



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

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

VOL. 51, NO. 1

## Shedding Light on the Ins and Outs of Getting Vaccinations

**I**N ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE, perhaps there'd be a single phone number to call or a single website to visit in order to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccination. Regrettably, that's not our time and place. Because vaccines are being provided by an abundance of various agencies that are not coordinated, and because there's such a big demand for them, getting signed up is a complicated process. But figuring out how to navigate it is a far better choice than throwing up your hands and walking away in disgust, as many have been moved to do.

An analogy that may help clarify the process is to think of it as if shopping for a particular item that can be purchased at any number of retailers. In order to know where you'll actually be able to put your hands on the item, you'll need to check with each of the stores. If stock at a particular store is depleted, another might have it. If the shelf is empty but a new shipment is expected, you might have to try again and hope to be among the first in line once the shelves are replenished. Availability of the item will also depend on the manufacturer's ability to produce and provide the product. Obviously, achieving a vaccination appointment doesn't involve running all over the city in person. The work must be done in front of a computer or tablet or with phone in hand.

People who have successfully navigated the system have offered some tips. Some have found that trying in the evening to find a site with an available appointment works better than trying during the daytime. Within the City of New York Health and Hospitals vaccination network, individual locations seem to be added throughout the day

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## Safety and Security Update

**T**HE BLOCK ASSOCIATION'S SECURITY GUARD SERVICE HAS BEEN RESTORED and a guard has been on duty for the six-hour shift (5:30 to 11:30 p.m.), seven days per week. We have two different guards, who alternate shifts, and they have not reported any incidents. We've solicited feedback by email from our membership and several members have reported seeing the guards, although most of those sightings were at the entries to individual buildings. We are working with the security guard management to increase the visibility of the guards on our streets. Please drop an email to [Security@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:Security@w102-103blockassn.org) when you see a guard, noting the date, approximate time, and location. If you've been out on the street consistently during the street guard hours, such as walking your dog or returning from work, and you've not seen a guard in a week, let us know that, too.

One of the original guards we hired was reported to the Security Committee for unprofessional and disrespectful behavior. Explorer Security replaced him the next day.

### AREA CRIME

NYPD crime statistics for the 24th Precinct do not show the increases in major crimes that are receiving attention city-wide; however, there are increases in misdemeanor assaults and burglaries in the precinct. In addition, anecdotal reports of criminal behavior are occasionally reported on Nextdoor, although many of them seem to be occurring south of our area. (See the NYPD statistics at [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime\\_statistics/cs-en-us-024pct.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-024pct.pdf))



### YOU'RE INVITED!

**Block Association 50th Anniversary Presentations:**

**Tues., Mar. 9, and Tues., April 12, at 8:00 p.m.**

**RSVP for Zoom link at [AMZoom@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:AMZoom@w102-103blockassn.org)**

**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. 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 his assistance, call him at (646) 772-2240.

**UPCOMING BLOCK  
ASSOCIATION EVENTS**

**50th Anniversary Programs**

(see page 3)

RSVP to [amzoom@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:amzoom@w102-103blockassn.org) for both of these events:

**Stories of Our Founding Years**

Asya and Ted Berger, presenters  
Tues., Mar. 9  
8 p.m.

**Introducing Our 2021  
Neighborhood Hall of Fame  
Inductees / Annual Meeting**

Tues., Apr. 12  
8 p.m.

**Spring Planting**  
TBD

**Summer Newsletter**  
Early June

**CORRECTION:** There is an error in the article about the Open Streets project that appeared in our Winter 2020 issue. The plan for the corridor is not to make it a pedestrian-only thoroughfare; it is to make it a more pedestrian-friendly space. See the article on page 7 for more information.

**2020 Financial Report**

By KOMAL RATHI, CO-TREASURER

**T**OTAL INCOME DECLINED BY \$13,520 compared to the previous year; this decline was in all categories. Year-over-year expenses were lower by \$27,560, driven by the fact that we had no security guard service for more than six months. Overall we had a net gain of about \$8,600. We thank all donors and advertisers for their 2020 contributions.

**Income**

Individual Contributions	\$24,426.30
Building Contributions	5,315.00
Newsletter Ads	230.00
Logo Items Sale	90.00
Grants	150.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>30,211.30</b>

**Expenses**

Security Guard	\$16,882.97
Newsletter Production	2,016.38
Logo Items Expense	1,250.00
Operating Expense	394.97
Contributions and Gifts	1,072.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>21,616.32</b>

**Help Wanted**

**Newsletter Advertising Manager:**

If you're game to make contact with local business owners and well organized enough to keep track of payments, this is the job for you. We have a slate of repeating advertisers, and are always looking for new ones. Contact [editor@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:editor@w102-103blockassn.org).

**Security Committee:** We've reviewed the results of our recent survey and considered many factors. We've reinstated guard service and made some changes to ensure that we'll get better-quality service for our

money. We need people to help us make sure that continues to be the case. Write to [security@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:security@w102-103blockassn.org) if you're interested in helping.

