

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

VOL.47, NO.2

Annual Spring Bazaar: Fun and Profit on the Block

By BOB AARONSON

ON MAY 20, AN OVERCAST BUT MILD SATURDAY in the 300 block of W. 103rd St., hundreds of neighborhood residents, Block Association members, and Riverside Park visitors spent the day ogling treasures, trading stories, nibbling on assorted snacks, and buying raffle tickets. In the span of a single day, the Block Association succeeded in bringing together the community it serves and raising some much-needed income.



An event like the annual Bazaar doesn't come together in a single day. It's the product of many months of labor on the part of many volunteers: Board Member Jane Hopkins enrolled the vendors and seeded their spaces carefully along the block. Ginger Lief

and Terence Hanrahan placed flyers up and down West End Ave. from W. 96th St. to W. 106th St.

On Saturday morning, Terence Hanrahan kept a sharp eye on the weather, keeping the worst of it well at bay and wrangling the late-sleeping ("No Parking" sign-impaired?) drivers into moving their cars. Our good friends, the management and staff at the St. Luke's Addiction Institute Halfway House, led by Miguel Negron, staffed the traffic barriers to control auto traffic so no new parkers entered the block while vendors could deliver their wares. The Halfway House also provided (and delivered) tables and chairs for As-

sociation use.

Hedy Campbell, once again, organized the refreshment table that anchors the party. We want to thank the bakers who provided delicious cookies and pastries as well as the folks who helped serve them: Mark Seaman,

(Continued on page 7)



Tree Wells All Abloom

ON APRIL 22ND, MANY NEIGHBORS CAME TOGETHER to practice their gardening skills and at the same time help beautify our blocks. Under the excellent guidance of Mark Schneiderman, over 35 volunteers adopted 21 tree wells and planted a beautiful variety of plants. Mark, with the help of Michael Stearns, drove to the nursery to select and purchase the plants, and Bettina Berch helped Mark distribute them to the volunteers. Another eleven tree wells were cleaned and mulched. Many families and neighbors of all ages joined in the fun. Thanks to all who helped bring some beauty to our neighborhood!

Now we all need to help the plantings and trees survive the summer by watering as needed, keeping them free of trash, and keeping pets away.

For more information on how you can help, contact Cynthia Doty at cldoty@aol.com

Help Wanted: Co-Treasurer

THE DUTIES OF BLOCK ASSOCIATION TREASURER are divided among two people so that it's not much work for either person. As a result of unfortunate timing, both of our co-treasurers announced their retirements at the same time. Thanks to Komal Rathi, who stepped up in response to an earlier plea, we only have one co-treasurer spot left to fill.

Thank you to Sue Maderer, who has stayed on longer than she wanted in order to ensure a smooth transition.

The co-treasurer's duties are not particularly demanding:

- A weekly stop at the W. 104th St. post office to pick up the mail
- A stop at the bank to deposit any checks received
- Writing a small number of checks per month
- Reconciling the monthly bank statement

Can you help? Email info@w102-103blockassn.org.

Correction

In the Spring 2017 "On Broadway" column, we erroneously stated where the former site of Szechuan Garden is. The site is on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 98th St., not the southwest corner. We regret the error.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE WEBSITE

What's Up at the B.A. Blog?

By CAITLIN HAWKE

HAVE YOU HAD A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE RECENTLY? You'll find it at w102-103blockassn.org.

While you're there, leaf through the blog.

I just marked my third anniversary serving as webmaster and content provider on the Block Association's website. The blog is intended to keep you going between newsletters, but the format lends itself to all sorts of neighborhood exploration, current and historical.

I can hardly believe that there are now over two hundred blog posts in the site's back pages. If you haven't had a look, maybe take a peek and see things like up-close photos, such as the one above, of architectural details seen in the neighborhood, and encouraging you to guess where they are. This feature is called "It's Elemental, My Dear Bloomingdale" and it's billed as an architectural "Name That Tune" contest. The location of the element above was revealed on April 3. But there's another post coming up about the special building it belongs to. See if you can guess where it is without cheating! If you know, e-mail me at blog@w102-103blockassn.org and I'll mention you among the seasoned observers of Bloomingdale.

