



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

VOL. 52, NO. 3

## “Up the Bloomingdale Road”: A Virtual Trip into the Past with Anthony Bellov

ON TUES., OCT. 11, AT 7 P.M., VIA ZOOM, well-known architectural historian and neighbor Anthony Bellov will take a virtual carriage ride with you "Up the Bloomingdale Road," describing what it would have been like to do so in the 19th century—exploring villas, mansions, huts, saloons, roadside inns, restaurants, a Roman-style aqueduct, and an insane asylum. During the trip Anthony will reveal surviving traces of the road that are hidden in plain sight today.

Before Broadway, even before its predecessor, the "Boulevard," a major north-south road connected Bloomingdale with New York City, far to the south. Appropriately named "Bloomingdale Road," it reflected the gradual—and then rapid—development of Bloomingdale/ the West End/the Upper West Side in its transformation from wilderness, farms, and country estates to one of the most desirable sections of modern Manhattan.

To RSVP and get the Zoom link, email: [Anthony@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:Anthony@w102-103blockassn.org)

**THE ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE & BLOCK PARTY IS BACK!!**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST @ 6PM!**

Our annual tradition returns this year with a few new spooky surprises!

For volunteer & donation information please email: [Halloween@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:Halloween@w102-103blockassn.org)

WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

## Acknowledging Residents Who Have Left Us

By HEDY CAMPBELL

IN OUR SUMMER ISSUE, WE SADLY ANNOUNCED THE LOSS of Dr. John H. Hewitt III, who had been raised on West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. As we went to press at the end of May, we learned that Dr. John’s mother, Vivian Davidson Hewitt, had passed as well, deepening our grief exponentially.

“The Chairman,” as Dr. John liked to call her, was a formidable trailblazer. She was the first African-American librarian employed by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and became the first African-American president of the

Special Libraries Association. She and her husband, John H. Hewitt II, a teacher of English, writer, and editor, were early residents of Harlem, where they became patrons of the Black art scene. Together they established an enormous and impressive collection of Haitian and African-American art. In 1998, they sold the core of their collection, 58 paintings, which then went on a two-year national tour; those works are now on display at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, N.C. Other pieces are on display through the Broward County (FL) Library

(continued on page 4)

**THE WEST 102ND &  
103RD STREETS BLOCK  
ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

[info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org)  
Hedy Campbell, editor; Amy Edelman, copy editor; Ariana Koblitz, designer; Terence Hanrahan, advertising manager. 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](mailto:editor@w102-103blockassn.org). Phone messages may be left at (212) 865-8524. Previous issues of the Newsletter are available online at [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org).

**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](mailto:email@w102-103blockassn.org).

**GUARD SCHEDULE**

Our security guard makes rounds seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. To report neighborhood security issues to the guard or to request assistance, call or text (347) 215-0453.

**BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
MEETINGS**

Block Association meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m., via Zoom, and are open to all. Email [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org) if you'd like to attend.

**Sept. 13**

**Oct. 11** (after "Up the Bloomingdale Road"; see page 1)

**Nov. 8**

# Help Wanted

**EMAIL LIST ADMINISTRATOR:**  
WE NEED SOMEONE to ride herd on our email list, which is organized through Mailchimp. The job involves maintaining the database, adding people who sign up and removing those who move away. An additional responsibility is sending out Block Association emails, which are composed by the board. We usually limit our communications to no more than a couple of messages per month, which means this job requires a fairly small time commitment. Training will be provided by Alexis Lillie, who has been handling the job for the past several years. Unfortunately for us, Alexis, a valued board member and volunteer, has moved out of our territory, relocating all the way across Broadway and a couple of blocks north! Thank you, Alexis, for your service! To volunteer, write: [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Park(ing) Days**

Fri., Sept. 16–Sun., Sept. 18  
(see page 5)

**West 104th Street Block  
Association Yard Sale**

(Between West End Ave. and  
Riverside Dr.)  
Sat., Oct. 1, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
(see page 3)

**"Up the Bloomingdale Road"**  
A Virtual Trip into the Past with  
Anthony Bellov

Tues., Oct. 11, 7 p.m., via Zoom  
(see page 1)  
RSVP: [Anthony@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:Anthony@w102-103blockassn.org)

**Halloween Parade and Block  
Party**

Mon., Oct. 31, 6 p.m.  
(see page 1)

**Solstice Caroling**

Wed., Dec. 21  
7 p.m.

# What's New at the Website

- Thanks to the labor of Avery Hudson, a brand-new volunteer who responded to our recent Help Wanted plea, we have the beginning of a Newsletter index. So far, the Spring and Summer 2022 issues are included. As Avery's time allows, in addition to incorporating entries from issues as we publish them, he'll be traveling back in time to add material from previously published Newsletters. The board is excited to be able to make this wonderful resource available to readers and expect to get a lot of use out of it ourselves. Thank you, Avery!
- As explained on page 6, the Street Improvement Plan for our W. 103rd St. Open Street has been approved by Community Board 7, which means the DOT can go ahead with making some street changes more permanent (more bump-outs, clearer signage, and quieter, safer streets). The DOT's schematics for the changes on the three blocks are posted on the website.

