



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

VOL. 53, NO. 3

Mourning Cynthia Doty

By HEDY CAMPBELL

IT HAS BEEN MANY WEEKS since we first learned that Cynthia Doty, longtime Block Association board member and chair of the organization, had been hospitalized. Soon after, we were informed of her passing. Some of the shock has worn off in the intervening days; a shared sense of profound sadness remains.

Personally, I don't remember a time when Cynthia was not an active, contributing member of the Block Association, which means she'd been a presence since the 1980s. We relied on her for her incredible knowledge of how the city operates and who the reliable, effective people in the various agencies were. If she didn't have an answer to a question of governance or municipal service, she could and did find out. She knew everybody who was everybody, and many people who weren't somebodies but were nonetheless important figures.

In 2015, when the Block Association needed someone to step up and become co-chair, she agreed. A couple of years later, when her co-chair stepped down, she agreed to chair solo, but only for one year. That was five years ago.

Early this year, she and Council Member Gale Brewer contacted the New York Peace Institute to mediate between the neighbors who disagree about the W. 103rd Open Street project. It took a lot of time and effort to make it happen, but that meeting took place on July 6. Cynthia was hospitalized days later.

At first I was disturbed by the idea that the last days of Cynthia's life were permeated by the dissension surrounding the Open Streets initiative. Then I realized that arranging the meeting, working yet again on behalf of her community, was exactly what Cynthia had devoted her life to. It was another of her many achievements and, for us locally, it was a significant one.

The *West Side Rag* published a comprehensive bio of Cynthia. You can find it at westsiderag.com/2023/08/01/tribute-cynthia-doty-1951-2023. I learned a lot about her



Cynthia loved the Block Association's Spring Planting event. Photo: Celia Knight

Open Street Town Hall a First Step

ON THURS., JULY 6, THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION HOSTED A COMMUNITY TOWN HALL with two important goals: to provide an opportunity for neighbors to learn more about the issues surrounding the W. 103rd Open Streets initiative; and to find a way forward with this project that takes into account the viewpoints expressed by both those in favor and those opposed. (For a recap of the events that led us to this point, see "The Back Story" at the end of this article.)

The meeting, which was organized and mediated by the New York Peace Institute at the behest of Block Association board chair Cynthia Doty and Council Member Gale Brewer, took place at Ansche Chesed and was broadcast via Zoom. Approximately 70 people attended in person, and an additional two to three dozen attended remotely. The meeting was recorded; you can watch either a GoPro

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

info@w102-103blockassn.org

Hedy Campbell, editor; Amy Edelman, copy editor; Ariana Koblitz, designer; Terence Hanrahan, advertising manager; Avery Hudson, indexer. 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. Previous issues of the Newsletter and the index are available online at 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.



**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 if you'd like to attend.

**Sept. 12
Oct. 10
Nov. 14
Dec. 12**

Join our email list by going to the Block Association website (w102-103blockassn.org)

Help Wanted

SPRING FAIR COORDINATOR AND VOLUNTEERS:

We're still game to move ahead with our plan to resurrect our spring fundraising event. But if we don't get moving soon, we won't be able to press play. The missing link continues to be a person or two who will commit to organizing the event. We'll also surely need lots of worker bees. Publicity gets taken care of well in advance of the event. Raffle tickets will be sold to passersby in the weeks leading up to it. Flyers alerting car owners to the street closure will need to be tucked into windshield wipers on parked cars in the days before the event. Setting up, staffing a table, and helping with cleanup are day-of tasks. Contact info@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS:

Although guard service is currently on pause, if we want to reinstate it, the financial shortfall we've recently been experiencing must be addressed. We need someone with fresh eyes who can work with seasoned board members and put some energy toward helping us figure out how we can recapture lapsed contributors and attract new ones. Contact info@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

GUARD SERVICE MONITOR:

It doesn't make any sense to spend another dime on a guard until we can identify a higher-quality service provider. Do you have a contact? If security is your area of interest, please let us know ASAP. Assuming we can identify a company that can provide a reliable guard, training and monitoring will be the next orders of business. Contact info@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS:

This is a quick and easy commitment involving an hour, tops, four times a year. You'll receive a batch of newsletters and envelopes and deliver them around to a short list of buildings clustered on one block in the neighborhood. Contact editor@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art in the Park