Also, only on the blog and posted on May 20, you will see the very first issue of this newsletter. That's right: Volume 1, Number 1. It appeared 46 years ago on May 20, 1971. In it was the announcement for the first Block Association street festival and the launch of guard service. This feature is called "One from the Vault" and in it I unearth past nuggets from our newsletter archives.

These kinds of blasts from the past—and many, many more—are all yours for free on the Block Association's blog. Go check it out and make sure to subscribe to receive posts directly to your inbox: w102-103blockassn.org/blog.



The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association Newsletter

info@w102-103blockassn.org

Hedy Campbell, editor; Jacob Gross, associate editor; Brad Spear, 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. Phone messages may be left at 212-865-8524. Recent issues of the Newsletter are available online at w102-103blockassn.org.

EMAIL LIST

The Block Association maintains an email list to notify residents about important matters that arise between issues of the Newsletter. You can join the list by sending your email address, full name, home address (with apartment number), and phone number to email@w102-103blockassn.org.

GUARD SCHEDULE

Rafael Hernandez makes rounds Tuesday through Saturday; Roy Chavarriaga is on duty Monday. Guards patrol weekdays from 6 p.m. until midnight and from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. To report neighborhood security issues to the guards or to request their assistance on the street, call the office of Starr Security at 212-767-1110.

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BLOCK ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Mulching
Oct., date TBD

Halloween Parade and Party
Tue., Oct. 31

Solstice Caroling
Thur., Dec. 21

Getting to Know Our Newest Volunteers

Jacob Gross serves as associate editor of our quarterly newsletter. He's a native New Yorker, although only on our blocks for the last three years. He is a recent graduate of Columbia University, and this fall will attend Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

Komal Rathi serves as our co-treasurer when she is not pursuing a management career in financial services. She has lived in New York City since 2008, and moved to the neighborhood with her husband in 2013. Her favorite part about living in our neighborhood is its proximity to Riverside Park.

50-Year Residents Honored at Annual Meeting

We were pleased to discover that there are three additional people who qualified for inclusion in our Residents of Long Standing Hall of Fame, which was founded in 2010. Pegi and Ben Gorelick and Stanley Weiss are the newest inductees, bringing the grand total of members to 27. All three were officially inducted at our March 21 annual meeting. If you weren't on hand, visit our website and click on the Neighborhood Hall of Fame tab to read all about them.

If you know someone you think may

have lived in the neighborhood for 50 years or more and hasn't yet been inducted, please contact editor@w102-103blockassn.org.



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2017 BLOCK ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Following the election that took place at our annual meeting, we'd like to introduce our current board members and identify their respective domains

BOB AARONSON,
Block Party Coordinator

HEDY CAMPBELL
Newsletter Editor

CAMILLE COLON
Guard Service Liaison

CYNTHIA DOTY
Co-Chair

TERENCE HANRAHAN
Co-Chair

JANE HOPKINS
Newsletter Ad Manager

CELIA KNIGHT
Recording Secretary

GINGER LIEF
Archivist, WSFSSH Representative

SUE MADERER
Co-Treasurer

KOMAL RATHI
Co-Treasurer

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BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Regular Block Association meetings are held monthly, usually on the second Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m.
306 W. 102nd St.

September 12

October 10

November 14

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By JULIA C. SPRING

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BRETT GOLD

On **Fri., June 16**, the Brett Gold New York Jazz Orchestra will release its debut big band recording, *Dreaming Big*, on GoldFox Records. Seventeen of the city's best jazz and Broadway musicians, including past big band alumni and the saxophonist now touring with the Rolling Stones, will perform eleven original compositions by Brett — composer, conductor, and trombonist. The recording will be available on CD Baby, Amazon, and iTunes. Find out more about Brett, a corporate lawyer who refuses to forgo jazz, at musicians.allaboutjazz.com/brettgold and on the orchestra website, brettgoldnyjo.com.