Go take a look!  
([w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org))

**Election Day**

Tues., Nov. 8, 6 a.m.–9 p.m.

Voting registration deadline:  
Fri., Oct. 14

Early voting:  
Sat., Oct. 29–Sun., Nov. 6

**Absentee ballot:**

- Mail-in request deadline: must be received by **Mon., Oct. 24**
- Online request deadline: **Mon., Oct. 24**
- In-person request deadline: **Mon., Nov. 7**
- Return deadline: **Tue., Nov. 8**

# From Our Readers

## MAIL FRAUD WARNINGS

A neighbor requested that we make residents aware of a mail fraud/check-kiting scam that was publicized by Bloomberg News (<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2022-mail-thieves-checks-scam/>) earlier this year.

His experience matches the scenario described in the article exactly. He writes: "A check I placed in the mailbox at the corner of 102nd St. and West End Ave. seems to have been stolen in this way. The people who stole it were able to erase what I had written and give themselves over \$6K. Since it was a real check, the bank did not recognize it as fraud when it was cashed. Luckily, I happened to catch it fast and will get the money back eventually, but neighbors who put checks in that mailbox should check their accounts to make sure they got to the right recipients. A major headache!"

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And news of a different check-stealing problem—mail coming in instead of mail going out:

Residents at 300 and 305 Riverside Dr. received the unwelcome news in early August that someone had stolen mail from the relay mailbox (which holds the mail until the carrier can distribute it) at the northeast corner of W. 102nd St. and Riverside Dr. The post office and the NYPD are investigating but residents were warned that if they were expecting any checks in the mail during the first week

in August, they should contact the senders to see if they have been cashed. In the meantime, the post office has offered to deliver mail sacks directly to the affected buildings rather than depositing them in the relay box.

## GAS-SIPHONING INCIDENT

### To the Editor:

On Tues., Aug. 9, I was thrilled to find a parking place good through Thurs. on W. 104th St. near West End Ave. I went to my car at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 12, and made it around the block when the car stopped at the four-way intersection at W. 104th and Riverside. Cars were backed up behind me and they were very unhappy. I tried to restart [my car] several times and then quickly discovered that I was out of gas, despite having filled up before I parked.

I was incredibly lucky that Abraham, a kind concierge in my building, was behind me in his car. He and another nice man got out of their cars and pushed me out of the intersection. Then Abraham drove to W. 96th St. to get me a few gallons of gas. Hard to believe, but all the gas had been siphoned out [of my car] despite being on a block with a guard. The gas tank was on the sidewalk side. Nothing else was taken and no damage to the car was done. I was most upset that the thief didn't at least leave me a few gallons so I wouldn't get stuck! Eighty dollars later, I was on my way.

Unfortunately, this part of the 70s is back.

Wendy Balter



## Come to the W. 104th St. Yard Sale!

**T**HE WEST 104TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL Yard Sale will be held on Sat., Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 60 vendors will line the block between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. with an extraordinary array of quirky and unusual finds: vintage treasures, children's toys, clothes, hand-crafted jewelry, books, and more. There will also be a silent auction, featuring dozens of gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses; a bake table, with homemade sweet and savory treats; a book table with hundreds of books of all types for all ages; and the celebrated 50-50 raffle, with the winner splitting the pot with the West 104th Street Block Association. Plus there will be live music, an amazing vibe, and a chance to be with friends and neighbors at a truly unique West Side event. Come on by!

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## Security Guard Update

**W**E'VE HAD A STAFFING CHANGE in our guard service. Currently, our security professionals are Jessica Santiago and Kwabena Mensah. One or the other is on patrol each night from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. If you need to contact the guard to report an issue or

otherwise request help, please call or text (347) 215-0453.

If you'd like to help with the oversight of the guard service, we'd be glad to have your assistance. Contact [security@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:security@w102-103blockassn.org) to volunteer.



Our new security professionals, Jessica Santiago and Kwabena Mensah. Photo: Peter Frishauf

# Acknowledging Residents Who Have Left Us

## Digital Archives.

Locally, the Hewitts became homeowners in our territory in the 1960s, despite redlining that prevented families of color from purchasing property in our area, raising John and his siblings in the neighborhood. In 2010, we profiled Dame Vivian in our newsletter; you can read the article at <http://www.weebly.com/uploads/8/8/7/5/8875571/ban4001finalweb.pdf>. In 2018, we inducted her into our Neighborhood Hall of Fame. In 2020, she celebrated her 100th birthday.