Straus Park
Sat., Sept. 23 (rain date Sept. 24)
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Live music, 1–4 p.m., The Milkman & Sons
Contact fospark@gmail.com for info

Barking Day

W. 103rd St. between West End Ave. and Broadway
Dog and cat adoptions, pet-themed activities, music, crafts, and more
Sat., Sept. 23, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
(see page 5)

**Thursday Morning Poets
Celebrate**

100 Thousand Poets for Change
Including a tribute to Cynthia Doty
Community flower garden adjacent to Hippo Park, W. 91st St.
Sat., Sept. 30, 1 p.m.
Contact isabooklady@aol.com for info

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

Between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr.
Sat., Sept. 30, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
(see page 4)

Cynthia Doty Memorial Service

Hosted by Three Parks
Independent Democrats
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Amsterdam Ave. near W. 100th St.
Sun., Oct. 1, 4:00–6:15 p.m.,
reception to follow
(see page 1)

Halloween Parade and Party

W. 102nd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr.
Tues., Oct. 31, 6:15 p.m.
(see page 1)

Winter Newsletter

Early December

Winter Solstice Caroling

Thurs., Dec. 21
7 p.m.

Uncelebrated Volunteers Deserve a Shout-Out

WE GET LOTS OF FEEDBACK about our newsletter, much of it positive. But did you ever consider how that hard copy came to be in your hands? The answer is the perfect example of the axiom “Many hands make light work.”

Four of us—Hedy Campbell, Amy Edelman, Ariana Koblitiz, and Terence Hanrahan—collaborate on the content and layout. It’s a labor-intensive effort that consumes the team four times a year. Big thanks to each of them for steadfast reliability and professionalism!

Best Copy is the next link in the chain. Nannu and his squad of employees do a bang-up job printing, folding, and boxing the publication as quickly as they possibly can once we send the file over. We’re grateful to have such a helpful and supportive copy shop so close by.

But there’s an even bigger network that leaps up next. Eliza Lansdale receives the shipments of envelopes, and she collects the entire print run of over 2,000 copies. She divides the batch into packets for distribution in individual buildings and delivers them to volunteers all over the neighborhood. In total, there are about 50 people who receive those packets and slip them

under your door. Their names are listed on the right.

There are two names, however, that are notably absent from the list: David Reich and Marv Schoenberg. Both have been longtime Block Association supporters who have worn many hats, including newsletter distributor; both recently retired from their distribution duties. (We’d love to have replacements, though! Please email editor@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.) Many staff members of the larger buildings also lend a hand as needed. Please join me in an enthusiastic round of applause and a loud and heartfelt “Thank you!” to each of them.

And, while we’re expressing gratitude, there’s an additional squad of volunteers who always come through. Whenever we have a flyer to post, we count on them to print a copy and hang it on their respective building bulletin boards. When possible, they also circulate the poster via the building’s email list. If your building doesn’t seem to have a representative who handles this job, consider stepping up. Write to editor@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

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The Countdown Clock on a Spring Event Is Ticking

WE’RE NOT COMPLETELY OUT OF RUNWAY YET, but we’re inching ever closer. We’d love to sponsor a event along the lines of our past block parties once the weather warms up in 2024. And we have all sorts of expertise, helping hands, and funds to put toward the effort. What we don’t have is someone (or several someones—recruit a friend!) to coordinate it, and we can’t move ahead without a person willing to tackle the job. Our goals are to increase the Block Association’s visibility and

raise some money. We’re open to new ideas about how to make that happen and/or can share details about what’s worked in the past. If, like us, you’d love to see some hoopla back out on the street, please write info@w102-103blockassn.org and let us know that you’re game to take this on.



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What's New at the Website

IN BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS, we're always tweaking the content at our website. Thanks to Caitlin Hawke for making that happen. These days, in addition to instructions for becoming a member and making a donation, bios of the board members, a map on which the species of each tree in the neighborhood is identified, and Caitlin's entertaining and informative blog, among other resources, you'll find:

- A bio of the most recent inductees into our Neighborhood Hall of Fame: Ner and Bobbi Beck

- A link to video of the July 6 Community Town Hall mediation regarding the W. 103rd Open Street
- Links to video of recent Block Association board meetings
- An updated index to the newsletter, which now covers issues from 2014 through Summer 2023 — thank you, indexer Avery Hudson!

