



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

VOL. 55, NO. 1

Annual Meeting: Thurs., Apr. 24

Meet Our New State Assembly Member, Micah Lasher

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for **Thurs., Apr. 24, at 6 p.m.**, in the Marseilles meeting room (230 W. 103rd St.). The meeting will also be accessible via Zoom and livestreamed on our YouTube channel. All are welcome to attend, either in person or virtually.

We're excited to introduce the community to our new state assembly member, Micah Lasher, who was elected this past November. We are looking forward to finding out how his goals and priorities will address the needs of our residents.

In addition to hearing from Assembly Member Lasher, we will elect the Block Association's 2025 board of directors, present our financial report for 2024 and budget for 2025, and introduce this year's inductees into our Neighborhood Hall of Fame for residents of 50 years or more (see page 3).

Would You Like to Run for the Board?

We are always looking for fresh energy and ideas. If becoming a board member is of interest to you, please let us know by **Apr. 3**. According to our bylaws, all current directors are automatically eligible for inclusion on the ballot. Nominations of new directors are to be made in writing, whether via mail (P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025) or email (info@w102-103blockassn.org), at least three weeks in advance of the annual meeting. All members in good standing are eligible for nomination. (A member in

(continued on page 4)



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION
Thurs., Apr. 24, 6:00 p.m.
In person: Marseilles meeting room (230 W. 103rd St., btwn. Broadway and WEA)
How to attend virtually: Zoom: RSVP to am@w102-103blockassn.org and include your name and address.
YouTube: Go to our website (w102-103blockassn.org) and click on "Resources" and then "YouTube" (note that on YouTube, you will not be able to ask questions or vote).

Panel Discussion: The Future of Our Streets

By GARY HACK

ON WED., MAR. 5, FROM 6:00 TO 7:30 P.M., at the Marseilles community meeting room (230 W. 103rd St.), the Block Association will host a panel discussion on the new challenges and opportunities confronting our neighborhood streets. We encourage you to join us!

We are committed to ensuring that our streets meet the needs of residents. Every Tuesday afternoon, a crew from the Mt. Sinai residential treatment center, Columbus-Amsterdam BID staff members, and volunteers sweep the streets and shape up the tree wells. Events at Halloween and the winter solstice as well as bulb- and flower-planting bring residents together.

However, there are growing demands on our streets. Many residents are worried that congestion pricing will increase the number of commuters looking for parking places. Some have advocated for a resident-parking-permit system, as in other cities. Weekly trash collection is becoming overwhelmed by the mountain of home-delivery cardboard. The city has proposed large containers on sidewalks and in parking lanes to automate collection. Meanwhile, deliveries continue to grow, and along with them double-parking and congested sidewalks. Long-term construction projects and safety structures also gobble up streets and restrict travel.

Three experienced planners will join our discussion as panelists:

- **Carl Weisbrod**, former chair of the NYC Planning Commission and co-chair of the committee that

(continued on page 4)

PANEL ON THE FUTURE OF OUR STREETS
Wed., Mar. 5, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Marseilles Meeting Room
230 W. 103rd St. (btwn. Broadway and WEA)
In person (space is limited): RSVP to eventbrite.com/e/panel-on-the-future-of-our-streets-tickets-1210056133469?aff=oddtcreator to secure your spot and submit your questions.
On Zoom: Register at us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JABrOLqPRhKRGqsiTstmPw#/registration

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

info@w102-103blockassn.org
Hedy Campbell, editor; Amy Edelman, associate editor; Ariana Koblitiz, 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.

Help Wanted

To volunteer for any of the following, contact info@w102-103blockassn.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE

We have joined with the Columbus-Amsterdam BID to assess security needs in our neighborhood, and the first step is surveying current buildings to see what security systems are currently in place before we make any recommendations for next steps. If you would be willing to join a committee working on this, we need volunteers.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

We are looking for someone to help us sort out bids for this.

GENERAL VOLUNTEER NEEDS

While we had some volunteer help at our last few major events, we find we are frequently short-handed and that the people who do step up are the same ones who have before. We don't want to burn anyone out! If you would like to play a larger role in the community, if you have enjoyed our past events and would like to pay it forward, if you have new ideas you would like to see come to fruition—consider volunteering with us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Panel Discussion: The Future of Our Streets

Marseilles meeting room
(230 W. 103rd St.)
Wed., Mar. 5
6:00–7:30 p.m.
(RSVPs necessary; see page 1)

Annual Meeting

Guest Speaker: Assembly Member Micah Lasher
Marseilles meeting room
(230 W. 103rd St.)
Thurs., Apr. 24
6:00 p.m.
(see page 1)

To join via Zoom: RSVP to am@w102-103blockassn.org

Spring Planting/Tree-Bed Cleanup

Meet in front of 878 West End Ave.
Sun., May 4
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
(see page 3)

Summer Newsletter

Early June



Join Us

www.w102-103blockassn.org

BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Block Association meetings are open to all and are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Email info@w102-103blockassn.org if you'd like to attend either in person or via Zoom. Or view the livestream (go to our website, w102-103blockassn.org, and click on "Resources" and then "YouTube"). It's always a good idea to check our website for late-breaking schedule updates.