**Tech Support:** We've become aware that our database isn't as well coordinated with our email list as it should be. Nor do we have the digital archive we should for our trove of photographs, newsletters, and other documents of importance. If you have tech skills and can help our 50-year-old organization take bigger steps into the modern age, we'd be glad to have you. Contact [chawke@bloominplace.org](mailto:chawke@bloominplace.org)

**BLOCK ASSOCIATION  
MEETINGS**

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

Mar. 9

Apr. 12 - Annual Meeting

May 11

# Continuing the Celebration of Our 50th Anniversary

**O**N MAR. 9 TED AND ASYA BERGER, founding members of our Block Association and 2015 Neighborhood Hall of Fame honorees, will host the fourth of five golden-anniversary presentations via Zoom. Sharing both memories and photos, they will inform and entertain – bringing to life our Block Association’s earliest years and opening a window to the rich legacy of friendships and community spirit upon which our association stands.

Our fifth and final 50th-anniversary event will be during the Apr. 12 Annual Block Association Meeting, where Hedy will introduce the 2021 inductees into the Neighborhood Hall of Fame for residents of long standing (50 years or more).

A recap of our earlier anniversary presentations can be found below and on pages 4 and 5.



## What's New at the Website

By CAITLIN HAWKE

**Y**OU’VE READ ON THIS PAGE that the wonderful talk given by Anthony Bellov on Rosario Candela is posted on the Block Association blog, but make sure to catch the interview Anthony gave on Dec. 16 in a special blog post.

During that interview Anthony dropped a tantalizing crumb about one of his favorite buildings: 858 West End Ave. Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks are rumored to have had assignations there. Directly opposite that building is 855 West End Ave., built in 1895 by the nationally famous actor Maggie Mitchell. In an upcoming blog post, you’ll find a piece weaving together the two trajectories of these great American women of the stage and screen. One created the role of Fanchon, the Cricket, in the play by the same name, based on a story by George Sand, and the other starred in the 1915 Paramount Pictures film. And the whole story is embroidered into the history of the St. Andoche, also known as 855 West End Ave., the last home of Maggie Mitchell, which she built with her fortune from playing the role of Fanchon.

Actors living in Bloomingdale is a topic I’ll be giving more life to on the blog. From Maggie Mitchell to Brian Stokes Mitchell -- who serenaded neighbors regularly during our spring lockdown with "The Impossible Dream" from *Man of La Mancha* -- we've had our fair share of triple threats living among us.

Tune into the blog and subscribe to receive posts as they are published to stay in touch with your Block Association all year round: [w102-103blockassn.org/blog](https://www.w102-103blockassn.org/blog)



## Candela Corners

**B**ACK IN DECEMBER, as a kickoff to our 50th-anniversary celebration, the Block Association was pleased to present a special talk about the Candela Corners, two buildings in our neighborhood that were built by legendary architect Rosario Candela. Although better known for his Upper East Side buildings, including a Rockefeller triplex on Park Ave., Candela is also responsible for 865 and 875 West End Ave., both built in 1924, as well as a baker’s dozen of other buildings that can be found up and down West End Ave.

If you weren’t able to join us on Dec. 8, you can now enjoy the presentation at your convenience. You’ll find a link to the recording within Block Association blogger Caitlin Hawke’s post from Dec. 17. Here’s a link: <https://www.w102-103blockassn.org/blog/candela-corners-at-the-heart-of-our-neighborhood>. If you’re interested, you can also access Caitlin’s interview with knowledgeable and charismatic presenter Anthony Bellov from her blog post or with this link: <https://www.w102-103blockassn.org/blog/festival-of-lights-heres-a-candela-for-you>.

Anthony is a longtime Block Association resident and former board member. His presentation was

an abbreviated version of his highly acclaimed lecture on Candela, which he originally created for Landmark West! and has presented several times to sold-out audiences. He spoke for about half an hour and then took questions from the audience. Anthony is a graduate of the Pratt Institute School of Architecture and the Bank Street Graduate School of Education. He is also a professional singer and pianist, and is well known in the neighborhood for leading our annual Solstice Caroling for the past 38 years. In addition, he is very involved in the Merchant’s House Museum, and has lately been creating virtual behind-the-scenes tours on its behalf.

Head on over to the website and learn more than you can possibly imagine about Rosario Candela’s enormous contribution to our neighborhood’s architecture. We bet you’ll be moved to go for a walk up and down West End, peeking into various building lobbies along the way, so you’ll be able to see the various features that make the Candela buildings iconic.



# What Year Is on Your Lease?



**D**ID YOU KNOW that the Block Association operates a Neighborhood Hall of Fame for people who have lived here a long time? It's true! We launched it in 2010 and are proud to have initiated 33 people so far. In January, our two newest inductees—Dolores Schaeffer Weeden, who moved to New York to become an actress and landed on the block in 1964, and Sally Jo Sandelin, who arrived for a visit in 1970 and never left—were ushered into the Hall via Zoom. (See their bios at right.)

All you have to do to qualify is to have lived within Block Association territory for 50 years or more. That means that if you moved into the area in 1971 or before, you qualify. What's the territory? W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. between Riverside Dr. and Broadway, including the south corners of W. 102nd and the north corners of W. 103rd and the buildings on West End Ave. in between.