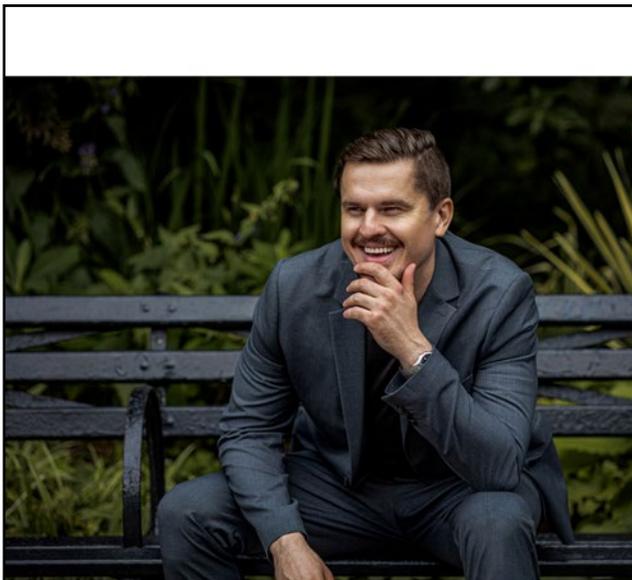
Losing two of the Hewitts in such a short time is a blow to the neighborhood and must surely be felt keenly by their family members. Our heartfelt condolences go out to them.

## An Overdue Paeon to a Poet

**H**AVING WRITTEN THE OBITUARIES for Vivian and John on the heels of having interviewed a number of 50-year residents, several of whom made reference to the group of women who congregated in the lobby of the Broadmoor most evenings, I have found myself thinking about Edna Guttag, a resident of the Broadmoor. She was a Block Association board member and Newsletter contributor, and always a very colorful personality.

Back in her day, we hadn't yet established the Neighborhood Hall of Fame for residents of 50 years or more, so there was never an impetus for me to interview her and get to know her better. As it turns out, she hadn't lived

in the neighborhood long enough to qualify when she died in May 1994. I'm not sure she was ever properly acknowledged in these pages for her contributions to the Block Association. Nor do I recall congratulations having been offered when a poem she'd written was included in an anthology, *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, edited by Sandra Martz (Moyer Bell, 1991). I do remember how excited she was when that happened. As a long-overdue tribute to Edna and her dedication to the neighborhood, just as hurricane season comes to a close, please enjoy her poem "Hurricane":



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### HURRICANE

By Edna J. Guttag

Winifred, eighty years young  
Five foot, two inches tall  
Expert on ancient Persia and Egypt  
Wanted expertise on hurricanes.  
Hurried from the Village to the Jersey Shore  
Preparing to interrogate  
The Ocean's reaction  
To jetting gusts and blasting rain,  
Content to sit on the porch  
Of the empty hotel  
Ready to watch the view,  
Arthritically fought the policeman, who  
Finally able to evacuate her  
Carried Winifred off along with possessions  
That were not even hers  
To the place where all the other evacuees were.  
Afterwards, regretfully, she noted aloud,  
"But the Sea now is all quiet and calm."



# Block Association Withdraws from UWS Coalition

**I**N EARLY JULY, THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION formally withdrew its membership from the Upper West Side Coalition of Block Associations & Community Groups.

Block Association board chair Cynthia Doty sent the following email to the coalition's leadership and members: "The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association is hereby withdrawing our membership in the coalition. Unfortunately we feel that the coalition no longer represents our values or the diversity of the Upper

West Side. We are disappointed that the coalition could not provide a better opportunity for sharing community information and for supporting new block associations, which we understood to be the mission when we joined."

Three other organizations withdrew from the UWS Coalition membership in June: the W. 69th Street Block Association; the WSUR Brownstones Tenants Association; and the W. 64th-67th Streets Block Association.



## Proposal for a Bike Lane on the West Side Highway

**M**ANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT MARK LEVINE has launched a campaign that, if put into effect, will have a significant impact on the usage of the Hudson River Greenway. In an effort to reduce the crowding that results in bicyclists, pedestrians, and joggers all jockeying for limited space on the Greenway, he has proposed to create a dedicated bike lane on the West Side Highway between W. 57th St. and Chambers St. Although the change won't affect our neck of the woods, those who use the Greenway and/or the West Side Highway will certainly want to know more about the project and find out how to voice their opinions.

- A video explaining the project: [youtube.com/watch?v=GIXtHUxZ798](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIXtHUxZ798)
- A petition to sign in support of the campaign: [docs.google.com/forms/d/1gVVkKJFzCPhZY8X67mxN6sKMOKEJLAS2g0udToJRfw/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gVVkKJFzCPhZY8X67mxN6sKMOKEJLAS2g0udToJRfw/viewform?edit_requested=true)

## Park(ing) Days, (B)arking Day, and More on the Open Street This Fall

By Peter Frishauf

**W**ITH NYC-DOT'S PROMISE TO REPLACE metal barriers with planters and many more improvements coming to the W. 103rd St. Open Street, Park to Park 103 volunteers are planning more celebratory events, September to December. This follows a summer of Open Street "Fundays," and the annual Make Music New York event on June 21 to mark the solstice.