DEB RABBAI

The Upper West Side's only fully improvised musical comedy awards show, *Broadway's Next Hit Musical*, including Deb, returns to the Triad, 158 W. 72nd St., on **Sat., Jun. 10, at 7 p.m.** The first act features Phony Award nominated songs based on audience suggestions. The second act is a fully improvised musical based on and including the winning song. Every part of the performance is based on audience ideas. Tickets (\$20 to \$40) may be purchased at bnhm.bpt.me or brownpapertickets.com. The price does not include a two drink minimum.

DEBORAH BOOTH

For the fifth year Deborah will conduct a recorder playing session as part of Make Music New York in Straus Park on the solstice, **Wed., Jun. 21, at 7 p.m.** Over thirty recorder players have already signed up — come applaud! For more information, visit flute-recorder-deborahbooth.com.

CARL RIEHL

Also on **Jun. 21, 7-10 p.m.**, Carl will perform a set of solo accordion pieces as part of the Family Julz program at Pianos Bar, 158 Ludlow St. (at Stanton St.). He will play a number of original songs, as well as pieces by Astor Piazzolla, Erik Satie, Philip Glass, and more! Free, but kids not allowed. For more information, visit pianosnyc.com.

JOAN MARTINEZ

Joan's haiku about New York City was accepted by a *New York Times* contest in 2014. Now her poem and the other 149 winning ones have recently been published in *New York City Haiku*. It may be purchased at store.nytimes.com/products/new-york-city-haiku. Spoiler alert: it's about a puppy wiggling in a bag on the subway after 9/11.

GRETCHEN & JON CRYER

A concert version of the musical *Shelter* by Gretchen and her long-time collaborator Nancy Ford (they wrote the Tony-winning *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking it on the Road*) will be presented on **Tue., Jun. 27 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.** Jon (who grew up at 885 West End Ave.) will be one of the three characters, a television commercial writer whose roommate and best friend is his computer. (This was written in 1973!) The performances will be at Feinstein's/54 Below (254 W 54th St.). Tickets, beginning at \$40, are available at 54below.com/events/shelter-concert-starring-jon-cryer or by calling 646-476-3551. There is an additional \$25 food or beverage minimum.

DORIS STEVENSON

On **Sat., Jul. 1, at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.**, Doris, pianist, will perform Bach sonatas, Dvorak's Piano Trio #4, and Beethoven with her chamber trio as part of Bargemusic's Masterworks Series. Located at Fulton Ferry Landing by the Brooklyn Bridge, Bargemusic has great views of lower Manhattan. Tickets (\$40, seniors \$35, students

\$20) are available at brownpapertickets.com. For more information, visit bargemusic.org.

ANNA RAFF

A new children's book, *If I Were A Kangaroo* (Viking Books), was illustrated by Anna. It is available at independent bookstores and on Amazon. You can also see Anna's blog, ornithoblogical.blogspot.com, with its humorous "birds on my brain."

JOHN TILLOTSON

John will present *Residual Effects* at the Hudson Guild, 441 W. 26th St., on **Mon., Aug. 14 at 6:15 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 18 at 9 p.m.; and Sun., Aug. 20 at 3:30 p.m.** His one-man play is about the serendipitous connection between West Side apartment neighbors: an aging actor looking toward the end of his career and a hundred year-old actress. For more information, visit hudsonguild.org.

Do you have an upcoming publication, release, concert, exhibition or other arts event, physical or virtual? Let me know. Send questions or notices for inclusion in the Summer 2017 newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!

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Oh, the Guilty Pleasures of Being a Volunteer

By BOB NEUMAN

HOW CAN ANYONE WHO DEVOTES HOURS AND HOURS EVERY MONTH TO VOLUNTEERING FEEL GUILTY? I asked author, art historian, and neighbor Linda Seidel. She told me that she gets so much joy, so much personal satisfaction, and so much grounding that she actually has pangs of guilt.

Linda is an educator with a doctorate in fine arts, but the title she holds most dear is that of volunteer. She is one of over 90 BAiP group leaders. Linda dubbed her group "Picturing an Exhibition." Every month she sends her group members to a new exhibition, arms them with a scholarly handout, and prods them to look beyond the pictures to the real point of the show. What are its political and social implications? Why this



artist? Why now? Why, why, why? Then in the comfort of Linda's living room the responses bubble out with everyone putting a different spin on what they saw. As people speak up, the comfort level in the room rises and pretty soon everyone's involved and the sense of community is complete.