**Mar. 11
Apr. 8
May 13
June 10**

The June Primary Election: What You Need to Know

THE MAYOR, COMPTROLLER, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, public advocate, district attorney, and entire city council are all up for re-election this year. Find out who is running and what each of them stands for at [ballotpedia.org/New York elections 2025](http://ballotpedia.org/New_York_elections_2025). This information will be updated as the spring progresses.

The primary election date is Tues., June 24.

Early Voting will take place from Sat., June 14, through Sun., June 22. Hours vary from day to day, so check the vote.nyc website closer to the dates for details.

Registering to Vote: There are a variety of ways to register, including by mail or online. The deadline to do so for the primary is June 14. More information is available at vote.nyc/

page/register-vote.

Other Important Deadlines:

- June 9: Last day to change your address before the June primary.
- June 14: Last day the Board of Elections can receive an application for **absentee ballots** for the primary.

For more information about voting: Contact the New York City Board of Elections [vote.nyc; (866) Vote-NYC].



The Future of a Spring Fundraiser Is in Your Hands

THIS TIME LAST YEAR, when we were trying to get our Yard Sale/Block Party organized after a five-year hiatus, we were optimistic that we could make it happen. But ultimately we were disappointed that few people volunteered to lend a hand, and on the date by which we had to decide whether to go forward, we hadn't reached a critical mass of vendors, either. After the deadline passed, we heard from several who were interested in participating, but by then it was too late.

We have a volunteer who is willing to be the overall coordinator. However, we don't expect her to be responsible for every single one of the many individual tasks that need to be executed in order for an event of this scope to run smoothly. Now's the time to let


Experiencing Technical Difficulties — Please Stand By

THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION IS COMMITTED to transparency. Toward that end, our monthly board meeting is open to the public. During the pandemic, the board met via Zoom. Attending via Zoom continues to be an option even now that the meetings are once again taking place in person. In addition, meetings are livestreamed on the Block Association's YouTube channel. All of that said, however, those digital functions are reliant on internet service. Normally, service is made available to us by the Mt. Sinai residential treatment facility, where we hold our meetings. From time to time, glitches can occur that interfere with our best efforts to make the meeting available virtually. We apologize in advance if you try to attend a meeting via Zoom or watch the livestream and encounter difficulties. (Please note that our meeting space is quite small. Should you wish to join us in person, please email info@w102-103blockassn.org in advance so that we can confirm that there's room for more attendees.)

us know whether you'd be inclined to rent a vendor space and/or take on a volunteer role. Please send an email to yardsale@w102-103blockassn.org.

In case we find that we can't go forward again this year, we're already considering switching gears and hosting a very different sort of event. We're imagining a giant potluck, perhaps with the participation of local restaurants. What do you think? Would you attend? Would you help make it happen? Let us know by contacting info@w102-103blockassn.org.

Did You Live Here in 1975?

IF YOU DID AND YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY  been inducted into our Hall of Fame for residents of 50 years or more, now's the time! And if you didn't live here then, but you know someone who did, please connect us. The first residents were inducted in 2010, and we're proud to have included more than 40 people since then.

How does one qualify? All you have to have done is to have lived within Block Association territory for at least half a century! 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 Riverside Dr. and West End Ave. in between.

What's involved? Participants are interviewed and, if they don't mind, photographed (thanks, Gus Butera). Honorees are introduced at our Annual Meeting, which will take place this year on Apr. 24, and presented with a certificate. (Attendance at the meeting is not required.) After the meeting, bios and photos of our newest inductees will be posted on our website. Click on the "Neighborhood Hall of Fame" tab to read past inductees' bios and see their portraits. If you qualify, or know someone you think might, please contact editor@w102-103blockassn.org.

Spring Planting May 4

By ELIZA LANSDALE

SPRING IS COMING and it's time to spruce up our tree wells! Please join us on Sun., May 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to help beautify our neighborhood. We will meet in front of 878 West End Ave. Volunteers are needed to help us set up, plant flowers in tree wells in front of various buildings, and clean up when the work is done. All ages are welcome. Bring your kids out to get dirt under their fingernails. Please email trees@w102-103blockassn.org if you're able to help out. If you can't plant but can commit to watering the flowers going forward, and/or would like to help defray the costs of the plants, please let us know that, too. We hope to see you on May 4!