**Park(ing) Days**, an international event, encourages landscape architects, community members, and students to transform metered parking spaces into temporary parklets. It takes place annually on the third Friday of September, and this year will extend to Sunday (Sept. 17-19). Two

installations, one at the Marseilles/Purple Circle corner and one near Amsterdam Ave., are being planned with a new community partner, the public-arts group Mov!ng Culture Projects ([movingcultureprojects.com](http://movingcultureprojects.com)).

A **Fall Harvest Party** is set for Oct. 23, with bales of straw and cardboard-box fort-building for kids.

Dogs and their housemates are some of the Open Street's biggest fans, and all are invited to **(B)arking Day**, Nov. 19, for an unforgettable Tour de Dog and a celebration of love, caring, and joy.

To stay up to date with Open Street events, [sign up for the Park to Park online newsletter](#) and more at <https://linktr.ee/parktopark103>.

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REASONABLE RATES

# Our Open Street's Leap Toward Permanence

By Peter Frishauf

**T**HE VERY BIG NEWS IS THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 7's TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE approved the proposed Street Improvement Plan (SIP) presented to it by the NYC Department of Transportation on June 14. After a two-hour hearing at which some 30 local residents spoke, the vote was eight to one in favor, with three non-committee members also expressing support. A week later, the board of the Block Association voted in favor of endorsing the plan, with the proviso that DOT make good on its promise made at the meeting to modify the placement of mid-block street hugs in front of 250 W. 103rd St. The DOT presentation to the Community Board may be found online at [www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/w103-st-open-street-jun2022.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/w103-st-open-street-jun2022.pdf). A recording of the CB7 meeting, including the DOT presentation, is available at [youtube.com/watch?v=G9HGxUsHvyg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9HGxUsHvyg).

As a result, before too long, W. 103rd St. between Amsterdam Ave. and Riverside Dr. will have a greener, more beautiful atmosphere, while enhancing safety for pedestrians and preserving access for local traffic and parking.

Construction is expected to start on the section of the Open Street between Broadway and Riverside Dr. in October. Construction on the Amsterdam block will likely start in the spring of 2023, once the Toll Brothers' residential project on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 103rd St. is complete. The DOT warns that staffing or supply shortages could affect the timetable.

Some of the improvements are common to all three blocks: Improved signage will make it clearer that the street is open to traffic, but with a reduced speed limit. Curb extensions and mid-block street hugs, also known as "bump-outs" or "turtle shells," make it easier for pedestrians to cross and remind drivers to remain at lower speed. Planters will replace the metal barricades at the corners, resulting in additional greenery while necessitating that drivers slow down as they turn. See the DOT's schematics below and on our website ([w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org)) for an east-to-west, block-by-block description of the changes.

## AMSTERDAM AVE. TO BROADWAY

The entire block's streetscape will be transformed into a pedestrian-friendly "shared street." Like all Open Street blocks, it will remain open to vehicles,

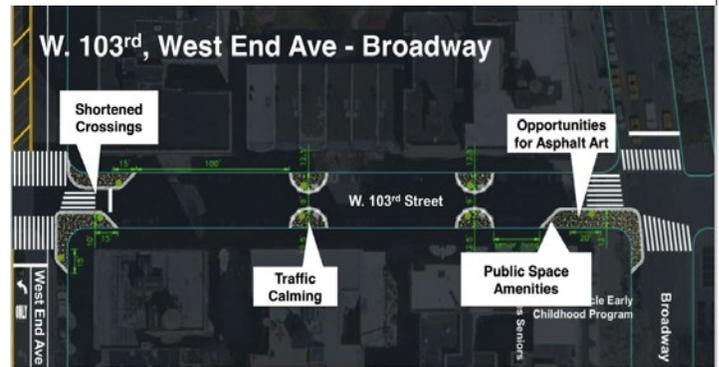
but they must adhere to a 5 MPH speed limit. In addition, the pavement will be a tan-colored "gravelized epoxy," an immediate signal that this is a shared street and a measure to keep the street cooler. For now, only the Amsterdam block gets this special treatment; it may be added to the western blocks at a later date. In addition, a pedestrian plaza called a "street seat" will front the landmark Hostelling International guest lodge on the east side of the avenue, providing an outdoor gathering spot for hostel guests and residents.

## BROADWAY TO WEST END AVE.

The exciting addition to this block is a wraparound "public space amenity" on the south corner of Broadway adjacent to the Marseilles and Purple Circle Early Childhood Program. This will provide outdoor space much desired by the older residents of the Marseilles and the toddlers at Purple Circle.

