveting accounts of current-day life in North Korea by Barbara Demick. The settings of the historical fiction choices have ranged from the 1660s of New England pioneers in *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks, to the gritty 1970s of Colum McCann's kaleidoscopic *Let the Great World Spin*.

With time, the groups have seen motifs emerge among the selected books. David observed, "A theme for many of our books is life in the former English colonies.... We also have a bit of a World War I theme with Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road*, Hemingway, and Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*." Sharon noted dislocation and the brutality of war as themes that have cycled through readings.

Both leaders look forward to the books and discussions to ensue. As Sharon put it, "There's a beautiful evolution that comes from sharing emotions and intellectual perspectives while reading great books."

Editor's note: BAiP welcomes new book groups. To start one, contact Phyllis Sperling, Activities Committee chair, at activities@bloominplace.org.

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See page 2 for contact information.

Large Turnout for Town Hall Meeting with Politicians and Officials

By Cynthia Doty

On July 18, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer hosted a town hall meeting at Anshe Chesed Synagogue on W. 100th St. and West End Ave. The room was packed as many of our neighbors came together to discuss local issues. Manhattan BP Stringer gave a brief speech and introduced his panel of representatives from many agencies including the NYPD (Deputy Inspector Barry and several of her officers), sanitation and buildings departments, the NYC Housing Authority, Community Board 7, and others. Then community members had a chance to step up to the microphone and express their concerns and ask questions.

Many issues were discussed over the course of several hours. A number of speakers were upset with the planned move of the Jewish Home Life Care facility from W. 106th St. to W. 97th St.. BP Stringer promised that he would take a lead position on the negotiations and work to protect the residents of Park West Village from the current pro-

posal. A few of our block association members raised concerns over the illegal construction at 315 W. 103rd Street. As a result, a group took the Buildings Department representative on a tour of the building after the meeting and met with the current residents. They had a long, productive discussion and came up with an action plan they hope will bring relief to the residents and resolve the issues.

Speakers also discussed the serious rat problems in the neighborhood. Council Member Brewer took notes and announced that a "Rat Academy" was being launched to teach supers and residents the best practices for

eradicating rats. Other topics included rent regulation, Stop and Frisk, solitary confinement of prisoners, schools, bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly street improvements, and the requirement that longtime elderly residents in NYCHA apartments move to smaller apartments when their children leave or spouses die, which often forces them out of their familiar neighborhoods. Many also spoke of individual problems and were directed to the appropriate representatives for assistance.

All in all, it was a very good meeting and an excellent opportunity for real interaction between neighbors and various officials.

CORRECTION

In the June, 2012 issue, we printed a photo from this year's Yard Sale and misidentified the artist and vendor who is seen showing his work to a potential buyer. The artist is Alan Brandwein. We apologize for the error.

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Keeping the Neighborhood Beautiful: The Ecology Committee is on it

By Eve Sinaiko

Beautification of the neighborhood has always been high on the Block Association's priority list. Evidence is easily found by looking down upon many of our tree wells and up to the lush green canopy provided by our 89 street trees. The newly formed Ecology Committee is devoted to continuing to improve the health of our trees. We will organize the annual spring tree-well cleanup and flower planting as well as other events. In fact, a first-time-ever fall tree-mulching initiative is in the works for mid-October. Keep an eye out for posters in building lobbies and on bulletin boards announcing the date. Use the email address below to let us know that you're interested in participating.

Since organizing themselves earlier this year, ecology committee members have been trained in tree care by Million-TreesNYC (a program of the Parks Dept. and PlaNYC) and the Citizens Committee for New York City. With two more months in this year's growing season, committee members stress, we have time to put the following advice that we've gotten from these organizations, as well as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, into action and make a difference in the health and beauty of the trees that line our streets.

Street trees can grow as large and leafy as park trees. Why don't they? In order of importance, the biggest stresses on street trees are:

1. lack of water
2. lack of water
3. damage from cars, scaffolds, and bike chains
4. insect infestation, fungus, and disease
5. salt and animal waste

Without sufficient water, a tree may survive, but will not thrive. Telltale signs of insufficient water are bare or dead branches, thin leaf canopy, and slow growth.

•Water once a week: Street trees survive entirely on aboveground water; they do not receive water from underground sources. During the growing season (Mar. through Oct.), a young tree needs 15 to 20 gallons of water weekly and a mature tree needs at least 8 to 10 gallons. Rainfall of 1 inch is sufficient; anything less and we need to make up the difference.

