



NEWSLETTER

March 2014

VOL. 44, NO. 1

Annual Yard Sale Set for May 17; We Need Your Help

For the eleventh consecutive year, the Block Association is pleased to present the very popular spring Yard Sale. It will be open for browsers and buyers on Sat., May 17th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on W. 103rd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. The rain date is Sun., May 19th.

The coordinator of the event is, once again, Bob Aaronson, a W. 103rd St. resident. If you have general questions after reading this article and visiting the Block Association website (102-103blockassn.org), then call him at (212) 662-4046 or email him at yard-sale@w102-103blockassn.org. As you read about all of the various activities that take place at the Yard Sale, please consider volunteering to help one of them run smoothly. Whether you have only an hour to spare or would like to take on a bigger role, we badly need your help!

Deborah Lott, who so ably organized the silent auction these last few years, has agreed to do so again. Do you have an item of value you would like to donate (a few days at your weekend house, tickets to a sports event or a performance, or a gift certificate you're not likely to use, for example)? Could you help solicit donations from local merchants? For auction-related issues, please email her at auction@w102-103blockassn.org or call her at (212) 749-1637.

We will again sponsor a blood drive. Hedy Campbell, who coordinated our last two blood drives, is willing to do it again, but volunteers to staff the drive

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Desperately Seeking Volunteers!

By HEDY CAMPBELL

Fear not! This is not an appeal for money. We're doing okay financially, although we never turn down a donation. However, we're very much in need of able bodies. We need people who can fulfill particular functions (see below) as well as general helpers. We're an efficient, focused, hard-working bunch that nonetheless manages to enjoy each others' company while bettering the neighborhood. But don't take my word for it. Here's what others have to say about how satisfying participating can be:

"We have the ability to create a sense of community in an urban environment where one would not exist otherwise," Terence Hanrahan, chair.

"In Westchester being a good neighbor meant nobody knew you were there! Here, I was welcomed into the Block Association community and have worked with wonderful people on all sorts of projects," David Reich, former chair.

"Being active makes it easy to improve my own life by making sure I'm secure, having input in local events, and knowing my neighbors," Camille Colon, board member.

"New York is a city of communities. Every community thrives or dies depending on the involvement of its members," Eve Sinaiko, Ecology Committee chair.

"Volunteering gives me the feeling that this is my neighborhood. I've helped make it a better place, and I belong here. I walk down the street and always run into someone I know. I look at the mature trees I helped to plant and the various buildings that I have enjoyed happy times in and I feel like I have a

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Safety Concerns To Be Addressed at Block Association Annual Meeting

With FIVE recent pedestrian fatalities in our area and an uptick in the crime statistics in the 24th Precinct, the Block Association shares your concern that we all need to be more conscious of how we can protect ourselves better from danger.

Toward that end, we are making Community Safety the focus of our annual meeting, scheduled for Thurs., Mar. 27th. Newly elected City Council member Helen Rosenthal and New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr. are among the politicians and law enforcement representatives expected to be on hand that evening to share their thoughts and field your questions.

In addition, Block Association board members will be on hand presenting the annual financial report, summarizing the year's activities, announcing upcoming activities, and inducting new members into the Residents of Long Standing Hall of Fame. If you know anyone who has lived within our territory for 50 years or more and has not yet been recognized, please send an email to info@w102-103blockassn.org or call (212) 865-8524. To see profiles of the 20 residents who have already been inducted since we began the program in 2010, visit our website, w102-103blockassn.org. Election of the Board of Directors for the coming year is on the agenda as well.

Please join us on the 27th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Marseilles Residence, 230 W. 103rd St. It's sure to be an informative evening, and it's the ideal opportunity for you to both learn about the Block Association and share your comments about what's important to you.



The Clearfield, built by developer Harry Schiff ca 1909 at the southeast corner of W. 103rd and Riverside Dr., was the first of four high-rise buildings constructed on RSD in our neighborhood. Another of Schiff's buildings, the Cleburne (completed 1913), is located at the northeast corner of West End Ave. and W. 105th, on the site of the former mansion of Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus who perished on the Titanic.

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history in this neighborhood. I belong here. This is my home," Anthony Bellov, caroling leader and Yard Sale manager.