## WEST END AVE. TO RIVERSIDE DR.

Since this block is already in the best shape of the three blocks of the current Open Street, the DOT improvements here are modest. Other than the general measures being implemented on all three blocks, no additional features are planned.



Above: The black asphalt paving on the street will be coated with a tan, slip-resistant "gravelized epoxy" coating to immediately signal to vehicles that this is not a typical crosstown street, but a 5 MPH pedestrian-priority Shared Street.

Right, top and bottom: Other traffic-calming features, including street hugs, are shown.

All images: NYC-DOT

# Small-Business Profile: Vardit for Your Hair

By ROSEMARY MCGINN

**T**HE UPPER WEST SIDE IS HOME TO CREATIVE TYPES OF ALL SORTS, and the remarkable Vardit Buse is a sterling example of one of our neighborhood's best, with both home and business deeply rooted here. For more than 25 years, she has owned and operated the popular salon Vardit for Your Hair, first on W. 80th St. and more recently on W. 102nd St. between Broadway and West End Ave., building an enthusiastic and devoted following over the decades. Her Upper West Side connections go way beyond the workplace, however: A self-described "Upper West Side girl," she and her family have lived on W. 106th St. for just as long.

Vardit—whose name means "rose" in Hebrew—came to the Upper West Side from Israel more than 30 years ago. She launched her salon in a parlor suite not far from Zabar's. When she lost the lease for that spot, a client who lives near us encouraged her to look for space closer to home. She somewhat grudgingly came to check out the new place, a few steps down from street level on the south side of W. 102nd St., immediately thought, "This is perfect," and took it.

Over the years, she has built a remarkably loyal customer base including women, men, and children, establishing a reputation for working magic with curly hair. "I take care of the whole family," she says. "And considering the fact that I'm a 'hair stylist,' I see a large percentage of guys."

The pandemic has been difficult for Vardit, as it has for all of us. "Very hard and scary," she says; when COVID-19 hit, roughly 75 percent of Vardit's client base fled the city. Fortunately, a stroke of luck in December 2020 helped save her business: She was highlighted in a story in *Vogue* about the community-based online site Nextdoor, where she regularly earns rave reviews from readers, often including before and after photos of their new haircuts.

But while the lockdown made her work a touch-and-go venture, it also exposed a potentially significant new

client base for her: neighbors who were unable or unwilling to venture downtown and demanded maximum pandemic protection. While she rarely ventured into clients' homes at first, she unlocked her salon's door as soon as restrictions were lifted on businesses like hers.

A lifetime of reinventing herself across the globe had prepared Vardit to survive and even thrive in the pandemic pressure cooker. Born and raised in Israel, she served her obligatory national service with a special unit that pioneered a national strategy in cytology and oncology for women. Her team had a special focus on pap smears, the medical test that detects cervical cell changes before they develop into cancer. Vardit was a key member of the team, working directly with physicians and overseeing the process from start to finish for each test, a method that has fallen by the wayside in the chaotic landscape of today's health care.

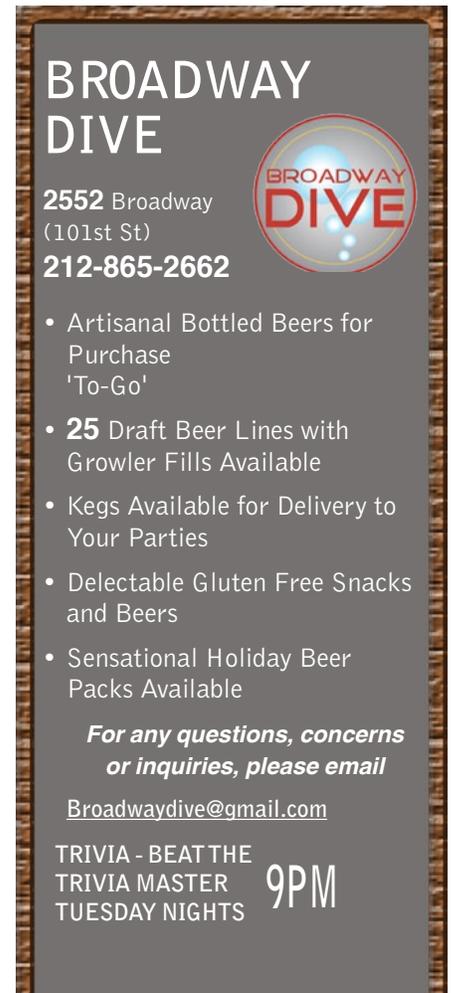
Listening to her describe her work and her life, you can clearly picture her in this creative leadership role. Nonetheless, when she immigrated to New York, she learned that to continue that work, she would have to start training and education all over in order to earn the necessary certification. So, in true Vardit style, she decided, "If I'm doing something, I might as well do something different. I wanted to become an aesthetician." She continues, "I did all the training for that only to be told, 'Oh, you need a cosmetology license, too.'"