•Water slowly: Water should seep deeply into the soil. Surface watering may make the flowers perk up, but is not enough for trees. Water for at least 10 or 15 minutes, with moderate hose flow. For younger trees, a "tregator" watering bag is ideal, as it ensures slow, thorough soaking. A good example of this technique are the two thriving trees in front of 305 Riverside Dr. where the tregators were provided by a resident of the building.

•Remove obstacles to rainfall: Especially if the tree has no other regular source of water, give a tree the most rainfall you can. A decorative box should not cover or reduce the area of soil exposed to rainfall or block runoff into the tree well. Walls or curbs that enclose the tree well deprive a tree of water from rain and runoff. Consider removing pavers and decorative stones and planters that overhang the soil around the tree. Remember: lack of water is far more damaging to trees than animal urine or salt are.

•Protect the tree from disease and damage: Disease, insects, or fungus can enter a tree if the bark is scarred or if moisture accumulates under vines, such as ivy. It is best to remove all vines and chicken wire from a tree's trunk. If a tree has fungus or insect infestation, it will need treatment from an arborist. Dog urine directly on a tree trunk can burn the bark.

Protect trees from salt used to de-ice in winter by laying down fresh mulch—shredded wood chips, peat, or straw—in

the fall. Mulch can be purchased from a local garden center, some hardware stores, or online. In October, gently remove old mulch with a claw tool (take care not to scar any tree roots), then cover the whole tree pit with a layer of mulch 2 to 3 inches deep. Do not pile mulch against the base of the tree itself. One tree pit typically needs about 15 or 20 pounds of mulch. Fall mulching time is also a great time to plant bulbs for spring!

To learn more about the ecology committee, to volunteer, or to receive a detailed tree-care booklet, please email trees@w102-103blockassn.org.

New Guard on the Street: Roy Chavarriaga

Since Rafael Hernandez cut his seven days a week as guard on our blocks to five, we have been fortunate that the new guard from Starr Security has been Roy Chavarriaga (below). A resident of Corona, Queens, Roy is 25 years old and is currently between semesters at Queensborough Community College where he is studying computer science. He's serious and personable, enjoying the work and appreciating the neighbors who stop to say hello.



Undaunted, Orfeo Duo Again Applies for Grant

Since 2005, the Block Association has supported the Orfeo Duo, brother and sister musicians Ishmael (piano) and Vita Wallace (violin), by serving as the duo's fiscal sponsor on their applications for grants from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. We've been happy to fulfill the role by completing the necessary paperwork.

The Wallaces have used the LMCC grant to offset the costs of their "What a Neighborhood!" series of concerts, which "celebrate Manhattanville, Morningside Heights, and the Manhattan Valley primarily through the music of living local composers." Begun in 2003, the concerts are presented each spring and "encourage and inspire composers and draw neighbors together,

helping to nurture a strong community that includes all the diversity of our area."

Unfortunately, in 2012, the Wallaces did not receive a grant. Undeterred, they continued to perform the concert series and have submitted their application, with our support, for the 2013 cycle. We wish them luck and hope that the LMCC recognizes their value to the community. If you'd like to see the duo in person, here are specifics for several upcoming performances.

Sun., Sept. 9, 1:30 pm: Rivers of Life. Soprano Abigail Dyer (310 RSD), pianist Ishmael Wallace, and the St. Mary's Gospel Choir reflect on rivers and life's courses in works by

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Riverside – West End Historic District Makes Progress, Slowly

The efforts to protect the architecture of West End Ave. and adjacent side streets made some progress recently as the first section, from W. 79th St. to W. 87th St., received approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) on June 26. On Aug. 22, the City Planning Commission (CPC) held a public hearing on the proposal to landmark that section. Fourteen people addressed the CPC. One, a representative of the Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums, spoke against it, raising concerns about the delays and costs for property owners associated with landmarking. Others, including representatives of many politicians, spoke in favor of the proposal.

The CPC will submit a report to the City Council where the issue will be discussed first in the Subcommittee on Landmarks and then in the Committee on Land Use. If Land Use approves it, it will go to the full Council for a vote, probably this fall. Erika Petersen, VP of the West End Preservation Society, expects more opposition from real estate interests at that time.

This is only the first of three sections of the proposed extension to receive LPC consideration. Schedules for hearings on the other two have not been made public. Petersen guessed that they will be reviewed in the late fall and in December or January.