Participants—we've identified two new candidates for 2021 so far!—are interviewed, usually in person, but currently either by phone or on Zoom or from a safe distance outdoors. If participants don't mind, they're photographed by neighbor Gus Butera. The 2021 honorees will be introduced at our Annual Meeting, scheduled for Tues., April 12. Each will be virtually presented with a certificate and small gift; home delivery of the certificate and gift will be arranged. Attendance at the meeting is not required. Bios and photos of our newest inductees will be posted on our website.

Click on the "Neighborhood Hall of Fame" tab on our website to read past inductees' bios and see their portraits. If you qualify, or know someone you think might, please contact Hedy Campbell at [editor@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:editor@w102-103blockassn.org) or (212) 865-8524.

# Introducing the 2020 Inductees to the Neighborhood Hall of Fame

By HEDY CAMPBELL

## DOLORES SCHAEFFER WEEDEN

Dolores arrived in New York City in 1964 because she wanted to act and, in fact, accumulated plenty of performance experience. She appeared in *Light Fantastic*, which she describes as a small cult film, recently rediscovered and screened by the School of Visual Arts. But to say that she's an actor would sell her short. In her years in New York, she also earned a teaching degree and worked as a teacher at a Montessori school in St. Michael's Church, then earned an MSW and served as a caseworker for Bronx hospitals' children's services while raising her son. Acting was, she discovered, "incompatible with parenting." She also studied street theater in London on her way to earning a master's in creative dramatics, took classes in painting, and ran marathons. She returned to acting in 2002 and recently began narrating audiobooks. She's also working on writing a children's book for her granddaughter, who is also an Upper West Sider.

Along the way, while acting in a project her son was directing as part of his film-school admissions portfolio, she met Bill Weeden, who was also in the cast. They married in the park in 1995, and had their wedding reception at Indian Café, a neighborhood mainstay with a devoted clientele that was in business on Broadway at W. 107th St. for decades. They've since appeared in a bunch of projects together and recently created a sound studio in their apartment so they can narrate audiobooks together as well. Thanks to Bill, Dolores's family expanded to include a stepdaughter and then two step-grandsons.

When asked if she could compare living in the neighborhood now with how it was when she moved in, Dolores recalls having to "run home

looking over your shoulder" when she first moved to our blocks, which is no longer the case. And drive-by shootings weren't unusual, she says, so kids weren't allowed to go out and play in the parks with their friends, as they later became able to do. She describes W. 96th St. as a much more distinct dividing line than it is now, and adds that there are many more trees on our blocks now than there were then. She's always been a big fan of the restaurants along Broadway, although they are, she says, much more expensive than they were in the 1960s! Her current favorites, at least before the onset of the pandemic, are the Metro Diner, Flor de Mayo, and the \$10 pasta special at Fumo.

## SALLY JO SANDELIN

Like Dolores, Sally Jo was drawn to New York City because of the arts—but as an audience member rather than a performer. A native of Michigan, Sally Jo is a self-described "latchkey child from before they were called that." She vividly remembers Saturday mornings listening to a radio show called *Let's Pretend*, in which a different fairy tale was reenacted each week, and another, *Grand Central Station*, which was introduced each week with this alluring catchphrase: "the crossroads of a million private lives, a gigantic stage on which are played a thousand dramas daily." She may not have known it at the time, but she was hooked. She went on to become a schoolteacher, and soon figured out that working as a substitute would afford her the flexibility she'd need to come to New York from time to time to see live theatrical performances.

In December 1970, she came to New York to visit a friend, with a plan to attend as many theater, ballet, and opera performances as she could. She got a part-time Christmas job at Gimbel's in order to earn some money to offset the cost of the tickets. She

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## Introducing the 2020 Inductees

bunked with her friend, who lived at the Broadmoor--and somehow just never went back to Michigan. With the exception of periodic visits to visit family and attend to family matters, she's been here—in the very same apartment--ever since! Soon after she'd arrived for her "visit," one of her friend's roommates got married, leaving a vacancy Sally Jo was ready to fill. Unfortunately, she's the last man standing, so to speak, among those original roommates, and now has the apartment all to herself.

She remembers the old Met without much fondness, describing it as akin to a high school gymnasium. There was a standing-room-only section and the family circle offered only limited-view seats. She loves going to the opera in the "new" building, and was at one of the last performances there before the pandemic forced its closure: Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*, on Mar. 10. In the months since, she's been diverting herself by revisiting past performances via her extensive collection of event programs.

She identifies the architecture of the older buildings as the constant since she moved in 50 years ago. The biggest change? The abundance of shuttered stores on Broadway, especially in the months since the pandemic began, and the lack of variety among the ones that are open. If there were a grassroots movement to bring back the Woolworth's, she'd be a charter member! She also misses the social scene in her building lobby. When she moved into the Broadmoor, there was a congenial group of older women who socialized regularly in its lobby in the evenings, and they always invited her to join them. The regulars grew old and moved on, the lobby was renovated and reconfigured, and the nightly gathering of old ladies is, alas, no more.

Please join us in welcoming Dolores and Sally Jo to the Block Association Neighborhood Hall of Fame.