Especially if you've never visited the website (w102-103blockassn.org), go take a look. We're willing to bet you'll find something there that will have made the keyboard clicks worthwhile!

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Cynthia Doty

background and came away even more impressed by her than I was before I'd read it. If each of us committed to a fraction of the effort she expended on behalf of others, our world would be a far better place.

There is also a lovely tribute to Cynthia written recently by her nephew John. This can be found at our website (w102-103blockassn.org).

The Block Association intends to honor Cynthia's memory but hasn't yet defined how. Meanwhile, a local poetry group, the Thursday Morning Poets, plans to honor Cynthia at their upcoming event (Sat., Sept. 30, 1 p.m., at the community flower garden adjacent to Hippo Park, inside Riverside Park at W. 91st St.), coordinated with 100 Thousand Poets for Change. For more information, write to isabooklady@aol.com.

A memorial service organized by Three Parks Independent Democrats, of which Cynthia was district leader, will take place from 4:00 to 6:15 p.m., with a reception to follow, on Sun., Oct. 1, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, on Amsterdam Ave., near the corner of W. 100th St.

Condolences can be sent to the Doty family, 305 Riverside Dr., Apt. 3C, New York, NY 10025; or a remembrance can be added to her legacy.com guestbook here: legacy.com/us/obituaries/nytimes/name/cynthia-doty-obituary?id=52687425.

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Open Street Town Hall

video or the Zoom video by going to the home page of our website (w102-103blockassn.org) and clicking on the link there.

If you prefer to read a recap of the meeting, you'll find one at the StreetsblogNYC website (nyc.streetsblog.org/2023/07/11/fight-over-a-single-uws-open-street-is-so-bitter-council-member-called-in-a-mediator).

The unexpected and untimely death of Block Association board chair Cynthia Doty has required us to shift gears a bit. Nonetheless, two of our board members have continued to meet to build on the momentum provided by the meeting. They've also met with members of the NYC Dept. of Transportation, under whose aegis the project falls. The DOT expects to begin work on the project when the construction of the new Toll Brothers building on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 103rd St. is complete this fall. In addition, the New York Peace Institute intends to continue helping us resolve the outstanding issues.

If you haven't weighed in on the topic and would like to, please write info@w102-103blockassn.org.

THE BACK STORY

During COVID, a group of residents applied to have the section of W. 103rd St. between Broadway and Riverside Dr. included in New York City's Open

W. 104th St. Yard Sale



THE WEST 104TH STREET BLOCK ASSOCIATION's annual Yard Sale will be held on Sat., Sept. 30, 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

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Streets program, which was designed to give people increased access to outdoor spaces. That group of residents then applied to extend the corridor east to Amsterdam Ave.

Following the passage of a city law to make Open Streets permanent in 2021, the DOT reached out to the group that applied for the designation in the first place and developed a "Street Improvement Plan" for W. 103rd St. to slow traffic, especially at intersections, where cars are turning on to the street, and make the street more pedestrian-friendly.

The plan was presented at a public meeting of Community Board 7's Transportation Committee in June 2022, and subsequently approved at the monthly meeting of directors of the Block Association. The full CB7 board overwhelmingly approved it in September 2022.

The DOT then finalized the plans for the project and made them public. The pedestrian-friendly measures include painted pavement, planters, street "hugs," and curb extensions, which the DOT considers "light touch" modifications; they will also result in the loss of an estimated 13 parking spaces across three blocks.

A group of residents, previously unaware of the project, has voiced strong opposition to it. The Block Association is trying to achieve compromise that satisfies both those in favor and those opposed to the project.

Our Open Street: Summer and Fall Doings

By ISABELLA GALLO



Audience members watch band Strawbitty Yops at the W. 103rd Open Streets Make Music New York June 21 event. Photo: Odette Veneziano

THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN an exciting time for the W. 103rd Open Street. A collection of new programs and events have been hosted on the street, the 16 spring planters have blossomed beautifully through the summer season, and everyone is looking forward to closing out the season on a high note, with a pet adoption hosted by the ACC (Animal Care Centers of New York) at our second annual Barking Day event, Sept. 23.

To ring in the summer season, W. 103rd St. participated in Make Music New York, a citywide day of music that celebrates the Summer Solstice on June 21. With seven different musical acts—the most the Open Street has ever hosted on one day—crowds got to hear everything from children's music to folk music to indie musicians to cover bands. The street

was excited to welcome back returning musicians Lizzie Blazquez and Bloco La Conga as well as five first-timers.