W. 104th St. Friends Invite You to Their Yard Sale

At the 23rd Annual West 104th St. Yard Sale on Sept. 29, you can enjoy the energy of a bustling street market transported from an exotic land to the stretch of W. 104th St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr.

Shop in more than 60 stalls bursting with treasures retrieved from the darkest corners of your neighbors' closets.

Bid on gift certificates, art objects, show tickets, appliances, or services at the silent auction.

Browse a large selection of novels, plays, poetry, history, biography, children's books, cookbooks, atlases, dictionaries, and CDs at the book sale.

Select a dessert for your family at the bake sale.

Hunt down a two-dollar labor saver or conversation piece at the 'What-A-Bargain' table.

Enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings.

Take a chance in a great raffle worth hundreds.

Tap your foot to live music performed by seasoned New York musicians.

Have fun with more than 1,000 neighbors and help raise funds for the W. 104th St. Block Association to keep our neighborhood safe, welcoming, and beautiful.



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Amla: Fresh Spices, Complex Flavors

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pealed to our diners. One complimented the tableside presentation of the muligatawny (appetizers range from \$4.95 to \$9.95). Several enjoyed the chicken 65 (ask the very helpful wait staff about the name). Said one: "It was deliciously crisp, flavorful, succulent, and hot, hot, hot." A group of six ordered a large platter of mixed tandoori dishes served with lentils and *palak paneer*, an Indian classic of cottage cheese and spinach, which the four teenagers in their party happily devoured. The adults enjoyed *aloo gobhee adrak masala*, cauliflower sauced with a mixture of tomatoes, cumin, garlic, red chilis, and ginger. Goan shrimp curry came with seven large shrimps in a sauce including coconut, tomato, tamarind, and red chili. Lamb *biryani* and chicken *tikka masala* were also well received. Entrees range in price from \$11.95 to \$23.95.

For dessert, one friend said that the vermicelli *kheer*, dry roasted vermicelli cooked in milk with saffron, cardamom, raisins, and cashew nuts was sweet and hit the spot. Another recommended the *firni*, a dry rice pudding made with ground uncooked rice cooked in milk, flavored with rose water and cardamom, and mixed with chopped almonds and pistachios. He described it as more crunchy than creamy and "Just the thing to end a very flavorful Indian meal."

Amla is located at 2735 Broadway; 212-678-1111; orderamla@gmail.com. Lunch and dinner are served daily from 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. with the lunch special available until 4:30 p.m. Delivery is available from noon to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week, with a \$12 minimum (not all dishes are included on the take-out menu); order online from orderamla.com. Indian soft drinks such as mango *lassi*, as well as wine and beer, including Kingfisher and other Indian varieties, are available. Credit cards are accepted.

State of the Block Association, One Year Later

Continued from Page 1

- If you're a regular contributor, make sure you're up to date and urge your neighbors to do the same.

- If you're a lapsed contributor, rejoin by sending us a check.

- If you've never contributed, do it today! Recommended dues are \$25 quarterly. Use the envelope!

- Check with your co-op board or landlord to find out whether a contribution to the Block Association has been made. We send requests to the management of every building in our territory and get a good response, but reminders from residents grease the wheels.

- Join our email list. We use it only to update residents about coming events and to circulate breaking news. See the gray box on page 2.

- Read the newsletter! Many of the articles announce events for which extra hands are needed. In this issue, the annual Halloween Parade and Party is the main one. Set aside a little time to help out. It's a great way to see whether an ongoing role is right for you or if working at a single event is a better fit.

- Write for the newsletter. We can assign a topic or, if you have an area of interest in the neighborhood, we can work with you to develop the article.

Email editor@w102-103blockassn.org.

- Come to our board meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. The next one is Sept. 11 at St. Luke's House, 306 W. 102nd St. We adjourn no later than 9:30 p.m. I think you'll be impressed with how much we accomplish in a short time.

- Assist us with our to-do list. Can you find grant opportunities for which we might qualify? Would you like to redesign our holiday caroling song sheets? Would you like to work with our ecology committee to beautify our neighborhood? You can let us know at info@w102-103blockassn.org.

- Do you have an idea for an improvement? Is there a neighborhood event you'd like to see included on our roster? Could you help attract new members? What's your neighborhood pet peeve? Maybe it's something you can help us address! Please contact us at info@w102-103blockassn.org.