# Terence Hanrahan Presents Photo-History of Annual Block Association Events



**O**N FEB. 9, **TERENCE HANRAHAN**, WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE **WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION** from 2009 to 2017, presented the third of five golden-anniversary events we have planned for this year. With photos and engaging commentary, he captured the essence of the Block Association, tracing a typical year's worth of activities and events, following the season, from spring around to winter. Among the highlights

were our tree-well planting in April; the May Block Party on W. 103rd St., filled with vendors and shoppers; our vibrant and popular Halloween Parade in the fall; and the Winter Solstice celebration in December, with ever-growing numbers of carolers circling our neighborhood. All in all, the evening was, as described by one enthusiastic zoom attendee, "an excellent show."



This fellow brought himself a new hat at our Block Party on the way home from his son's soccer match. Photo: Terence Hanrahan



After a summer hiatus, the Block Association hosts its first fall event, during which tree wells are cleaned out, bulbs are planted, and mulch is spread. Photo: Celia Knight



Janet Harvilchuck reads Halloween stories for youngsters at our annual Parade and Party. Photo: Terence Hanrahan



Founding Board Member Cherie Tredanari and 50-year resident Mildred Speiser enjoy the Halloween parade. Photo: Terence Hanrahan

# Remote Caroling Warms Many Hearts

By HEDY CAMPBELL

**A**T FIRST WE WERE OPTIMISTIC that we'd be able to host our annual Winter Solstice Caroling event since it takes place outdoors. Then, as infection numbers rose, with much regret we had to go to Plan B, which so often these days means additional screen time. Despite our uncertainty as to how the festive atmosphere of caroling would translate via the internet, we overcame our trepidation and decided to tackle a remote iteration. We're all so glad we did! With much delight and deep satisfaction, we quickly realized how much fun it was and how much it meant to so many.

Anthony Bello, the event's choral leader for almost 40 years, and his husband, Dayle Vander Sande, rearranged their holiday decorations to provide a festive backdrop around their piano. Poignantly, they included pieces from Dayle's mother Louise's collection; a Broadmoor resident, she'd passed away only a short time before, so making sure there was a tangible presence of her spirit, which was surely in the room, was paramount!

We convened via Zoom on Mon., Dec. 21, the shortest day of the year. Participants were admitted and welcomed to the meeting. We worked out the tech glitches, the biggest of which was explaining that, other than Anthony, Dayle, and Roberta, Anthony's sister, all would have to be muted, which initially seemed entirely counterintuitive to a group singing event. Because of how Zoom functions, in order for everyone to be able to hear the leaders, we all had to mute ourselves. Hard as it is to imagine, from each of our homes, we sang or hummed along to the music. Some were alone, some had family members nearby. We self-muted in order to successfully sing

**Looking at the faces of the 40-odd attendees, and reading the comments in the chat, we could feel such pleasure that we were able to maintain this decades-long tradition**

as a group, which was, come to think of it, really not much different from how we've all curbed our behaviors for the good of others during the pandemic.

Looking at the faces of the 40-odd attendees, and reading the comments in the chat, we could feel such pleasure that we were able to maintain this decades-long tradition, and the benefit of the salve of festive music was unmistakable. We blessed our blocks, as we always do, with "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Give Us Peace") in three parts, and enjoyed a spirited performance of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." We learned that "White Christmas" remains the bestselling single of all time in the United States, and competed to figure out the answer to the one-question trivia contest: In what movie was the song "Silver Bells" included? Several people incorrectly guessed *White Christmas*, but a couple

of people nailed the answer: *The Lemon Drop Kid*, with Bob Hope, Marilyn Maxwell, and William Frawley, better known as Fred Mertz in *I Love Lucy*. We interrupted the seasonal songs and unmuted everybody for a chaotic but heartfelt chorus of "Happy Birthday" in honor of longtime resident Chris Beels's 90th birthday.

We're all keeping our fingers crossed that come December, we'll be able again to safely gather outdoors to walk the neighborhood and enjoy the in-person version of this tradition, complete with warm cider. Yet it's really encouraging to know that caroling over Zoom just as successfully summons longer daylight hours and fills our hearts with holiday warmth.



# Masks Delivered to Building Staffers

**I**N DECEMBER, THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION DECIDED to recognize the contributions that our building personnel make to our well-being on a daily basis, and, as a gesture of gratitude, we gave out more than 100 of our brand-new logo masks to building staff members in the territory, as well as our security guards, our newsletter printer, and our neighborhood's USPS letter carrier. If you know of a worker who did not receive a mask, please use the contact information below to let us know.

If you'd like to help underwrite the cost of the masks, we'd be grateful for the help. To those who have already contributed toward the effort, thank you! Or if you'd like to purchase a mask for yourself or anyone else, get in touch with us. Masks cost \$10 each and are available in S/M or L/XL. If you'd like to place an order, please write [editor@w102-103blockassoc.org](mailto:editor@w102-103blockassoc.org) or call (212) 865-8524.



Ricardo Campo, daytime doorman at 240 W. 102nd St., wears a Block Association logo mask.

*Join our email list by going to the Block Association website*  
[w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org)

# A Q&A with the West 103rd Street Open Street Community Coalition

By ANNE LEONE AND RACHEL ALBETSKI

**I**F YOU LIVE ON OR NEAR W. 103RD ST., you've likely experienced our Open Street. Open Streets are a new NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) program, so if you are curious about them, we've got answers.