Families also enjoyed backgammon lessons from world-champion player Antoinette-Marie Williams, an obstacle-course playground from Street Lab, sketch art, tarot-card reading, and more throughout the evening.

Later in the summer, on Aug. 20, the Open Street held a Celebration of Drag, featuring 15 drag queens, kings, and artists performing across three sets over the course of the afternoon. This was rescheduled from the original date, July 16 (International Drag Day), due to inclement weather.

The event was one of the largest hosted by the Open Street this summer, with hundreds of people stopping by to catch some of the entertainment throughout the day. Hosted by drag queens Gina Tonic and Trash Ketchum, the show was enjoyed by families with young children, senior citizens from the nearby Marseilles, and young adults alike.

The day's festivities also included a photography exhibit from the Museum of Drag (MoDRAG), a new pop-up museum; sketch art from Parsons student Angela Lin; themed crafts from the Open Street's Youth Ambassador team; chalk art; street games; and face-painting.

As summer comes to a close, so does the Open



Drag artist Ann Arky performing at the August Open Street event. Photo: Odette Veneziano



The plants provided to the Open Street by the DOT have flourished over the course of the summer. Left: the planters in May, a few days after their delivery to W. 103rd St. (photo: Peter Frishauf); right: the planters in August (photo: Odette Veneziano).

Street's programming season. The final event of the season will take place on Sat., Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Inspired by Park(ing) Day, celebrated by the city the prior week (Fri., Sept. 15) by temporarily turning parking spaces into public space, the Open Street will be hosting its second annual Barking Day, using street space for dog and cat adoptions from the ACC. The city's shelters are overflowing right now, so we're thrilled to have this opportunity to help get animals adopted. Last year, 15 dogs and cats found new homes at this event.

The day will also feature free pet-communication sessions from internationally-sought-out psychic Shira, pet-centric music and dog acupuncture demonstrations from vet Dr. Jeff Levy, music from Lizzie Blazquez, free dog-training sessions, pet and human sketch art, backgammon lessons, a kids' crafting table, chair yoga/Zumba from WSFSSH (West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing) instructors, a small drag show to kick the event off, and more. We hope to see everyone there!



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Get Your Hands Dirty in the Name of Beauty

THE DAFFODIL PROJECT at first was a living memorial to the victims of 9/11. Now it's been expanded to include victims of COVID-19. Planting daffodils each fall has also become a celebration of New Yorkers championing parks equity in their communities, and a catalyst for citywide civic engagement, advancing

New Yorkers for Parks' call for 1% of the city budget to be allocated to our parks. The Block Association has applied for several hundred daffodil bulbs. We hope to receive them mid-month and make them available for planting in tree beds around the neighborhood. If you're interested in helping out on your block, please email trees@w102-103blockassn.org. We'll answer your questions and arrange for you to receive a batch of bulbs.

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Yard Sale

local restaurants and businesses; a bake table, with homemade sweet and savory treats; a 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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The Grand Feast: A Mom-and-Pop Restaurant with Good, Old-Fashioned Home Cooking

By TERENCE HANRAHAN

HAVE YOU BEEN? On the Upper West Side, we often hear neighbors say they want to support the mom-and-pop businesses that give us a distinctive experience. The Grand Feast restaurant is one of those.

The restaurant is run by two brothers, Juan and Marcelo Guzman. Born and raised in Oaxaca, Mexico, the two came to New York City in hopes for a better future. Juan began working for Baldor Specialty Foods while Marcelo worked at several different restaurants, including Le Bateau, The Writing Room, and Beauty & Essex. While very successful at their jobs, they ultimately decided it was time to open their own place. The name “The Grand Feast” comes from the idea that Marcelo was putting all his cooking talents into one diverse menu, offering a variety of cuisines for their customers. The Guzman family is working hard to keep The Grand Feast in business, providing fine dining to our community.

In my visits over the past year, there has always been a warm welcome from hostess Abigail, Marcelo’s daughter, and a pleasant atmosphere that lends itself to conversation over a meal. The music is not obtrusive, as it can be in some restaurants, where management somehow thinks we want to hear nightclub dance music while dining. The interior design includes combinations of white, gray, and black, with colorful black lighting around the bar area.