"Great things happen when people come together," Dayle Vander Sande, caroling leader.

Please consider helping out. Some of the jobs vacancies are:

- Writing content for the website and interfacing with the website manager;
- Attending the monthly 24th precinct Community Council meeting; reporting news of note to the board, and submitting information as needed to the newsletter;
- Helping to produce the quarterly newsletter, either in an editorial or graphics capacity.

Let us know that you're interested by writing to info@w102-103blockassn.org, by attending our monthly board meeting (Tues., Mar. 11th, 8 p.m., 306 W. 102nd), or coming to the annual meeting (Thurs., Mar. 27th, 7 p.m., 230 W. 103rd).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri., Mar. 21: Last day to donate blood and still be eligible for the blood drive at the Yard Sale

Thurs., Mar. 27, 7 p.m.: Annual Meeting (see p. 1)

Sat., Apr. 26, 10 a.m.: Spring Planting (see p. 4)

Sat., May 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Yard Sale (see p. 1)

NOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

For years residents have been asking us, "Can I pay with a credit card?" We're excited to report that the answer is now YES! Go to w102-103blockassn.org and click on the Join Us tab to contribute using PayPal.

While you're at the website, you'll also find links to all sorts of valuable and interesting resources, such as a map of all of the trees on our blocks, a list of alternate side parking holidays, blog entries, a neighborhood calendar of events, photos and bios of our Residents of Long Standing, and much more. Take a look and take advantage of the convenience of making your contribution electronically.

BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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

Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13 at 306 W. 102nd St. at 8:00 p.m.

THE WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION, info@w102-103blockassn.org

NEWSLETTER Published four times each year. Hedy Campbell, editor. 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 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.

GUARD SCHEDULE Your contributions to the Block Association provide funding for our street guards. Rafael Hernandez makes rounds Tuesday through Saturday; Roy Chavarriaga is on duty Sunday and Monday. Guards patrol weekdays from 5 p.m. until midnight and from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. To report neighborhood security issues to the guards or to request their assistance on the street, call the office of Starr Security at (212) 767-1110.

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on the day of the event would be a big help. To volunteer, to schedule an appointment to donate, or for information, contact Hedy at (212) 865-8524 or blood@w102-103blockassn.org. If you have questions about donating, visit the New York Blood Center's website (nybloodcenter.org). If you're a regular donor, please be aware that in order to be eligible to donate at the Yard Sale, make sure not to donate elsewhere after March 21st.

E-waste recycling will also take place at the Yard Sale. Andres Veranes (averanes@verizon.net) is our able coordinator. Please let him know what you'll be bringing and whether you can help during the event or by transporting the collected material to the next point in the recycling chain.

To benefit the Block Association, we will also again host a Community Sale table. Please donate new or gently used toys, games, CDs/DVDs, art, crafts, or household items in good working order. (No clothing, please.) Beginning Mon., May 3rd, you can drop items off with the doorman at 240 W. 102nd St. between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight. We'll need staffers to sort and price merchandise for this activity and to work at the table the day of the event. To volunteer, or for more information, please email commtable@w102-103blockassn.org.

Since clothing donations will not be accepted at the Community Sale table, we're planning to make arrangements for textile recycling. Donors place used clothes, linens, curtains and drapes, throw rugs, and other types of textiles in bins provided. Usable items are repurposed to shelters and similar organizations. Items that have given up the ghost are sent for processing into new material. For further information contact Cynthia Doty (cldoty@aol.com).

To keep our visitors and vendors well fed we always offer a variety of refreshments, much of them homemade. If you would be willing to coordinate the refreshments table, put in an hour or two serving at it, have resources or ideas for this aspect of the Yard Sale, or plan to donate, contact food@w102-103blockassn.org.

Now is the time to reserve a vendor space at the sale. Anthony Bellov, has already started taking reservations. You'll find detailed information and a link to the vendor agreement by clicking on "2014 Yard Sale" at our website. Spaces cost \$40 for Block Association residents, \$55 for others. Each space is 10 feet wide by 8 feet deep. As this is a neighborhood event, noncommercial vendors are given priority. Tables are not provided, so if you need one, be sure to make your own arrangements in advance.