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DAYCARE - OVERNIGHT

On Broadway

Openings and Closings: ♦♦It has been very active in the neighborhood restaurant business with the opening of **Five Lamps Tavern** on the east side of Broadway between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts., the arrival of **Amla**, a new Indian restaurant on the west side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. (see review, page 2), and the opening of a tiny juice bar (see below). ♦♦On the down side, three restaurants and another deli are gone. At the end of June, **Hot & Crusty**, the bakery and restaurant on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts., suddenly closed. It had originally opened in the summer of 2003 along with the **Ben & Jerry's** ice cream store next door, which remains in business. ♦♦Up Broadway and around the corner on W. 105th St., **Zen Palate**, a vegan restaurant, opened a year and a half ago to become the third Manhattan location in the small chain. It was an unusual newcomer to the neighborhood, perhaps too unusual. It closed at the end of July. ♦♦The end of August saw the end of **Alouette**, the French bistro on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. Its website attributed the closing to "an overwhelming increase in real estate taxes, high rent and operation costs." ♦♦The **Americana Deli** on the southwest corner of Broadway and W. 101st St. has closed. A notice posted on the window at the time thanked their customers of the past 21 years. ♦♦A juice and bubble tea shop, called **Cool Fresh Juice Bar**, has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. in a sliver space that used to house an Internet café just south of **Dunkin' Donuts**. Before opening, the owner posted a sign saying "Our mission is to relentlessly influence and help more & more people achieve a healthier lifestyle." Mayor Bloomberg would be pleased. ♦♦The

second **Variazioni** women's clothing store in the neighborhood has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts. in the double storefront that was previously a produce and flower shop. It follows, by a few months, the first one on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 101st St. and will carry a somewhat different selection of clothing and accessories in a distinctly Italian style. ♦♦The northern half of the former **Gourmet Garage** space on the west side of Broadway between W. 96th and W. 97th Sts. will become a **7-Eleven** store, according to Ali Shames, an associate at Friedland Properties. It is expected to open in October. Shames also reports that a lease is in the works for the retail space in **Ariel East** on Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. ♦♦When the **Nails and More** salon on the east side of Broadway between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts. closed this past spring, a sign announced that "Susan and Shira" had left and they hoped that the new management would continue to serve their

customers. It took several months, but the shop has now reopened under the name **J&J Fine Nail**. ♦♦One more nail salon appears to be changing owners: **Nails on Broadway**, on the east side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. is closed. A sign in the window says, "This location will open soon," with a reference to **Sweetie Nail and Spa** on Amsterdam Ave. between W. 95th and W. 96th Sts. ♦♦Renovation of the subway station at Broadway and W. 96th St. brought about a change in the traffic lanes on Broadway and the relocation of the uptown M104 bus stop from the southeast corner of W. 96th St. to W. 97th St. Now, the "new" bus stop finally has a shelter. However, across Broadway, the southbound stop in front of Walgreen's is still uncovered, as are the northbound stop at W. 99th St. and the W. 103rd St. stop, in front of the Metro Theater, where a shelter might conflict with the landmarked marquee. On W. 106th St. at Broadway, the eastbound and westbound stops of the M116 bus remain open to the elements.

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Block Association Member

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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 at least the *previous* quarter (approximately) appear below; please let us know of errors. We ask that you please fill out the envelope stub 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.

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Orfeo Duo Applies for Grant; Offers Concerts

Continued from Page 7

Schumann, Liszt, and neighbors David Wolfson, Ishmael Wallace, Peter Homans, Nailah Nombeko, and Waddy Thompson, including a world premiere of a new song cycle based on W. 104th St. poet Marsha Dale Abrams’s moving autobiographical poetry. At St. Mary’s Episcopal Church (521 W. 126th St.).

Sun., Sept. 16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Stop by at the “Songlines” table at Manhattan Valley Family Days and they’ll help you write a song about your block. They’ll also be singing and distributing copies of the many songs neighbors have written to form a musical map of the neighborhood. On Amsterdam Ave. between W. 108th and W.109th Sts.

Thurs. Sept. 27, 8 p.m.: Meditation & Music. Join them for a guided mindfulness meditation illuminating enigmatic and ecstatic music for guitar, violins, bass clarinet, and percussion by neighbors Edward Green, Anne Goldberg, and Elizabeth Adams. Celebrated guitarist Oren Fader and the exciting new ensemble Praxis with Ishmael Wallace, of the Community of Mindfulness, will also appear. At the Burke Library, Union Theological Library, Broadway between W. 120th and W. 122nd Sts.

For more about the Orfeo Duo or these events, go to orfeoduo.com.