She plunged right into beauty school, surrounded by much younger classmates—a challenge after having run a large, complex unit in a major Israeli hospital. But during that time she realized she preferred working with hair more than skin, and started down that road, ultimately landing a coveted training spot with Louis Licari, an internationally respected hair stylist.

Vardit has three daughters—virtual triplets, she says, born within 20 months of one another. The oldest is 30 and her twins 29. "They're independent, they're working, they're doing well," she

says, adding somewhat wistfully, "No wedding yet. . . . They grew up in this neighborhood," she continues. "I was on 80th for 11 years, then we moved here in 2001. My daughters always said they wanted to have a job that they would love as much as I do mine. I landed on a trail that I didn't plan on . . . by accident, so to speak. But it's a way to express my creativity, and my connection to people, and I love what I do every day."

*Vardit for Your Hair*  
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# NYPD Visits W. 103rd St.

By Peter Frishauf

**A**FTER A BLISTERING WEEK OF HOT, HUMID WEATHER, Wed., Aug. 10, finally brought our neighborhood the relief of a nice evening in the low 80s. Many took advantage of the pleasanter weather and went out to enjoy an evening stroll. Some, however, were surprised to discover that W. 103rd St. between Broadway and West End Ave. had been completely closed to traffic by the NYPD, complete with a flashing patrol car and dozens of officers.

The good news was that this show of force was not a major crime scene, but an educational event that none of us were aware of. How were we to know? “We put it out on social media,” Sergeant Alan Hassel told me. And a quick check of my Twitter feed revealed that he was entirely correct. There had been a tweet announcing that the latest Build the Block meeting would take place in front of the Marseilles at 7 p.m. The meeting was also broadcast via Zoom.

About 20 people from the neighborhood engaged with these friendly crimefighters, the street seating provided by the Marseilles. One resident of the Master Apartments

asked what could be done about a man who has taken to occupying brownstone stoops on the W. 103rd St. block between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. He’s “half naked, often drinking alcohol, smoking, yelling at people on the sidewalk, and leaving a mess,” she said.

“Call 911, and we will take care of it,” Officer Jovani Soto replied.

Several others chimed in on the subject, and it turns out that this individual is often in the subway, where people give him money, that, we speculated, funds his habit. He is well known to those from the precinct who patrol the neighborhood.

“It’s not a good idea to give people money on the subway,” Officer Soto added. “But call 911 and we will make sure he moves on.”

As luck would have it, as the event proceeded, two of the Block Association’s new security professionals, Jessica Santiago and Kwabena Mensah, passed by.

I took the opportunity to introduce them to the NYPD and the audience, and to explain how important it is to support the Block Association so we can continue the service, the single largest expense in our budget.

Most in the crowd were not aware

that if you see something amiss between 5:30 and 11:30 p.m., seven days a week, and it doesn’t seem dangerous enough to call 911, you can call or text our security professional at (347) 215-0453.

They will investigate or call 911 for you. Our family has done this several times this year, and the SP has always taken care of the problem.

I informed the police officers that in the future, both the Block Association and Park to Park 103 would be happy to use our email lists to promote future Build the Block meetings. Not all of us are on Twitter!



New York’s finest. Officer Samantha Soto chatting with “Cookie” of the Marseilles, with Sergeant Alan Hassel between them. At the right, in the white shirt, is Auxiliary Police Lieutenant and Block Association member/supporter Joan Martinez. Photo: Peter Frishauf

**Are you confident in your building’s financial management?**  
Felix Rozenbaum, CPA  
Condo CFO Founder

Condo CFO partners with condo and co-op boards to manage building finances efficiently & properly to:

- Save money
- Eliminate inaccuracies
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- Prevent fraud

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# Love the Planet? Skip the Stuff!

By SHARON WASKOW

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

**D**ID YOU KNOW that the plastic utensils, straws, and condiment packets restaurants give out are among the most commonly littered items? According to the Surfrider Foundation, this litter adds an estimated 20,000 tons of (unrecyclable) plastic annually to New York City's waste stream. Plastic litter also costs the city and taxpayers money through additional transport and disposal costs.

Let's follow the path restaurant litter takes. As Surfrider describes it, plastic litter starts on New York City streets, ends up in storm drains, rivers, and beaches, and ultimately flows into the ocean. Once in NYC's waterways, it can harm wildlife. Plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, is consumed by wildlife, and eventually threatens human health through tainted seafood and drinking water.