Back by popular demand, we'll have another split-pot lottery where you have the chance to win half of the total amount collected. Last year the winner received almost \$600! Look for the tables we'll have set up on street corners in the weeks preceding the Yard Sale so you can buy tickets even if you don't attend the Yard Sale. Of course they'll be on sale the day of the event as well.

As you can see, we need all sorts of volunteers to make the day successful. In addition, we'll also need help distributing flyers, coordinating publicity, and setting up and cleaning up. Give us an hour or two of your time and we'll give you all the appreciation you could want as well as the well-being that can only be gained from contributing to one's community. It's also a great way for teenagers to get a taste of community service. To sign up, send email to Bob Aaronson at yardsale@w102-103blockassn.org or call him at (212) 662-4046.

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Save the Date for Spring Planting Day: Saturday April 26th

Our annual spring planting and tree-well clean-up is scheduled for Sat., Apr. 26th (rain date is Sun., Apr. 27th). Beginning at 10 a.m., we will remove old mulch, plant flowers, and care for our street trees. Please plan to join your neighbors in our annual spring ritual. We have a great time and the neighborhood always looks great when we're done. Children and first-time gardeners are welcome! We'll gather in front of 878 West End Ave.

This year, however, we are without the grant money that has funded the project the past several years. For a successful event, we need about \$1,500. If you know of any sources of funds or of someone who'd like to sponsor the event, please let us know. And please add a little extra to your Block Association contribution (and indicate that you've done so) to help support the purchase of flowers and other supplies. Contributions can now be made online at w102-103blockassn.org. To volunteer or for more information, please email trees@w102-103blockassn.org



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Local Utilities Go on the Fritz

By RICHARD ROBBINS and TERENCE HANRAHAN

For most of us, navigating mountains of snow and ponds of slush were obstacles enough. For some of our residents, however, the challenges were compounded by a water main break on W. 103rd St., an electrical failure on W. 102nd, and a disruption in Verizon telephone service at the Broadmoor.

It all began Sat., Jan. 25th when a water main on W. 103rd between West End and Riverside ruptured sending a geyser of water up from the street and flooding basements, where many electrical boxes are located, up and down the block. Residents reported quick response from FDNY firefighters and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which shut off the water main and immediately started working on the overnight fix. Despite assurances, however, by 1 a.m. neither electricity nor heat had been restored and the temperature had dropped into the teens. A Con Ed emergency phone rep insisted that residents would have to find licensed electricians to inspect their buildings, file affidavits, and get "blue slips" from the city before power could be restored, a process that could take days! Newly elected NYC Council Member Helen Rosenthal arrived on the scene, tweeting with residents and keeping tabs on repair progress with good cheer. By escalating the issue with OEM, she succeeded in getting power restored by 1:30 a.m. By working through the night, DEP successfully restored water to the block by morning. Despite the significant inconveniences, those affected seem to agree that the crisis was ably managed.

At around the same time on W. 102nd St., there was loss of power to one of the buildings on the south side of the street near West End Ave. Con Ed went into three manholes and ran wires above ground to make up for the loss of power. Red plastic wire chases on the sidewalk near the curb protected the above-ground wires. Plywood open-top boxes were built around the open manholes for further protection. Some time later, two large cable trucks were seen pulling new cable between the manholes. Late in February, Con Ed workers said that "the transformer cabling is being removed, though the sawhorses and some cable covers will remain for a few more days until a Con Ed truck comes by to pick them up."

Residents of the Broadmoor and other buildings along Broadway have lately been affected by outages and service interruptions, explaining the Verizon tent that became a familiar sight on the northeast corner of Broadway and W. 102nd St. A Verizon rep explained that the trouble has been caused by the corrosion of a main feeder cable that provides telephone and Internet service to many buildings along Broadway between W. 98th and W. 102nd St. Years' worth of salt accumulation is believed to be the culprit. Verizon's short-term goal is to reestablish service using temporary fixes; the work is expected to last until early March. Replacing the cable is the long-term solution, but can't be undertaken until the weather improves.

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By JULIA C. SPRING

As the weather warms up, try one of these events—chamber music at the 92nd Y, “Fishing for Wives” at the Pan-Asian Rep, vintage song at the Merchant’s House Museum, pops at Carnegie Hall—all of which haveneighborhood residents in performance or behind the scenes.