Interior at Grand Feast. Photos: Terence Hanrahan

Appetizer prices range from \$10 to \$19 and entrée prices from \$12 to \$45. Elegant presentations are a feast for the eye as well as the palate, and generally large portions mean we almost always take some home for the next day’s lunch.

The Grand Feast’s global cuisine has offerings for everyone: Feel like French? The beef bourguignon with papardelle or the duck l’orange with butternut puree will meet that standard. Prefer Spanish? Order the huge seafood paella. Mediterranean or Greek your style? Try the lamb shank or the pan-seared branzino with red-wine parsnip puree and broccolini. Straightforward American? Any sort of burger you can imagine (beef, turkey, salmon, veggie, lamb), cooked to order, hits the mark. There are a variety of pasta dishes, including ravioli, spaghetti, and gnocchi. Vegan options? Yes. Gluten-free choices? Yes.

My wife thought the appetizer of tuna tartare presented on a guacamole base was spectacular and could have been an entrée. Seared duck breast, medium-rare, with spinach and pureed sweet potatoes was worth every cent at \$28. A cioppino tasted like I was in San Francisco and was large enough to feed two.

Brunch: There are all the traditional egg preparations, plus avocado toast, pancakes, French toast, and choices of sides. (For \$19 more, you can have bottomless mimosas for 90 minutes.)

Alcohol: Nice selection of wine and beer, including Italian Peroni.

Value for money: This is where they shine, versus nearby restaurants. Not inexpensive, but they deliver for the money you are spending.

Go enjoy while you can; they will need lots more customers if they are going to survive.

The Grand Feast, 854 Amsterdam Ave., between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts.; (917) 409-0772; www.thegrandfeast.nyc/

Open noon–11 p.m. Mon.–Thurs.; 9 a.m.–11 p.m. Fri.–Sun.

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Tuna tartare



Duck breast, sweet potato puree, garlic spinach



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Take Action for Our Planet! If Not Now, When?

By SHARON WASKOW

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

HAVE THE BAD AIR, RECORD TEMPERATURES, forest fires, floods, and tornadoes caught your attention this summer? If so, perhaps you've been asking yourself how you can do more for our ailing planet. Even if you've managed to ignore this summer's news cycle, here are six suggestions for actions you can take starting now. Note: Some are easier to do than others, and some may push you out of your comfort zone, but each will put you on the road to being a climate solutionist.

1. Avoid plastic when you shop.

Plastic pollution is a global problem affecting the health of oceans, rivers, and humans. Resist buying prewashed greens and cut-up fruit in clamshell containers. Bring your own reusable bags for produce and ask purveyors to place your meat, fish, or deli order in your own container. (Some may refuse, but it's worth asking.) Shop where they offer items in bulk rather than prepackaged. Bring your own reusable container when getting coffee/tea to go.

2. Compost your food scraps. Food waste creates methane gas in landfills. When we divert food waste to compost, it is used to enrich the soil in city parks and gardens. Food waste is also turned into biogas to be burned as fuel. Participate in New York City's curbside pickup program. If your building is already signed up to receive the service, join in. If your building is not participating, take advantage of the Smart Compost Bins now available in our neighborhood. Download the app at nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/services/food-scraps-and-yard-waste-page/nyc-food-scrap-drop-off-locations. Find Smart Bins at:

- SW corner of W. 96th/West End Ave.
- NE corner of W. 97th/Broadway
- SE corner of W. 102nd/Broadway
- SE corner of W. 109th/Broadway

Or drop off your food scraps at one of our nearby farmers' markets (Broadway between W. 114th and W. 116th Sts., compost hours Sundays, 8 a.m.–noon; or W. 97th St. between Amsterdam and Columbus Aves., compost hours Fridays, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.).

Mandatory food-scrap pickup will start on the UWS in October 2024.

3. Voice your concerns to elected officials. It matters! When we stay silent, our representatives think we don't care about issues. Stay current with city, state, and federal environmental legislation. One way is to subscribe to the *It's Easy Being Green* newsletter (itseasybeinggreen.org/39-2/). It will keep you current on proposed legislation and actions you can take, such as signing a petition, emailing/calling an official (each takes less than five minutes) or joining in-person lobbying events at the New York City Council or in Albany. Come to the huge NYC Climate March on Sept. 17 at 1:00 p.m. You can sign up to join It's Easy Being Green and Beyond Plastics at the march: beyondplastics.org/events/march-to-end-fossil-fuels-9-17-23.