NYCHA Roof Repair Update

LAST ISSUE, WE CONFIDENTLY REPORTED that the yearlong construction project on the north side of W. 103rd St. Between West End Ave. and Broadway would be completed by the end of December 2024, as the sign in front stoutly claimed. Well, December came and went, January came and went, and we decided to reach out to NYCHA to get an update. We are now told that the work is two-thirds completed and will be fully done by July of this year. You can track their progress here: capitaltracker.nycha.info/projects/515/e21880.

HEALING ARTS

Lauren Stahl

Reiki Practitioner
Certified Reflexologist - ARCB, RAA, TRA

(917) 670-1327

lauren@laurenstahl.com
www.laurenstahl.com

(continued from page 1)

Annual meeting

good standing is anyone 18 or older who lives in the territory and has either made a financial contribution in the past year or demonstrated consistent participation in Block Association activities.) Candidates need to be endorsed by at least two current members of the Board of Directors in order to become nominees and be included on the ballot; no board member may endorse more than two candidates.

Other Info: Members in good standing (see definition above), whether attending in person or on Zoom, are eligible to vote in the election. If you have any questions, contact info@w102-103blockassn.org. We look forward to seeing you all on Apr. 24!



(continued from page 1)

Panel Discussion

- recommended the rules for the congestion-pricing program.
- **Sam Schwartz**, former chief engineer at the NYC Dept. of Transportation and the person who invented the term “gridlock.”
 - **Rachel Weinberger**, transportation planning consultant and Herman Chair for Transportation of the Regional Plan Association.

Space is limited; register on Eventbrite (eventbrite.com/e/panel-on-the-future-of-our-streets-tickets-1210056133469?aff=oddtcreator) to secure your spot and submit your questions. Priority will be given to Block Association residents.

You can also attend virtually on Zoom. To sign up to attend by Zoom, register here (us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JABrOLqPRhKRGqsiTstmPw#/registration). Note that you must be signed in with a Zoom account to attend.

The meeting will also be livestreamed and archived on YouTube (youtube.com/live/KfvCS2oTLhE).

For more information, contact: streetpanel@w102-103blockassn.org

Sleigh Bells Rang—Were You Listening?

WITH SPRING AROUND THE CORNER, the winter solstice seems so long ago! But that’s the whole point of our annual caroling event: to celebrate the lengthening of the light! A large crowd almost always attends this very popular event, but this year we were a little uncertain. It was the Saturday right before Christmas and Chanukah began. Would everyone have already left town? And the forecast was bracing. The temperatures dropped lower than they had since the previous January!

Nonetheless, a nice, big bunch of enthusiastic singers, both stalwarts and newbies, turned out, and we were able to make our circuit of the neighborhood. Each block was blessed, 300 Riverside was serenaded with “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” and by event’s end, we were cozily ensconced in the Riverside lobby of the Master Apartments, enjoying cups of hot cider and snacks, our fingers, toes, and tips of noses intact.



Many hands worked together to make the event happen, and we appreciate each and every one of them. Thanks to the board and staff of the Master for welcoming us in their lovely space. Thanks to Anthony Bellov and Dayle Vander Sande for leading us in song for the 41st year! Thanks to Roberta Belulovich, who organized our 40th-anniversary song sheets last year. Thanks to Nancy Wight for making sure the hot plate behaved itself, and to David Reich for lending it to us. And thanks to Baxter, who provided a festively decorated and supremely delicious cake.

Next year the solstice falls on Sun., Dec. 21. See you then!

Shawn Bhandari
Store Manager



AT&T
Authorized Retailer

2727 Broadway
New York, NY 10025

Tel: 212.389.2727
Email: attbroadway105@gmail.com



Are you confident in your building’s financial management?

Felix Rozenbaum, CPA
Condo CFO Founder

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

- Save money
- Eliminate inaccuracies
- Make sound decisions
- Prevent fraud

“Felix’s expertise and friendly manner have brought us peace of mind. We know our finances are being looked after professionally and promptly. We enthusiastically recommend him.”

Lynn Carroll, 252 West 102nd Street Co-Op President

Contact me to set up a no-obligation call to learn more.
718-676-4050 • condocfo.com • felix@condocfo.com

So What Have You Done for Us Lately?

By HEDY CAMPBELL

ONE OF THE CO-OP BOARDS in the neighborhood recently asked us: What does the organization do for the neighborhood? Here is our answer.

Several years ago, it would have been very simple to answer that question. Virtually all of our income was spent providing a security guard who patrolled the neighborhood. During COVID and just after, we found it harder and harder to find guards who did even a sufficient job even by pretty minimal standards, and it was costing the organization more than \$40,000 annually. The board decided to suspend and then terminate the service.