SERENA CANIN and MARK STEINBERG

The 22-year-old Brentano String Quartet—recently appointed Quartet-in-Residence at the Yale School of Music—will be performing at the 92 St. Y on Sat., Apr. 12th, at 8 p.m. in a program including works by Mozart and Felipe Lara. Mark and Serena are the quartet’s violinists; guest violist is Hsin-Yun Huang. Tickets, from \$35, are available at the Y box office (E. 92nd St. and Lexington Ave.), or 92y.org.

ANTHONY BELLOV and DAYLE VANDER SANDE

Anthony Bellov and Dayle Vander Sande founded the Bond Street Euterpean Singing Society a decade ago to raise funds for the restoration of the 1837 pianoforte and subsequent reinstallation of the rooms in Merchant’s House, the city’s only completely intact 19th-century family home. On Fri., June 13th at 7 p.m. the group will perform “A Summer Serenade—Light and Breezy Airs to Greet the Solstice” at the Merchant House’s annual benefit. Anthony and Dayle, tenors, and Jane Rady, soprano, will sing songs that would have been sung around the piano by the original occupants in the Museum’s double parlor. The museum is at 29 E. 4th St. between Bowery and

Lafayette St.

General admission is \$30; \$15 for museum members, seniors, children 12 and under (preferably not tiny ones). Performances tend to sell out; contact the museum for tickets by calling (212) 777-1089.

TISA CHANG

The Pan-Asian Repertory Theatre, founded in 1977 by actor Tisa Chang, now its Artistic Producing Director, has a main-stage production at the Clurman on Theatre Row from Apr. 5th through Apr. 27th. “Fishing for Wives,” playwright Edward Sakamoto’s 19th play in five decades, tells the story of an immigrant fisherman in Hawaii who in the early 1900s sends for a Japanese picture bride, substituting his handsome friend’s photo for his own. A vintage romantic comedy, and a comedy of errors, ensues.

Performances are Tues. through Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 2:30 p.m., and Sat., Mar. 5th and 19th at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available in person at the Theatre Row Box office (410 W. 42nd St.) or from Telecharge ((800) 432-7400). Early bird passes are available through Mar. 31st for \$45 through the Pan-Asian office ((212) 868-4030). Discount tickets for seniors and students may be purchased at panasianrep.org/fishing_for_wives.shtml.

ANTHONY DECURTIS

Anthony DeCurtis is an author and music critic who has written for many publications including Rolling Stone and the New York Times. He collaborated with Clive Davis on “The Soundtrack of My Life,” published in 2013, which rose to number two on the New York Times nonfiction best-seller list. Now he is working on a biography of Lou Reed and would love to hear from anyone who can share any personal experiences of Lou. Please contact Anthony at adecurtis@aol.com

SUNNY NAUGHTON

Sunny Naughton is the Programs Coordinator and Social Media Correspondent of Camp Broadway, from which a chorus of 60 theater-hopeful children will sing at the New York Pops 31st Birthday Spring Gala on Apr. 28th, at 7 p.m. at Carnegie Hall. Camp Broadway provides theater arts programs and a summer camp for kids from 9 to 18 taught by trained Broadway professionals. Sunny has been involved with Camp Broadway since she participated in the program 15 years ago! Tickets may be purchased at the Carnegie Hall box office or at newyorkpops.org/31st-birthday-gala-0. Advance benefit tickets are available by calling (212) 765-7677.

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Marc Sorkin

Block Association Member

Using Your Noodle at Xi'an

By KATE MCLEOD

Among my best memories of a visit to Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province in China—after the Terra Cotta soldiers, of course—are the dumplings. Dumplings in China in general are great, but in Xi'an they were delicate and exquisite. The chicken-filled dumplings were shaped to look like chickens with little beaks, I kid you not. Dumplings at Xi'an, our neighborhood's new restaurant at 2675 Broadway just south of W. 102nd St., are neither delicate nor chicken-shaped. The freshly handmade dough itself, in both the dumplings and the noodles for which the tiny shop is better known, is thickly rolled, so the experience is considerably heartier. One only has to look at the crowds in the restaurant to know that at the newest of this small restaurant chain's outposts, the food is being very enthusiastically received.