4. Change your bank and credit-card accounts. Bank of America, Chase, Citibank, and Wells Fargo are the biggest investors in and funders of fossil-fuel companies. Fossil fuels are the biggest contributor to climate destruction. Read "Banking on Our Future" (thirdact.org/act/bank-on-our-future-pledge) to understand the impact this action could have. Amalgamated Bank in New York is a fine alternative. While you are at it, consider talking to your investment adviser about divesting from funds that support fossil-fuel companies. He/she will likely say it's tricky because mutual funds are a bundle of investments. Keep bringing it up. Consult Knowesg (knowesg.com/featured-article/top-8-best-esg-funds-for-responsible-investors-in-2023) to begin your research on socially responsible funds.

5. Vote for and support the campaigns of pro-climate candidates. We need environmental laws and oversight to turn things around. Refer to the League of Conservation Voters' Scorecard (lcv.org/work/congressional-scorecard/). At election time, look up the environmental policies of your local, state, and federal candidates.

6. Stay informed on pro-environment lifestyle changes and climate actions by subscribing to notifications from and supporting

- Beyond Plastics (beyondplastics.org)
- TH!RD ACT (thirdact.org/act)
- The NATURE CONSERVANCY (nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-york/)

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).

On Broadway

By KEITH TAURO

OPEN

- **Marinara Pizza** has opened on the northeast corner of W. 97th St. and Broadway.
- **QQ Nails & Spa** has a new location on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts.
- **José-Ismael Barber Shop**, on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts., is now open.
- **Zurna**, which replaced the former Jerusalem Restaurant on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts., is now open, with a similar Middle Eastern menu.
- **Afternoon**, offering a variety of snackables and beverages, has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 107th and W. 108th Sts.

OPENING

- **Moon Kee**, a Hong Kong/Cantonese restaurant on the east side of Broadway between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts., looks like it is about ready to open.

CHANGES

- **Shun Lee Café**, a.k.a. **Shun Lee 98th St.**, is now called **Dim Sum Bloom**. It's still on the southwest corner of W. 98th St. and Broadway.

CLOSED

- **Lenny's Bagels**, the long-standing and beloved neighborhood bagel shop at the northeast corner of W. 98th St. and Broadway, has closed.

Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD! (a.k.a. ORFEO DUO and VITA WALLACE)

For the 200th anniversary of St. Mary's Church, the little Episcopal church on W. 126th St. between Amsterdam and Old Broadway, a celebratory concert will take place at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (1047 Amsterdam Ave., at W. 112th St.) on **Sat., Oct. 28, 2 p.m.** The St. Mary's choir, the Harlem Chamber Players, and What a Neighborhood! will collaborate to feature choral and chamber music, including a world premiere by neighborhood composer Nailah Nombeko. Vita will also perform at St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University in November; go to religiousof.columbia.edu/sacred-music for the whole schedule (concerts are both in person and on Zoom) and to sign up for the mailing list. For more information on either concert, contact Vita at orfeoduo@gmail.com.

ELIZA LANSDALE, BARBARA E. MORGAN, AND MIMI DAITZ

Join these members of the Riverside Choral Society at St. Bart's Church (325 Park Ave. at E. 51st St.), **Thurs., Dec. 14, 8 p.m.** *Bernstein, Britten and Beyond* will include Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and Kenneth Lamp's *Jerusalem*, as well as

new works from Nico Muhly and John Luther Adams. This beautiful concert in a beautiful space includes organ, percussion, and harp. Tickets available through riversidechoral.org and at the door.

BLOOMINGDALE AGING IN PLACE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

This BAiP group continues to post their stunning photography almost monthly. Recent subjects included farmers' markets (enough to make your mouth water) and architecture; check them out at bloominplace.org/photography.html.

BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, AND MORE

After Labor Day, check out fall events at Bloomingdale School of Music (bsmny.org/events/), Manhattan School of Music (msmny.edu/msm-performances/), the Nicholas Roerich Museum (roerich.org/museum-events.php), and Broadway Bach (broadwaybach.org).

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 2023 Newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!



Join Us

www.w102-103blockassn.org

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