Instead, we've since been putting our energy and income toward conducting a security survey so we can find out what security measures are already in place and explore how we can create a network that capitalizes on and perhaps augments them. We are also funding a weekly cleanup of the curbs and sidewalks in the neighborhood. If you're around late on a Tuesday afternoon, take a walk and you'll see a legion of hardworking people picking up trash, watering plants and trees, and otherwise sprucing up the area.

In addition, we organize a series of annual events. They include: an annual meeting (last year City Council Member Shaun Abreu was our guest, and newly elected Assembly Member Micah Lasher is at the ready for this year's meeting—see page 1); an enormously popular Halloween parade and party; Winter Solstice Caroling (see page 4); and twice-yearly tree-bed cleanups (in the spring, we plant annuals—see page 3—and in the fall, we mulch the tree beds and plant bulbs). We also host occasional special programs; in March there'll be a panel discussion exploring the many demands on our streets (see page 1). We also maintain relationships with local politicians and city agencies so that when issues arise that require bigger guns than we have in our arsenal, we can make a call or send an email and know that an attentive response

will ensue. In terms of communication, we produce a quarterly newsletter—you're reading it now, whether as hard copy or onscreen; thanks to a dedicated network of residents, it gets distributed under every single door in the neighborhood. We also maintain a website that is chockablock with resources and information (w102-103blockassn.org).

We believe that keeping the area clean and safe, creating a sense of community for individuals who care to involve themselves, being available to help sort out problems, and in other ways improving the neighborhood is good for residents and buildings alike. If there are additional ways you think we could accomplish those purposes, we're open to suggestions.

Co-op Board Members, Take Note!

The question raised by one of our neighborhood co-op boards (see above) inspired an idea, and we need some input about whether it would be of interest. Our data suggests that there are 11 co-op buildings in the neighborhood as well as a handful of townhouses that operate as co-ops. We do not know if there is much information-sharing among these buildings. We're wondering if co-op board members would find it useful to have the opportunity to interact with their counterparts, sharing common concerns and perhaps brainstorming solutions. If you think this might be useful and if the Block Association could be helpful in facilitating this, please let us know at info@w102-103blockassn.org.



Susan M Schor
Independent Sales Agent
890 West End Avenue 7A
New York, NY 10025
914-419-5499
susanmschorphd@gmail.com



Authorized to Offer



Medicare Plans
from UnitedHealthcare

Join our
email list by
going to our
website

w102-103blockassn.org

BROADWAY DIVE

2552 Broadway
(101st St)
212-865-2662



- Artisanal Bottled Beers for Purchase 'To-Go'
- 25 Draft Beer Lines with Growler Fills Available
- Kegs Available for Delivery to Your Parties
- Delectable Gluten Free Snacks and Beers
- Sensational Holiday Beer Packs Available

For any questions, concerns or inquiries, please email

Broadwaydive@gmail.com

TRIVIA - BEAT THE
TRIVIA MASTER 9PM
TUESDAY NIGHTS

Interview with Assembly Member Micah Lasher

By RICHARD ROBBINS

IRECENTLY CAUGHT UP WITH our recently elected NYS Assembly Member, Micah Lasher, and he spoke about his new role and what issues he feels are most pressing for our district.

Background

Lasher grew up in the neighborhood, spending much of his childhood on W. 83rd St. and then living at 875 West End Ave. while in high school. Despite his relatively young age, he has decades of experience working in government at the local, state, and federal levels, having served as a special assistant to Congressman Jerrold Nadler, director of state legislative affairs for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, chief of staff for NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, and director of policy for Governor Kathy Hochul.

Adjusting to a New Role

In his first year, Lasher is working to pass meaningful legislation to address issues he anticipates New York will face in the Trump era. For example, one concern is that Trump will repeal or neuter the “disparate impact” standard of the Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to discriminate against a person based on race, religion, or gender, among other protected classes. Lasher is working to create state laws to protect New Yorkers on this and other issues where he fears the federal government under Trump might fail to do so.

Having most recently served as director of policy for the governor, Lasher is now one of 150 assembly members. He admits that an individual legislator has a lot less power than the governor, but says there is freedom and opportunity in being a legislator. “What I’m trying to do is generate legislation that is pertinent to issues that are important to our community and to me—to make proposals that are thoughtful and to then begin the process of building support for those,” he says. In that vein, Lasher has more than a dozen legislative proposals in some stage of development. As he explains, for each one, he is taking the time to understand the law, write the bill, explain in plain language what the

bill will do, solicit co-sponsors, and then build support.