The freshness of the food has both an up and a down side. The up side is that the noodles are delicious. Another up side: the portions are large; I've never been able to finish an order. Here's where the down side comes in: There's a young man behind the counter whose entire job seems to be to say repeatedly in a loud voice, "You have to eat them while they're hot." While I was there, he dressed down one customer for having left to run an errand, letting his order sit for five minutes after it was ready. The website even includes a warning: "If you must take your noodles to go, please at least try the noodles in the store or right out of the to-go container when it's handed to you, so you can get the best possible Xi'an Famous Foods experience." I consider it odd that I'm told not to take noodles home in a restaurant that only has about 11 stools available, several right by the door, arranged for eating side-by-side. And what about reheating my leftovers the next day?

I've sampled the cold buckwheat noodles and I can see them becoming a complement to my own cooking when I have people over for dinner. I suppose because they're served cold, they keep well despite the disclaimer. They aren't overly spicy and the flavors and textures are perfectly combined for a filling and satisfying meal. Lamb, pork, and oxtails are prominent on the menu. All of these dishes have received thumbs ups from people I have talked to. One neighbor particularly liked menu item N4, called stewed pork noodles. They were mildly spicy, which was plenty spicy for me. When Xi'an labels a dish spicy, think killer pepper. There was a good portion of pork (she'd found the quantity of oxtail in another meal disappointing) and lots of vegetables. She echoed my thoughts about the insistence on eating in by wishing for a take-out menu and/or a coat rack, if they are going to make such a big deal about eating the noodles fresh from the kitchen.

The staff knows the menu well and has been helpful to me and others who are trying to figure out what to order from the somewhat confusing photos with minimal descriptions posted on the wall. They know which dishes that are labeled spicy can be toned down. The crowd is enthusiastic. Yet smiles or a sense of camaraderie lack. Perhaps it has something to do with the guy yelling incessantly at the customers.

It is well worth checking out the menu at Xi'an and giving the food a try. The service is fast, the prices are great (you can get an economical filling meal at Xi'an for under \$5!). Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Cash only. There's no phone number, probably so you absolutely positively cannot call in an order. Delivery is not available. There is a website where you can learn more about the chain—or order a gift card or T-shirt: xianfoods.com.

The Blooming Stage: Spotlight on Two BAiP Volunteers

By CAITLIN M. HAWKE

In its fifth year, Bloomingdale Aging in Place functions with a small army of volunteers. The January launch of the Blooming Stage, BAiP's play-reading group, is a perfect example of how neighbors are sharing their life-long expertise with others and building our community in the process. The group is co-led by two accomplished arts professionals, Ozzie Alfonso and Janet Doeden Hansen.

The play-reading group isn't either leader's first commitment to BAiP. Ozzie's much-loved photography group is among BAiP's largest and oldest. Ozzie has been a resident for 28 years, and his BAiP connection is thanks to his wife Maura Gouck, a former Block Association board member. Maura urged Ozzie to shoot photographs for this newsletter. Then David Reich invited him to bring his passion for photography to BAiP as a group leader. The rest, as Ozzie says, is history. With his sterling credentials as an Emmy-award winning director, editor, and producer, Ozzie and the Blooming Stage were made for each other.

Janet's BAiP memoir-writing group has a core membership that meets to work on technique and share their writing. Janet notes that by its nature, the group enjoys a level of intimacy that "makes for the kind of openness that draws folks together in a supportive way." A local resident for nearly 50 years, Janet is open to new endeavors: "My daughter's move to London compelled me to engage more deeply in the community. Involvement in the arts has always been my passion and profession." So, with her experience as an Off-Broadway actor and in management positions at Actors Studio as well as Actors Repertory Theater, Janet was also a natural fit for the Blooming Stage.

After reading and rehearsing plays for several months under Janet and Ozzie's direction, the Blooming Stage group's work will culminate in a public reading this fall. BAiP and its members are fortunate for the volunteer spirit embodied by these two generous neighbors. For more information please contact BAiP's activities committee: activities@bloominplace.org.

Congratulations, Alice Mitchell!