## What is an Open Street?

An Open Street is, at its core, a street designed to have more space for people to walk, bike, pass one another, and safely experience the outdoors. This is important as a COVID safety measure, especially on streets with narrow sidewalks like W. 103rd. Such sidewalks are often less than six feet wide, and Open Streets make it possible to safely pass another person on the sidewalk.



Live jazz at W. 103rd St., a.k.a. Humphrey Bogart Pl. Photo: Terence Hanrahan

## Where have Open Streets been used?

Streets in Paris, London, Minneapolis, Denver, and Oakland have been repurposed in ways big and small. All of these cities view streets as part of our respite and recovery. We are lucky to have such a street nearby!

## How have Open Streets been used in NYC?

NYC-DOT has designated 100 miles of streets to this program, at locations across the city. These streets are open for local access by vehicles for pick-ups and drop-offs, emergencies, and sanitation as well as deliveries, parking, construction, repairs, and utility work. Drivers are required to travel at a cautious 5 MPH.

Our own stretch of W. 103rd St. between Riverside Dr. and Broadway is part of the program and is managed by the West 103rd Street Open Street Community Coalition, which consists of four community organizations: our block association; the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH), which manages The Marseilles; the Purple Circle Early Childhood Program; and Streetopia UWS. Other organizations are welcome and encouraged to join our coalition (contact [Anne4OpenStreets@gmail.com](mailto:Anne4OpenStreets@gmail.com)).

These two blocks now have more space for physically distant neighborhood activity and slower car traffic, while still allowing for local and emergency access.

## What are other Open Street benefits?

Through this program, communities have seen the benefits of Open Streets and come to value the creative uses they have been put to in addition to the safety that they bring. It is our hope that neighbors and visitors to W. 103rd St. will use the Open Street to travel to our glorious parks, the subway station at Broadway, the youth hostel on Amsterdam Ave., and our nearby restaurants and schools.

## What kinds of activities do Open Streets make possible?

Through a grant from the nonprofit organization OpenPlans ([openplans.org](http://openplans.org)),

Street Plans ([street-plans.com](http://street-plans.com)), a national firm with expertise in designing people-friendly streets, led a community visioning process last October with local residents for the Broadway-to-West-End-Ave. block of W. 103rd St. A taste of what an Open Street can provide was highlighted by a whimsical temporary parklet by The Marseilles, creating an attractive seating area for residents and neighbors. With input from the community, Street Plans unveiled one idea to redesign the block with a space for new greenery, loading zones, seating, and waste storage to free up sidewalk space. See the Winter 2020 Newsletter for photos of and more information on this event (go to [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org) and click on the "Quarterly Newsletter" tab).

## What's next?

With the success of the pilot project and the Open Street, there are efforts under way to expand the community vision process to the rest of W. 103rd St. The coalition wants to hear community members' ideas for potential street improvements, as well as any issues they may have had using the street or other areas of concern. The goal is to create a people-oriented street that connects people of all backgrounds and ages to one another as well as to transit, commercial services, and Riverside and Central parks.

If your question wasn't answered here or if you want to volunteer to help with this project, please contact [Anne4OpenStreets@gmail.com](mailto:Anne4OpenStreets@gmail.com).

*Anne Leone is a project manager with OpenPlans. Rachel Albetski is a planner with Street Plans.*



# Shedding Light on Vaccinations

rather than all at once. If a location near you doesn't have appointments available, you have the option of selecting a less convenient venue or trying again later to see if one closer by has been added to the list. If you're having trouble accessing a site on a tablet or phone, try using a different device or, if you have access to a computer, see if the website works better there.

We're grateful to Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell's office for compiling and distributing the resource list that follows. Anyone who needs help navigating any of these systems is welcome to contact his office by phone, (212) 866-3970, or by clicking on the "contact" link at his website: <https://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Daniel-J-O'Donnell/contact>.

## WHO IS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- People age 65 and older
- People living in congregate settings
- Teachers and education workers
- First responders
- Grocery workers, including those at convenience stores and bodegas
- Public safety workers
- Public transit workers
- Health care workers
- Restaurant workers
- Taxi drivers
- Those with a variety of underlying health conditions

For a comprehensive list of all eligible New Yorkers, please visit this link: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility.page>

## WHERE DO I GET VACCINATED?

At this time, the city, state, and some private providers are administering vaccines. The list of providers will continue to grow as the city increases operational capacity. You can make an appointment at any available site, not just the ones closest to home.

## HOW CAN I SIGN UP?

You have several ways to schedule your first dose at the site nearest to you. New sites and appointments will be added regularly, so if you do not see an available appointment, keep checking periodically until you get one.

### 1. CITY VACCINE FINDER:

One way to find your location and sign up for the first dose of your vaccine is to go to the city vaccine finder site: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>. This website compiles all COVID vaccine sites in the city and will continue to grow as more locations are added.