He has been impressed by his colleagues, saying that representatives from across the state have demonstrated in private conversations enormous experience, thoughtfulness, and intent on getting it right.

In an era where people don’t trust politicians, Lasher says that he is comfortable taking a stand on controversial issues, adding that his long-held belief is that New Yorkers “will forgive their politicians [if they disagree with them] if they believe that the view being expressed by those politicians are come by honestly and thoughtfully. I’m trying to keep that belief front and center in my mind as I navigate the role of being an elected official.”

Local vs. Statewide Issues

When asked how he balances statewide concerns with local ones, Lasher explains, “Broader policy action with local problem-solving—you have to do both. And that is very much how I see the job. I’m worried about big-picture policy issues in Albany, and I’m worried about vacant storefronts, some scaffolding on Broadway. I mean, we’ve got to make time to devote to both parts of the job.”

In terms of local issues, Lasher also spoke about parking and e-bike concerns. When asked about residential parking permits as one way to preserve parking for local residents, he said, “I don’t know that it’s entirely clear that residential parking permits are the right answer for the city, but I think that it would be worthwhile to try a pilot [program] and see how it goes.” To that end, he is in discussions with Brooklyn Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon about how to coordinate efforts on such a program.

As for e-bikes, he favors licensing and registration for them at the state level, but sees no single answer to concerns residents have about them. “There needs to be a combination of better



regulation, pressure brought to bear on the delivery apps with regard to the incentives that they create for people to ride recklessly, and more enforcement done strategically by the police,” Lasher stated.

When asked if an e-bike licensing requirement would end up disproportionately affecting undocumented immigrants, who are under so much pressure now, Lasher said, “I think one of the reasons why what Trump is doing is so ill advised is it discourages law-abiding undocumented immigrants from engaging with law enforcement, our healthcare system, and a wide array of government services at agencies. It pushes people underground, and nothing good comes of that.”

Leveling the Playing Field

Lasher acknowledges that the benefits and services of government are made easier for people with resources, and says that the job of elected officials

(continued on next page)

BOOMERNOLOGY



Personalized Luxury Tech Support for NYC’s Baby Boomers & Older Adults

Empowering You to Navigate Today’s Digital World

SERVICES OFFERED:

- COMPUTER SETUP, SUPPORT, & EDUCATION
- CELL PHONE & MOBILE DEVICE SUPPORT
- WI-FI & SMART HOME SETUP
- PRINTER & SCANNER SUPPORT
- SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL ACCOUNT SETUP
- CYBERSECURITY & FRAUD PREVENTION

f Instagram X

908.299.6634

dave@boomernology.com

boomernology.com

(continued from previous page)

Lasher

is to try to level that playing field as much as possible. "Any elected official worth their salt," he asserted, "[should be] devoting a disproportionate amount of energy to those constituents who are least advantaged and therefore least likely to be an electoral force."

Hope for Silver Moon?

Asked about the status of Silver Moon Bakery, of particular concern after the loss of Absolute Bagels, Lasher said he is "cautiously optimistic" that we will not lose Silver Moon, based on conversations he has had with both the owner and landlord.

Concluding Thoughts

Anything else he would like residents to know? "I think there is a palpable concern for the future of the city, both that existed before Trump's election and that has been exacerbated by it," Lasher replied. "My hope is that I in some small way can restore the faith of residents in our community in the capacity of government at the state level."

Assembly Member Lasher encourages his constituents to contact his office with any issues or concerns. Hannah Friedman, Lasher's director of community engagement, can be reached at hannah@micahlasher.com or through the district office number: (212) 866-3970.

Winter Boost for Street ❤️



Broadway Malls and CB7 volunteers joined members of the Street ❤️ crew this winter. Volunteers are welcome on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the Marseilles parklet (W. 103rd St./Broadway). For more info, email ecaylor@columbusamsterdambid.org.

Help Polish a Neighborhood Jewel

By PETER FRISHAUF

WHO HASN'T WITNESSED throngs of exuberant youth exiting the subway at W. 103rd St., politely asking (often with an accent), "Which way is the hostel, please?"

If you've had this experience recently, you're a part of helping some of the 600-plus visitors who stay at the HI New York City hostel *every day*. America's largest and most popular hostel by far, our neighborhood treasure provides affordable experiences in New York for guests who come here from around the world.

And who hasn't attended memorable community events at this massive, landmarked jewel designed by Gilded Age architect Richard Morris Hunt? Whether it's hosting the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group, the many activities organized by the Columbus-Amsterdam BID in coordination with local block associations and neighborhood restaurants, or a meeting of the Three Parks Independent Democrats, the hostel has been there for us since its seemingly miraculous rebirth made possible by leaders of our community in 1990—a reuse of what had been an abandoned nursing home, and for decades before that, a shelter for indigent women.