Earlier this year, it was brought to our attention that long-time Broadmoor resident Alice Mitchell was celebrating her 100th birthday! A Block Association board member attended the small party that was held in her honor, and presented her with a custom-made card from the board. Alice moved from Hungary into our neighborhood in 1958 and was inducted into our Residents of Long-Standing Hall of Fame when we initiated it in 2010. Many happy and healthy returns of the day, Alice!

If you know of a local resident who is celebrating a similar milestone and would like it publicized, please let us know so we can properly recognize the individual. Send an email with information to editor@w102-103blockassn.org.

Supermud Pottery: Where a Flight of Stairs Leads to Creativity

By JANE HOPKINS

On the east side of Broadway between 105th and 106th Streets you've probably noticed signage alerting you to the second-floor establishments offering classes in yoga, exercise, and pottery. If exercising your creativity in a relaxing, friendly environment is your goal, make sure to stop in at Supermud Pottery and see owner Iva Smith.

A visit to the studio brings you down a long hallway past a gallery display where artists' work is on view and offered for sale. A few steps farther, and the visitor begins to experience the comfortable, relaxed atmosphere that Iva facilitates. Students and teachers work at tables around the studio. High shelves house art supplies and works in progress. Light streams in through large windows providing an open view, away from the hustle and bustle of Broadway below.

While working as a special education teacher here in the city, Iva felt the desire to pursue a hobby. She knew she liked working with her hands, which led her first to carpentry and later to pottery. She took classes at Supermud Pottery, which had been founded in 1978 by Maxine Krasnow in the West 100s. In 1997, Krasnow moved to Arizona, selling the business to Iva and five other students. The new owners moved the business to its existing location. One by one over the next several years, Iva's co-owners left the studio, leaving her the sole proprietor.

Iva eventually retired from teaching and devoted herself to Supermud Pottery. She found that her background in teaching made the transition from classroom to art studio an easy one. The biggest challenges in running her studio, she finds, are keeping up with the cost of rent and maintaining the facility and equipment. Second is outreach to new customers, which is especially important for businesses that are above street level. Toward this end, Iva recently installed a new large banner outside the window to attract passers-by; the studio's website, which was developed by a student and includes lots of information and photos of work done by Supermud potters, is another attention getter. Managers Eric Lawrence and Marsha Clark Lind and a team of teachers help keep the studio running.

An average week at Supermud Pottery includes classes for adults and children. Students learn both hand-building and wheel-throwing on a potter's wheel. Students plan their own projects with guidance. A child interested in snakes created one out of clay. An adult student planning to get married in about a year began making a pottery piece for each of the wedding guests. There are also classes for children in Spanish, birthday parties, summer camp programs, special workshops, private lessons, and studio space for rent.

While I was at the studio, I wondered aloud why the students are drawn to pottery. Iva and two teachers responded: "The people here are nice." "It's a way for individuals to express themselves and their individual style in an artistic way." "It's tactile, creative, and brings balance to one's life." "I worked with computers for many years and pottery gave me a way to develop a physical skill." "There's an atmosphere of community spirit and a way to find some 'me time.'" "It keeps me sane." What a variety of compelling answers!

Caroling Draws a Crowd of All Ages

By HEDY CAMPBELL

In the course of a year, the Block Association sponsors so many different events that there's always something for everyone. The annual Halloween parade appeals to the youngsters. Induction of honorees into our Residents of Long-Standing Hall of Fame appeals to an older crowd. The Yard Sale vendors largely represent the middle of the pack; those who want to reclaim shelf space rather than hang onto their treasures. The annual Solstice caroling event, however, seems to span every age group, from babies in front carriers to seniors with walking sticks, and every age group in between. We even break the species barrier, as a few hardy pups always come along for the fun.

Because of calendar constraints, this year we shifted the event this year to the 20th, one day in advance of the winter solstice. Although we lost a couple of stalwarts to schedule conflicts in the process, the crowd grew to its usual mass of 70-odd people. The temperature was in the balmy 40s (thank goodness we were in advance of January and February's deluges of snow), allowing us to prolong our walk, delighting participants and indoor audiences with our renditions of wintertime, Christmas, and Chanukah favorites. The tolerable temperature also enabled us to more easily expand the event to include a special pre-caroling engagement across Broadway so we could serenade François Bourdon, who was the subject of neighbor Jon Reiner's new project, a documentary film called *Tree Man*.