Steps to take once on the website:

- On the homepage you will be prompted to input your location
- Select a vaccine site to schedule your appointment
- Follow the instructions once connected with a state or independent provider
- You will have to fill out a series of questions verifying your eligibility. Please know that you are not required to have insurance information.
- When your eligibility is verified, you will be asked to pick a date and time for your vaccine
- NY State Department of Health Form: You will also be prompted to fill out a questionnaire and submit it prior to your scheduled appointment; you can also find it here: [https://forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine?privatedomain=t&snc=1610471919\\_5ffdd9ef959c76.96833573&sg\\_navigate=start&sglocale=en](https://forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine?privatedomain=t&snc=1610471919_5ffdd9ef959c76.96833573&sg_navigate=start&sglocale=en)

### 2. OVER THE PHONE

- New York City Hotline: 1-877-VAX-4-NYC
- New York State Hotline: 1-833-NYS-4VAX

### 3. ADDITIONAL SITES:

New York State runs mass vaccination sites: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

- This site is updated regularly as appointments become available

NYC Health and Hospitals: <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-vaccines/>

[www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-vaccines/](https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-vaccines/)

- Follow the questionnaire
- Once deemed eligible, you may proceed to schedule the vaccination within the website

Pharmacies: Many pharmacies, both chains and local independent pharmacies, have limited supply of the vaccine. Call your local pharmacist to ask about availability.

"NYC Vaccine List": A volunteer-run site that scans multiple websites to aggregate available appointments: <https://nycvaccinelist.com/>

### 4. ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, USING THE STATE APP

Download the state-run "Am I Eligible?" app on your smartphone to fill out the eligibility questionnaire and schedule an appointment.

### 5. CHECKING WITH YOUR REGULAR DOCTOR

Your regular doctor may be able to assist you in finding available appointments and navigating the scheduling systems.

*Editor's Note: In addition to the information provided by Assemblymember O'Donnell, we've been made aware of an organization called Dr. B. It is serving as a nationwide clearinghouse, connecting providers who have last-minute vaccine appointments available with those who seek them. Being able to provide a phone number at which you can receive a text is a requirement for enrollment. You can find more information about Dr. B at this link: <https://hidrb.com/>*

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card			
Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.			
Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.			
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Date of birth		Patient number (medical record or IIS record number)	
Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 <sup>st</sup> Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	

Remember to bring your vaccination record with you when you go to receive your second shot. Photo: cdc.gov

# Investing in a Sustainable Future

By SHARON WASKOW AND CHRISTINE CAMPBELL

**H**OPES ARE RUNNING HIGH THAT, with a new administration in place, we will make significant progress in saving our planet. Rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and ending drilling for oil and gas on federal lands are two promising developments. But government on its own cannot create a carbon-neutral\* planet. Significant progress in mitigating our climate disaster will require that large financial institutions stop financing fossil fuels and reframe their missions with a focus on climate.

A recent development in the financial sector may signal a tipping point, as climate change is now seen as a risk to business. Lawrence Fink, the CEO of BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, recently warned that climate change will be a "defining factor" in a company's long-term prospects. Fink supports the ESG movement, which sets guidelines for companies to align with environmental, social equity, and good-governance principles and metrics.

This thinking may have influenced Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors, to announce that the company will transition to electric cars and trucks by 2035. In recent years skeptics have argued that corporate compliance with ESG standards would go by the wayside as soon as a crisis occurred. But skeptics were proven wrong when the COVID-19 pandemic brought a renewed interest in public good, and investment in sustainable companies and sustainability-oriented mutual funds soared.

\*Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net-zero carbon-dioxide emissions by balancing carbon-dioxide emissions with their removal from the atmosphere.



There are other signs of progress as well, as municipalities and universities begin to divest from fossil fuel and gas. New York City has just committed to divesting its pension funds from fossil fuels, setting a strong example for other cities and pension funds. Columbia University announced it will begin to divest its endowment from oil and gas holdings, joining Princeton University, Cornell University, and others.

But what about each of us? What financial power do we have to help mitigate our shared climate crisis? For starters, we can align our investments with our values. Here are some actions we can take:

- Read the FINRA report "ESG Investing: Clearing the Air on Social Impact Financial Products" ([finra.org/investors/insights/esg-investing-clearing-air-social-impact-financial-products](https://finra.org/investors/insights/esg-investing-clearing-air-social-impact-financial-products)) to inform yourself on how to invest in alignment with your values.
- Check out the Fossil Free Funds website to find green funds ([fossilfreefunds.org](https://fossilfreefunds.org)).
- Speak to your financial advisers and asset managers about avoiding climate-harming corporations in your portfolio. Hold advisers accountable.
- Determine the green-investment records of your bank and insurance company. Find bank-rating charts at the Rainforest Action Network's "Banking on Climate Change, Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2020" ([ran.org/bankingonclimatechange2020](https://ran.org/bankingonclimatechange2020)); and insurance-rating charts at Consumer Watchdog's "Top Ten U.S. Insurance Companies' Investment in Climate Change" (find the PDF at [consumerwatchdog.org](https://consumerwatchdog.org)). Consider making changes.
- Read NerdWallet's "ESG Investing: A Beginner's Guide" ([nerdwallet.com/article/investing/esg-investing](https://nerdwallet.com/article/investing/esg-investing)).