The waste from these unused items pollutes the planet, threatens human health, and costs restaurants money. But there's a simple solution at hand. Customers need to ask for these items! If you need food-ware accessories, you can get them. And if you don't need them, you can prevent the waste by exercising your right to **Skip the Stuff!**

Currently, a **Skip the Stuff** bill is moving through the New York City Council that would prohibit food-service establishments from providing utensils, condiments, and napkins (straws are already banned) unless the customer requests them. After a warning period, civil penalties will apply to those establishments and

delivery services that don't comply. Read about Bill 0559 here, or click on "Legislation" on the council's website, [council.nyc.gov](http://council.nyc.gov), and search by the bill number. Our council member, Gale Brewer, supports this bill.

To make this all work, we will have to be proactive in letting food establishments and takeout services know that we don't want utensils and condiments with our order. Many of us may do this already and feel frustrated when the pile of plastic arrives with our order anyway. Here are three things we can try:

- Speak to the manager of the restaurant and suggest that the staff be trained to "just ask" if the customer needs these items. If enough of us do this, perhaps habits will change. Praise the manager if you get a good result.
- If you get the items anyway, save them for a picnic, school event, or party. The utensils, at least, can be washed and reused.
- Speak up at restaurants when you are given single-use plastic items. Politely let a manager know what's at stake for the planet. Some of us have begun speaking up at local eateries and takeout places. It's all about altering a manager's mindset. When more of us speak up, the chance for change increases.

*It's Easy Being Green is your neighborhood climate-education and personal-action group. Consider subscribing to the It's Easy Being Green newsletter to keep in the know on NYC environmental information and tips for a greener lifestyle ([itseasybeinggreen.org](http://itseasybeinggreen.org)).*



## BAiP Presents: Fall Events

**B**LOOMINGDALE AGING IN PLACE (BAiP) IS OFFERING two presentations this fall as part of their ongoing series.

Thurs., Sept. 22, 7 p.m.: Charitable Donations

We all get many requests for donations. In this program, two lawyers will discuss how to evaluate such requests and will outline the various options for donating.

Thurs., Oct. 20, 4 p.m.: The Musical History of the Upper West Side

A program, with the Bloomingdale School of Music, about some of the famous composers and musicians who lived in our area.

To attend these presentations and/or to take advantage of the many different BAiP-sponsored activities (including exercise groups, arts groups, discussion groups, and more), become a member! Go to [bloominplace.org](http://bloominplace.org)

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# On Broadway

By KEITH TAURO



## OPEN

- **Kyuramen**, the new ramen place coming into the spot previously occupied by 107 West, on the west side of Broadway between W. 107th and W. 108th Sts., is not quite ready to open; work is still under way at the site. They have a few other locations in the city, but none on the UWS.
- **Wingstop**, a counter-service chicken-wing chain, is preparing to open next to Schatzie Prime Meats, on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. This will be their first location on the UWS.
- **Upper West Skates** is now open. This skateboard-oriented shop, a great addition to the neighborhood, is on the east side of Broadway between W. 106th and W. 107th Sts.
- **Smoke Jazz and Supper Club**, the fabulous jazz venue on the west side of Broadway between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts., has reopened at long last, now with an extended antechamber bar—and boasting a 30-year lease, thanks to

its landlord, the wonderful West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing.



## MOVED

- **The Color Room**, the hair salon that was on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., has moved to the south side of W. 96th St. near Amsterdam Ave.



## CLOSED

- **104 Broadway Farm**, the longtime neighborhood bodega on the southwest corner of W. 104th St. and Broadway, has closed.
- **16 Handles**, the frozen-yogurt store at the northeast corner of W. 98th St. and Broadway, which closed for some time during the pandemic and then reopened fairly recently, is now shut.

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## And Over on Amsterdam . . .

**T**ERENCE HANRAHAN SHARES THIS PHOTO and mini-review from his recent meal at the newly opened Grand Feast, on the west side of Amsterdam Ave. between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. The menu and other info can be found at [instagram.com/thegrandfeast/](https://www.instagram.com/thegrandfeast/).

*The Grand Feast*  
854 Amsterdam Ave.  
(917) 633-1631  
Hours: Mon.–Thurs.: Noon–11 p.m.;  
Fri.–Sun.: 10 a.m.–11 p.m.  
Dine inside/outside; delivery available



Above: Lamb burger at The Grand Feast . . . yummy! Photo: Terence Hanrahan

# Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

## DEB RABBAI

*Broadway's Next Hit Musical* is back in town on **Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.**, at the iconic 54 Below (254 W. 54th St.). The first act features Phony Award-nominated songs based on audience suggestions. The second is a fully improvised musical comedy based on the winning song chosen by the audience. The cast features some of the best New York improvisers, including Deb. Tickets and info at (646) 476-3551.