Thanks to Anthony Bellov and Dayle Vander Sande for ably leading us around our circuit. Thanks to the co-op board and management of 310 Riverside for allowing us to stage our post-caroling refreshments in the Riverside lobby. Thank you to David Reich for the loan of his hot plate, and to Mildred Speiser for babysitting it while the cider warmed, ensuring the safety of building residents and the pleasure of the intrepid carolers. Check the Block Association website next fall for the date of the 2014 event, or keep your eye out for the announcement of the date in the newsletter.

Two Neighbors Recommend Websites

Here are links to two websites that provide interesting insights into our neighborhood, both submitted by neighborhood residents. Thanks to former board member and co-chair Molly Sugarman for letting us know about maps.nyc.gov/crimel. There you can find all sorts of crime-related data broken down by precinct. Symbols show the locations of crimes committed in a particular area, graphs compare the precinct's crime rates to the borough and to the city overall, and statistics by particular category of crime are included as well.

Vivian Awner, a longtime resident, made us aware of a very cool link at the *Smithsonian* magazine website. If you put "interactive map" into the search bar, you'll find a link that takes you to, well, an interactive map. There, you can move a magnifying glass over a particular location on a contemporary map of the city and, as if by magic, a map of the same location in 1836 is revealed! You can also switch views so the 1836 map is apparent and the contemporary map is in the lens. You can even zoom in to see details about a particular block

Orfeo Duo Receives Grant

For a number of years, the Block Association served as fiscal sponsor for musicians Vita and Ishmael Wallace, aka the Orfeo Duo. For several years running, we successfully partnered up with the pair to secure funding for their What a Neighborhood! concert series. Then the group hit a dry spell that we're happy to report is now over! This year the group has received grants from both the Manhattan Community Arts Fund and the Fund for Creative Communities.

This year's series begins with a free concert, "Visiting with the Ancestors," on Sat., Mar. 8 at the Nicholas Roerich Museum (319 W. 107th St.). Pianist and composer Ishmael Wallace will give world premieres of music by neighborhood composers. Preludes for Piano by Nailah Nombeko, Dodecahedral Sonata by Anthony Elia, and Ishmael's own Canto on the theme of a journey to the Underworld form a meditative recital rounded out with works by Liszt and surrounded by the mystical paintings of Nicholas Roerich.

In April, there will also be a gathering on the theme of the Harlem Renaissance; several events that will take place in May are in the planning stages. For more information, call (212) 222-210 or visit orfeoduo.com/neighborhood.

Block Association Reports Small Surplus for 2013

By SUSAN MADERER, TREASURER

The Block Association saw a 5.9 percent increase in total income for the year 2013. Expenses remained steady from 2012, resulting in a net surplus for the year of approximately \$3,500. The increase is accounted for by a number of new contributors (thank you all!), but the total number of contributors compared to the population of our neighborhood is still low. Newsletter advertising sales saw a big increase (thank you Jane Hopkins!); the income entirely covers the printing costs. Bad weather at last year's Yard Sale resulted in a 20 percent decline in income. Security Guard costs have remained stable, though an increase is expected in 2014.

Financial Report 2013

Income	
Individual Contributions:	\$24,000
Bldg. Contributions:	\$16,000
Yard Sale:	\$ 5,000
Newsletter Advertising	\$ 3,500
Total Income:	\$48,500

Expenses	
Guard Service:	\$40,000
Printing:	\$ 3,600
Dues & Contributions:	\$ 1,500
Events:	\$ 1,500
Misc.	\$ 300
Total Expenses	\$46,900

Who Represents Us?