Beautifully maintained, spotless... and appreciated.

Now the hostel must fund major restoration projects to bring the building up to 21st-century standards. The first need is \$7 million for new



windows (there are hundreds!) and other basic repairs. You can help by donating—see the QR code and web address below. And for more information on how you might help directly or indirectly to help the hostel fund this restoration, contact Lauren.Brown@hiusa.org.



Help fund phase one of the HI New York City Hostel's needed restoration via this online form. Access by QR Code or hiusa.org/nycrestoration



THE COLUMBUS-AMSTERDAM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT offers supplemental services such as sanitation, business outreach, and promotion to storefronts on Columbus and Amsterdam Aves. between W. 96th and W. 110th Sts., and works to promote communication among all neighborhood stakeholders. We host or co-sponsor numerous community events throughout the year. For more information go to cabid.nyc.



GRAPE COLLECTIVE



2675A Broadway (102 St)

212-222-3640

Great New Selections
Compare Our Prices

Visit GrapeCollective.com

Learn About Your Favorite
Wine and More. Then Pick Up
Your New Selection at Our Store.

Over 80 Winemaker Videos
on Our Website

Pro-Planet Options for Uncertain Times

By SHARON WASKOW

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

WE'RE LIVING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES for the planet. To put it mildly, it seems clear that mitigating the effects of climate change is not a top-of-mind issue for the Trump administration. Columbia University's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law has identified the recent executive orders that will have the "greatest energy and environmental significance." See blogs.law.columbia.edu/climatechange/2025/01/21/trump-executive-orders-on-energy-and-environment-a-quick-summary.

So what can we do to maintain the progress we have made in cleaning up our air and water, reducing plastic pollution, combating food waste, and improving the health of all our citizens? What follows are some suggestions for individual and collective actions to promote hope and stay engaged in helping the environment.

1. IEBG believes that individual actions add up to help the planet. **Consider adopting one or two new habits** to be on the solutions side of climate change. Try a few of these:
 - Take public transportation, walk, or bike when you can.
 - Eat less meat and dairy to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Bring your water bottle or reusable mug everywhere, every day.
 - Patronize the food shops in our neighborhood participating in the BYO container program. Practice your new habit of carrying a reusable bottle or mug for takeaway at, among other places, Cool Fresh Juice Bar, Zelma's Caffe, Metro Diner, and Health Nuts. See a full list of participants here: itseasybeinggreen.org/1235-2.
 - Join a climate-action group. Consider joining the IEBG team. Write to us at itseasybeinggreen.uws@gmail.com to find out what help is needed. You can be involved as much as your available time permits.

- Consult one5c.com for other pro-planet habit-change ideas.
2. **Advocate for environmental laws on the city and state level.** Here are a few examples:

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (S1464/A1749) will make producers of plastic packaging pay for the pollution they create in New York State. Some of its goals are to reduce plastic packaging by 30 percent gradually over the next 12 years; and to require producers of plastic to pay fees to cover municipalities' costs of waste management and recycling and to make grants supporting reuse-and-refill projects. Read more about it here: beyondplastics.org/press-releases/plastic-industry-albany-lobby-day-1-28-25.

 - To Do: Write or call your NYS assembly person or senator to tell them to co-sponsor this law and make sure it is brought up for a vote this session.

- Assembly Member Micah Lasher: lasherm@nyassembly.gov; (212) 866-3970
- State Senator Cordell Cleare: cleare@nysenate.gov; (212) 222-7315
- State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal: hoylman@nysenate.gov; (212) 633-8052

(If you are unsure which state senator represents you—Senators Cleare and Hoylman-Sigal split our Block Association territory—you can find out at elections.ny.gov/new-york-state-elected-officials.)

New York City's Hydration for All Act (IT 900) proposes to put 500 water-refill stations equitably in all boroughs of the city. Read more about it here: nyc.surfrider.org/campaigns/NYC+Hydration+For+All+Act.

- To Do: Our city council member, Shaun Abreu, is a co-sponsor of this bill. You can contact him to express your support. And you can encourage friends who live in other districts to contact their city council members to support the bill. They can use this form: win.newmode.net/surfriderfoundationtest/passthehydrationforallactinnyc.

win.newmode.net/surfriderfoundationtest/passthehydrationforallactinnyc. Council Member Shaun Abreu: district7council@nyc.gov; (212) 788-7007

3. **Vote with the environment in mind.** Mayoral elections are coming up. Become familiar with the candidates' policies, proposals, and voting records on the environment. Attend mayoral candidate forums and ask questions. Read the candidates' campaign pages to see if the environment is mentioned. For a full list of the candidates, Democratic and Republican, go to ballotpedia.org/Mayoral_election_in_New_York_New_York_2025.
4. **Sign up to receive the monthly *It's Easy Being Green* newsletter** to keep abreast of environmental information and actions you can take: itseasybeinggreen.org/39-2.