Join the mailing list of *It's Easy Being Green*, your neighborhood climate-education and -action group, to receive monthly newsletters and personal-action blasts. Contact us at [itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com](mailto:itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com). Check out our website at [www.itseasybeinggreen.org](http://www.itseasybeinggreen.org).

*It's Easy Being Green* is a TriBloomindale group sponsored by the West 102nd and 103rd Streets Block Association, the West 104th Street Block Association, and Bloomindale Aging in Place.



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# On Broadway: Let's Eat!

By NANCY GROPPER

**A**S OF FEB. 12, RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK CITY were once again able to offer indoor dining, although still at reduced capacity.

With this in mind, I want to encourage you, dear neighbors, to continue to support our local restaurants by ordering takeout, eating outdoors where outdoor seating is provided, or now **eating indoors**. If you are considering eating indoors but want

to know the NYC guidelines for indoor dining, go to:

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYC\\_Indoor\\_Food\\_Services\\_Summary\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYC_Indoor_Food_Services_Summary_Guidelines.pdf).

The restaurants on or just off Broadway between W. 96th and W. 110th Sts. that have managed to remain open through this pandemic offer a wide array of cuisines, including Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Peruvian/Chinese, Mexican, Texas barbecue,

Malaysian, and Italian, not to mention the pizza parlors, bodegas, coffee shops, bakeries, diners, and bar/restaurants that are there to serve us. Surely, you want to take a break from home-cooked meals and frequent our local food establishments as often as you can.

So, dear neighbors, let's support our local food establishments. **LET'S EAT!**



*Some Neighborhood Restaurant Offerings on Broadway, from 96th St. to 106th St.*

Name and Location	Cuisine	Offering
Awadh (97th/98th)	Indian	D; DI, TO, DV
Texas Rotisserie & Grill (97th/98th)	Barbecue	L, D; DI, TO, DV
Lenny's Bagels (98th/99th)	Bagels, etc.	B, L, D; TO, DV
Regional (98th/99th)	Italian	BR, L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV (D only)
Au Jus (99th/100th)	Barbecue	L, D; OD, ID, TO, DV
Manhattan Valley (99th/100th)	Indian	BR, L, D; DI, TO, DV
Metro Diner (100th/101st)	Diner	B, L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Broadway Bagel (100th/101st)	Bagels, plus other foods, incl burgers	B, L, D; TO, DV
Flor de Mayo (100th/101st)	Chino/Latino	L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Broadway Dive Bar (101st /102nd)	Burgers/bar food	DI, OD, TO, DV (call to check)
Broadway Restaurant & Diner (101st/102nd)	Diner	B, L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Sal & Carmine's (101st/102nd)	Pizza (traditional)	L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Aangan (103rd/104th)	Indian	D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Ollie's (103rd/104th)	Chinese	L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Yakitori Sun-Chan (103rd/104th)	Japanese	D; TO, DV
Café du Soleil (104th/105th)	French	BR, L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Tap a Keg (104th/105th)	Bar food: hot dogs, taquitos	L, D; OD
Serafina (104th/105th)	Italian	L, D; DI, OD, TO, DV
Mama's Too! (105th/106th)	Pizza (upscale)	L, D; TO, DV

*Key*

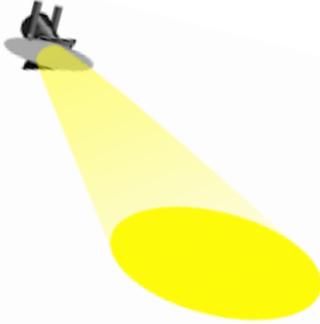
- B = breakfast
- BR = weekend brunch
- L = lunch
- D = dinner
- DI = dine in
- OD = outdoor dining
- TO = takeout
- DV = delivery

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# Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

**A**RTISTS DON'T STOP CREATING and sharing during a pandemic. Here's some of their work to explore:



**BETSY GOLDBERG** has two online exhibits of her paintings coming up, both through the New York Society of Women Artists in observation of Women's History Month. The first, *Memory*, is already online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfRCnJxgagg>. The second, *Women on the Edge of Time*, will begin Mon., Mar. 1, at the Taller Boricua gallery, <https://tallerboricua.org/>.

**MARY JO PAGANO**, founder and artistic director of The Chamber Music Center of New York, will resume the popular Outdoor Orchestra Festival **Saturdays** beginning **Apr. 3, 6:00 p.m.**, on the Riverside Park promenade at 102nd St. (the overlook above the soccer field).

**MARK WISNIEWSKI's** short story "Sentience," which was published in the Winter 2020 issue of *The Antioch Review*, received two nominations for the prestigious Pushcart Prize. Winners will be announced in the spring.

Additionally, Mark and his wife,

**ELIZABETH COFFEY**, editor and art director, have founded the annual *Coollest American Stories Anthology (CASA)*, seeking the most compelling and widely appealing stories written recently. Anyone of any age and any background may submit, whether or not the story has actually been published. If your story shows promise to be one of the coolest, Mark and Elizabeth will work with you. Follow *CASA* on Twitter: <https://twitter>.