Residents on our blocks are represented by the following elected officials:

NYC Council, 7th District: Helen Rosenthal

563 Columbus Ave. (at W. 87 St.)
New York, NY 10024
(212) 873-0282
HRosenthal@council.nyc.gov

Manhattan Borough President: Gale Brewer

1 Centre St,
New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-8300
info@mahattanbp.nyc.gov

Public Advocate: Letitia James

1 Centre St, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-7200
gethelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov

City Comptroller: Scott Stringer

One Centre St.
New York, NY 10007
email via comptroller.nyc.gov

Mayor: Bill de Blasio

City Hall
New York, NY 10007
311 or (212) 669-3916
email via nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor

NYS Assembly, 69th District: Daniel O'Donnell

245 W. 104 St.
New York, NY 10025
(212) 866-3970
OdonnellD@assembly.state.ny.us

U.S. Congress, 10th NY District: Jerrold Nadler

201 Varick St., Suite 669
New York, NY 10014
(212)367-7350
email via nadler.house.gov

U.S. Senate, 31st District: Adriano Espaillat

5030 Broadway, Rm. 701
New York, NY 10034
satellite office at CM Helen Rosenthal's office
(see above)
(212) 544-0173
espailla@nysenate.gov

On Broadway

By DAVID L. REICH

★ Cure Urgent Care is establishing its first office in New York City in the retail space of the Marseilles Residence on the west side of Broadway between W. 102nd and W. 103rd St. The Marseilles is owned and operated by the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing as a low-income senior residence. The retail space had previously been occupied by a Strawberry's women's clothing store. Cure Urgent Care will provide walk-in medical services.

★ A block north on the east side of Broadway at W. 104th St., another urgent care office, CityMD, will be replacing the Rite Aid drugstore now operating in that space. The Rite Aid lease doesn't expire until the fall of this year so CityMD's dates for renovation and opening are still to be determined, according to CityMD development team member, Kwan Ng.

★ Over the past 15 years, the low-cost clothing store Fowad has moved from place to place, getting smaller and changing names with each transposition. It was once a large store on the east side of Broadway between W. 95th and W. 96th St. Then it moved to Amsterdam Ave. in the low 100s and then to the south side of W. 106th St. just east of Broadway. Apparently, its last incarnation was as a small storefront, Pretty Cindy Fashions, on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd St. and advertising "Paulino the Tailor" in its window until it gave up the ghost early in January. The space is being renovated for a unisex hair salon.

★ The southern half of the space that was once a Gourmet Garage on the west side of Broadway between W. 96th and W. 97th St. will become a Radio Shack store in later this year. Not long ago, Radio Shack closed stores on Broadway at W. 94th St. and W. 103rd St. and remodeled the store at W. 108th St. The new store will occupy much less space than the two that were closed.

★ The Sprint cellphone shop on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th St. has closed. In its place a NY Smiles dental office will open. The same dental practice had an office on the second floor above the Citibank on the northeast corner of Broadway and W. 96th St. where there is now a "For Rent" sign in the window.

★ Columbia Copy, a copy shop on the east side of Broadway between W. 107th and W. 108th St., has closed.

★ There is a "For Rent" sign in the window of Variazioni, the women's clothing store on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 101st St. The larger store two blocks south is still operating half of its space, which had been a women's shoe store and then became an extension of the adjacent Variazioni store, has been running a closing sale.

★ Though not on Broadway, the Paris Health Club aka Paris Fitness, at 752 West End Ave. between W. 96th and W. 97th St., was a central location for many in the neighborhood, especially those who swim or do water aerobics, for many years. In June 2013, the building changed ownership and underwent a water break, a pool leak, and a problem with its Certificate of Occupancy. The fitness center closed in the middle of January amid a flurry of online complaints about lack of heat and hot water, and concerns about unreturned prepaid membership and personal trainer fees. The club's website, *parisfitnessny.com*, has ceased operation as well. *Westsiderag.com* reports that the new owner is The Wright Fit but offers no further information about when the gym might reopen.

★ The Wireless Shoppe, a tiny cell phone store in half of the alleyway between buildings just north of the French restaurant PicNic, on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd St., was suddenly emptied in the middle of January.

★ The storefront on the east side of Broadway between W. 105th and W. 106th St., just south of the Five Lamps Tavern, that used to be the office of the Big Apple Driving School is being refurbished to become yet another cell phone store. Go figure.

★ A new Italian restaurant, Arco, has recently opened on the west side of Amsterdam Ave. between W. 102nd and W. 103rd St. It is owned by the same people who own Buco, on W. 102nd St., just west of Amsterdam Ave. As with Buco, Arco will be a cash-only operation.

★ The Asian restaurant, Pitaya, on W. 105th St. just east of Broadway, which opened about ten months ago, was closed by the Board of Health.

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