## ANTHONY BELLOV

Our resident architectural historian will give a Zoom presentation, "Up the Bloomingdale Road," on **Tues., Oct. 11, 7 p.m.**, as noted on page 1. Anthony will time-travel that road—now Broadway—as it was in the 19th century. I can't wait! (RSVP: [Anthony@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:Anthony@w102-103blockassn.org))

Then, on **Thurs., Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m.**, he will give a presentation, "Before Salmagundi," at the Salmagundi Club (47 Fifth Ave., at 12th St.), focusing on the architectural history of the building. Built in 1853, it's the only surviving pre-Civil War mansion on Fifth Ave. There will be a meet-and-greet at 5:30, the lecture at 6:30 (probably free through Eventbrite), dinner (by reservation) at 7:30. Further information will be available after Labor Day at (212) 255-7740 and [salmagundi.org](http://salmagundi.org).

## KATE MCLEOD

Kate's one-person play *By the Light* will be performed on Theatre Row (410 W. 42nd St.) on **Fri., Oct. 14, 8:30 p.m.**, as part of the United Solo Festival. Partial plot spoiler: It's 1903 and a young man hears that the Wright brothers have flown, silent films have debuted, and the circus is on tour. He sets out to see the world—and what does he find?! Scroll down for tickets; the more tickets that are purchased upfront, the better the chance of the play going on a second night. Friends and relations

of Kate, make your plans! Tickets: [unitedsolo.org](http://unitedsolo.org)

## DAYLE VANDER SANDE AND ANTHONY BELLOV

On Halloween night, **Mon., Oct. 31, 7 p.m.** the two, with other members of the Bond Street Euterpean Singing Society, will present *Chant Macabre: Songs from the Crypt*. The audience will be spooked by the ghosts, ghouls, and goblins that haunt 19th-century song. Harrowing tales put to music by Schubert, Liszt, Debussy, Mussorgsky, and others will send shivers down the spine as they are performed in the authentic period parlor of the Merchant's House, an 1832 home landmarked for both its exterior and preserved interior. The performance is 75 minutes long and will be presented both in person and via livestream. If going in person, be sure to reserve a spot; in the past, this event has sold out. For more details and to reserve tickets: [merchantshouse.org](http://merchantshouse.org)

## SMOKE (PAUL STACHE AND MOLLY SPARROW JOHNSON)

The *West Side Rag* had a recent long article that included an interview with the owners about the regeneration of this venerated jazz club at 2751 Broadway, between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts. Using the pandemic as an opportunity to expand and renovate, it has relaunched with a 30-year lease (Augie's had already been at this location for many years) and an updated interior. Go to [smokejazz.com](http://smokejazz.com) for schedule and details. Go to [westsiderag.com/2022/08/03/smoke-signs-30-year-lease-beloved-jazz-club-is-bigger-and-here-to-stay](http://westsiderag.com/2022/08/03/smoke-signs-30-year-lease-beloved-jazz-club-is-bigger-and-here-to-stay) for the article and interview.

## SERENA CANIN AND MARK STEINBERG

Serena and Mark are neighborhood residents and the violinists in the Brentano String Quartet, which will be performing at Carnegie Hall on **Thurs., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.** The concert

includes works by Haydn, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Bartók. Tickets: [carnegiehall.org](http://carnegiehall.org)

## ELIZA LANSDALE, MIMI DAITZ, AND BARBARA MORGAN

The three will be singing in the Riverside Choral Society's performance of the *Mozart Requiem* on **Sat., Dec. 17, 8 p.m.**, at St. Bart's Church (325 Park Ave. at 51st St.). In addition to a full chorus and orchestra performing the gorgeous requiem, some lovely pieces by little-known composers Adolphus Hailstork and William Grant Still will begin the concert. Tickets soon at [riversidechoral.org](http://riversidechoral.org)

## DOLORES SCHAEFFER

An actress and recent Neighborhood Fall of Fame inductee, Dolores was interviewed this summer by writer Marc Myers for his JazzWax blog ([jazzwax.com](http://jazzwax.com)). Included in the interview is a link to the 1964 film *Light Fantastic*, in which she (then Dolores McDougal) starred. The blog post also features photos of Dolores taken by her husband, actor **Bill Weeden**, who replicated certain key Upper West Side scenes from the movie. Find the interview at [jazzwax.com/2022/08/interview-dolores-mcdougal-on-light-fantastic.html](http://jazzwax.com/2022/08/interview-dolores-mcdougal-on-light-fantastic.html)

## BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

It is now possible to reserve spots in fall classes, private to ensemble, infant to adult, and to apply for scholarships at [bsmny.org](http://bsmny.org) After Labor Day the website will start listing the many free concerts presented in its W. 108th St. building.

*Do you have an upcoming publication, release, concert, exhibition, or other arts event, physical or virtual? Let me know. Send questions or notices for inclusion in the Winter 2022 Newsletter (or beyond) to [creative@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:creative@w102-103blockassn.org). Do it today, before you forget!*

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