[com/JustCoolStories](http://www.JustCoolStories.com). Its website has submission information: <https://www.coollestamericanstories.com>

Please remember to check our regular local sources of virtual or distanced performances: Bloomingdale School of Music ([bsmny.org](http://bsmny.org)), New Plaza Cinema ([newplazacinema.org](http://newplazacinema.org)), What A Neighborhood! ([orfeoduo.com](http://orfeoduo.com)), Manhattan School of Music ([msmny.org](http://msmny.org)). All have email lists so you can see their offerings in real time--and maybe in real life, before too long.

*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 Summer 2021 Newsletter (or beyond) to [creative@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:creative@w102-103blockassn.org). Do it today, before you forget!*



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# Bloomingtondale Aging in Place (BAiP): Focusing on Inclusion and Diversity

By MARIAN ANDERSON

**O**VER BAI P'S 11-YEAR HISTORY, new members interested in joining have been welcomed, with the only restrictions being age (they must be over 18) and residence (within the boundaries of W. 96th St. to W. 110th St. and Riverside Dr. to Central Park West). There has not been a full-out recruitment effort with offers and come-ons because BAI P is a cooperative, all-volunteer organization that needs members who want to participate. Instead, through brochures at block fairs, posters and events at the neighborhood library, and word-of-mouth via existing members, BAI P has sought to inform potential members about our activities and benefits.

The result is a membership of about 1,400 neighbors who get to know and support one another through continuing group activities and events. However, this population is not a full reflection of our extremely diverse neighborhood, thus diminishing the opportunity for wider connections for all.

To improve this situation, BAI P's board has begun the Inclusion and Diversity Initiative, which aims to expand our visibility and contacts within our boundaries. First on the list will be establishing connections with other nearby community organizations to introduce BAI P and to see how we might work together. As we emerge from COVID-19 restrictions, we will be reestablishing connections with the Bloomingtondale branch of the New York Public Library, which will be coming back after undergoing a capital renovation. We will also build back our partnership with Hostelling International NYC as a place where older neighbors can convene. We have plans to establish an intergenerational program with the Oscar Hijuelos Clay Courts youth program in Riverside Park, as well as to reach out to houses of worship throughout the catchment to see how we can build connections and

opportunities across the community and to listen to what older adults in the area need to feel more connected to others.

If you are associated with a particular community group and would like to make introductions, please let us know by contacting us at [together@bloominplace.org](mailto:together@bloominplace.org) or (212) 842-8831, Ext. 159.

As we newly focus on this important issue of inclusion, we recognize that this is unfamiliar ground for some of BAI P's members. To help in expanding our horizons, we recently offered a BAI P Presents program (these days, via Zoom) on recognizing and dealing with unconscious biases. More than 80 members attended, engaging in an active Q-and-A session following the presentation and in small discussion groups afterward. The initiative has also been on the agenda of recent meetings of BAI P Building Representatives, the volunteers who are the front-line contacts with members

(and potential members) in their buildings. These meetings elicited many suggestions and offers to help.

The Inclusion and Diversity Initiative welcomes your questions and suggestions. Please send them by writing to [together@bloominplace.org](mailto:together@bloominplace.org) or leaving a message at (212) 842-8831, Ext. 159. For more information about BAI P, visit our website, [bloominplace.org](http://bloominplace.org).

*Marian Anderson*

*Chair of the BAI P Presents Planning Committee and BAI P Inclusion and Diversity Initiative  
Co-Producer of BAI P/LIVE!  
Former BAI P board member*

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TRIVIA - BEAT THE TRIVIA MASTER TUESDAY NIGHTS **9PM**

# Calling Neighborhood Volunteers: TriBloomingdale Needs You!



West 104<sup>th</sup> Street

By CAITLIN HAWKE

**T**RI BLOOMINGDALE UNITES TWO BLOCK ASSOCIATIONS and BAiP in a variety of activities. In order to keep it going, we need your great ideas and willingness to lead. There are three roles in particular need of volunteers.

We are looking for:



- **Coordinator for the TriBloomingdale Initiative**

Are you a good bridge builder? We're looking for a coordinator to work with our Block Association, BAiP, and the West 104th Street Block Association to build activities involving neighbors of all ages, from reading groups to exercise groups to cleanup and snow-removal squads.

- **Group Leader for the Networking-in-the-Neighborhood Group**

With so many residents now working from home, we would like to move our sole-proprietor group, Networking in the Neighborhood, to Zoom and are looking for a leader to take over from its founder, Harriet Hoffman. We also believe that opening it up further to people simply working from home or networking could offer a lot of value in this moment of transition in the labor market. Do you have experience networking? Feel comfortable running Zoom sessions? We would love to have a new leader to reconceptualize this group and take advantage of this moment, when so many neighbors not only live in our neighborhood, but also work here, revitalizing the day-life of our stores and restaurants like never before.

- **Activity Leaders for Social Groups**

The pandemic has forced us to rethink how neighbors have traditionally connected. We looked across the street and saw one another hanging out windows, banging pots and pans. How great would it be to deepen connections and do more things together? We are looking for activity leaders: Want to run a discussion group or book group online for neighbors in all three organizations?

Please reach out if you are interested in taking on any of the roles above: [chawke@bloominplace.org](mailto:chawke@bloominplace.org).

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