It's Easy Being Green is your neighborhood climate-education and personal-action group (itseasybeinggreen.org).

Best Copy & Shipping



2660 Broadway
(Btwn 101 & 102)

212-665-8523

212-665-7685

email: bestcopy@nyc.rr.com

bestcopy101@gmail.com

website: www.bestcopyny.com

Copy • Print • Binding • Fax
Internet Cafe • Scan & PDF

Passport Photo • T-Shirt Print
Business Cards • Color Posters
DVD Convert • Blue Print

Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

SERENA CANIN/MUSIC MIDDAYS

Serena presents free Music MIDDAYS at Advent Lutheran Church, 2504 Broadway (northeast corner of W. 93rd St.) on select **Tuesdays at noon**. On **Tues., Mar. 18**, the Abeo Quartet will perform music by Esmail and Schubert. On **Tues., May 6**, Daniel McGrew, tenor, and Sophia Zhou, piano, perform works by Beethoven and Debussy. More information at musicmondays.org/music-middays.

MARK STEINBERG AND SERENA CANIN

Mark and Serena, as part of the Brentano Quartet, will perform works by Haydn and Brahms at the Caramoor

Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, N.Y., on **Sun., Apr. 27, 3 p.m.** More information at caramoor.org.

ELIZA LANSDALE

Eliza sings with the Riverside Choral Society, whose spring concert with chorus and organ will feature the Duruflé *Requiem*, with world-renowned organist David Enlow. The concert is on **Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m.**, in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, 46 W. 16th St. Info and tickets are available at riversidechoral.org.

R. A. BELLSON

A longtime Block Association resident, known here by his pen name, gleefully announces the pending launch this

April of Down Below, Book Two of his fantasy/morality tale trilogy *Charcoal the Elf*. The young-adult books deal with bullying, societal woes, ecological disaster, and our destiny being in our own hands. Reviews for Book One have been outstanding. For more information: charcoaltheelf.com

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 2025 Newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!



On Broadway

By HEDY CAMPBELL

I CHOSE A COMPLICATED DAY to take a walk from W. 106th St. to W. 96th St. and back. Snow had fallen overnight, and I was sans proper footwear, which made me newly aware of yet another ramification of empty storefronts: If there's no tenant, there seems to be no shoveling. If building owners were responsible for clearing the sidewalks of their vacant commercial spaces, would they be less inclined to let the stores remain empty?

Six Corners Marketplace, on the southwest corner of Broadway at W. 106th St., has been open for a while, but I went in for the first time only recently. It's well stocked, clean, and a pleasant option for quick pickups.

Across Broadway, between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts., **Columns**, a wine bar, has opened in the space that was, years ago, Meridiana, then Calle Ocho, then a sports bar. It's spacious and airy, and offers a choice of seating options, a wide variety of beverages, and a smallish menu. My opinion: It's a great addition to the neighborhood.

Silver Moon bakery, on the northeast corner of Broadway and W. 105th St., is engaged in a rent dispute with the landlord, but they are still open and thriving, having recently

promoted their high-quality breads and pastries for Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras.

As I passed **Serafina**, on the west side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts., I noticed that the restaurant still has its sidewalk shed up and running; it impressed me as an appealing destination for those who continue to shun dining inside.

Didn't the **Broadway Deli**, which took over Suba's old space, on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 104th St., only just open? It's already closed.

Halal Cajun Platters is now open for business on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts., in the spot vacated by the cherished Jo-An, a.k.a. Sun-Chan, Japanese restaurant. I grabbed a takeout menu as I went by and discovered that there's a far wider range of menu items than the name suggests, including bagels and breakfast sandwiches, quesadillas, burgers and fries, salads, and sandwiches.

Kesari has opened on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 103rd St., in Aangan's old space. It is operated, I'm told, by the previous owner's nephew.

Maxx & Fluffy's, a self-service 24/7 pet-bathing setup is just about

to open for business on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. Use the QR code on the door or go to the shop's website (maxxfluffy.com) to find out how to reserve a time slot.

We hear that **Buttercup Bakery** will move into the space vacated a couple of years ago by the beloved Broadway Restaurant, on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. Known for its delectable buttercream confections, the bakery has two other locations on the East Side.

A few blocks south, between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts., is **Marinara**, which closed some time ago due to a gas leak, and is reportedly reopening any day now.

Back on the west side of Broadway, between W. 96th and W. 97th Sts., there's work happening in two adjoining spaces just south of Housing Works. The note on the door references "Home Depot Grainger," which raises some interesting possibilities. We shall see!

Just a few doors farther down, Krispy Kreme closed at the end of December. We're told a branch of **Made in New York Pizza** will be revealed when the construction paper covering the windows comes down.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

RESIDENTS

235 W. 102 ST.

Antonino
Broderick
Callender
Daniel/Zawistowski
E. Davis
Epstein/Eden
Greene/Young
Kirkpatrick
Knight
Koffler
O'Hanlon
Scott
Timperley
Vargas/Weiner
B. Williams
W. Williams
Zetlan
Zinsser

240 W. 102 ST.

Campbell
Eisenstadt
Fish/Davis
Flanagan/Hopkins
Kalish
Kojima
Worman/Chun

247 W. 102 ST.

Robbins

252 W. 102 ST.

Carroll / Musk

307 W. 102 ST.

Zarkaria

310 W. 102 ST.

Albert

315 W. 102 ST.

Doeden Hansen
Knox

320 W. 102 ST.

Brail

250 W. 103 ST.

Lancaster

O'Brien
Rahmani
Wall

254 W. 103 ST.

Doherty

303 W. 103 ST.

Berger
Frishauf/Rice

307 W. 103 ST.

Bridger/Paul

308 W. 103 ST.

Ellis/Lifchitz
Ian

315 W. 103 ST.

Kleidon / Ahmed

855 WEST END AVE.

Ausubel
Henwood
Koblitz
Solowiejczyk/Porjesz

856 WEST END AVE.

Herzog

865 WEST END AVE.

Beels
Blumm/Snell-Blumm
Carroll/Bartlik
Chase
Davidge/Lott
Frank
Kilbourne-Kimpton
Koplow
Lowenthal
Perchanok/Krasner
Wight

872 WEST END AVE.

Budzanoski

875 WEST END AVE.

Babush/Boirin
Borinstein/Vartanian
Canin/Sauer
DeCurtis

Felton
Fricke/Klimley
Gillman
Gorelick
Grosf/Fisch
Keane
Lasher
Leon
Levin
McDermott
Malatzky
March/Laferrère
Rogers
Russo/Conovitz
Simon
P. Stein
Straw/Gubitosa
Ward

878 WEST END AVE.

S. Adams
Alvarez/Feinberg
Gross/Ochshorn
Neiman/Camarasana
Orr/Robbins
Sagalyn/Hack
Skomorowsky/Marratto
Stearns

884 WEST END AVE.

Colas
Davis
Fisch/Irizarry
Korman/Sher
Kozodoy
Pines

885 WEST END AVE.

Bernstein/Bowen
Brown/Gruber
Cryer
Skopov
Spring/Miller
Tolkow/Woodbury

299 RIVERSIDE DR.

Alamo
Bauchner/Weil
Brender
Dane

del Alamo
Healy/Emery
Holtz/Horowitz
Kastanis
Leidner/Ruden
Reich/Dessel
Shear
Stern
Tedoff
Toub/Pagano
Wagner/Cecil
Wang/Sedlis

300 RIVERSIDE DR.

Alfonso/Gouck
Bauman
Burger
Cherry/Hudson
Chevray
Corcoran
Davenport/Miller
Edelman/Gold
Forbes/De Prenger
Harris
Livingstone
Lupatkin
Mills
Mitnick/Hochman
Parker
Rack/Agnew
Reiner/Lally
Rocks
Schiff
Seget
Smith/Castellano
Thomas
van Schaardenburg
Weissberg

305 RIVERSIDE DR.

Avidon
Borrell
Colon
Danzig/Minerva
Goldschein
Hoffman
McGinn

310 RIVERSIDE DR.

Bien
Brown
Coddington
Cooper
Dooley
Freeman
Huber
Hugus
Kostelanetz
McKinney/Chin
Maffei
Ralph
Savage/Carroll
Wagner
Woodward
Zuger
Zwyns
Zybert

OTHER

Gershenhorn
Pollak
Williamson

LANDLORDS/CO-OPS

310 Riverside Dr.

COMMERCIAL

Best Copy & Shipping
Broadway Dive Bar
Condo CFO
The Grape Collective
Dave Kolesnikow,
Boomernology
Polymathy, Inc.
Susan M. Schor, AARP/
UHC Medicare
Lauren Stahl, Healing Arts
Tova's Pet Sitting



CURRENT DONORS:

Thanks so much!

Names of those who are paid up through
the previous quarter appear above.

NEW DONORS:

Please use the enclosed envelope to send your contributions to:
W102-103 Streets Block Assn., PO Box 1940, New York, NY 10025.
Or contribute online at w102-103blockassn.org.