As Linda likes to put it, she throws a stone in

hello over the produce and the dips.

By the way, "Picturing an Exhibition" has become so popular that Linda now runs it in two sections. How can one person handle so much guilt?!

For more information about BAiP's groups or how to reap the rewards of starting one of your own, email activities@bloominplace.org. If you don't use email, you may leave a message at 212-842-8831 ext. 16. You may also visit BAiP's website at bloominplace.org.

the water and the ripples take care of themselves, creating other groups, new social connections, and a keen sense of belonging to something outside yourself.

The older neighbors who belong to Linda's group and some 60 other BAiP groups are only getting older in a chronological sense. However, through enlightenment, enrichment, sharing, and community, age is merely a number. What counts is going to the Westside Market, seeing someone you met through BAiP, and waving a bright

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SUBA –Pharma paRx-cellence!

By DAYLE VANDER SANDE

SINCE 1982, SUBA PHARMACY has been a neighborhood institution, serving Bloomingdale's pharmaceutical and healthcare needs. Bashir A. Suba RPh—respectfully and affectionately known to his customers as “Mr. Suba”—was the only game in town before the big chain stores began cropping up in the 1990s. Back in 2000, after two Duane Reades and a Rite Aid had opened nearby, a CVS moved in at W. 102nd St. Neighbors organized to boycott CVS and instead flocked to Suba, and within two years CVS closed that location. In 2004, the neighborhood mobilized 4,000 signatures petitioning the landlord to grant Suba another eight-year lease, which obviously and gratefully has since been renewed again. Now, neighbors are being called upon to patronize Suba in new ways to keep the pharmacy in business.

When you walk by the storefront on Broadway and the southwest corner of W. 104th St., you see a large sign on the front door asking for patronage beyond that of simple pharmaceuticals. The reason is that Mr. Suba makes next to no profit on prescriptions, as he passes along the savings to his customers when possible.

Suba Pharmacy can only stay around to help Bloomingdale's residents keep

their pharmaceutical costs down if we support it in return by purchasing other items it has to offer. Firstly, there are over-the-counter medicines and a large variety of surgical, home, and health-care supplies ranging from bandages, braces, post-op shoes, lumbar and sacral

toothpastes, creams, essential oils, and green cleaning products. There is also a large variety of vitamins (with a 20% discount for kosher products) and homeopathic products as well. What truly sets Mr. Suba apart from the competition is that he compounds medicinals.

Perhaps you are allergic to a certain chemical or cannot tolerate commercially available dosages. Mr. Suba has an extensive list of compounding ideas to explore. Whatever you require, Mr. Suba will work with you and your physician to create a customized solution.

Suba is also a kind of variety store, offering gift items, greeting cards, natural candles, natural lozenges and candy bars—there are many reasons besides prescriptions to stop by. And in a world increasingly buried behind computer screens and digital phones, it's nice once in a while to rely on seeing a friendly face in person and being known by name. Besides Mr. Suba's welcoming personality, all his staff—his daughter Iram, Maya, Carlos, and Victor—are all friendly and outgoing, ready to help. There is relief just in knowing you can depend on fair prices and service with a smile! That is the kind of store that gives Bloomingdale the neighborly reputation we want to keep. So, resist the chain! See you at Suba!

Suba Pharmacy
Compounding & Nutrition Center.
2721 Broadway (at W. 104th St.);
212-866-6700; subapharm@yahoo.com.



supports, compression stockings (medical and for travel), commodes, rollators, wheelchairs for sale or rental, hospital-grade breast pumps for sale or rental, and nebulizers for adults and children. What is not in stock can be ordered.

Suba also specializes in organic and natural products such as shampoos,

(Continued from page 1)

Annual Spring Bazaar: Fun and Profit on the Block

Vesna Dapic, Celia Knight, Nancy Wight, and Stephanie Geffrard. Thanks also to Camille Colon for recruiting volunteers to more than cover her absence, not to mention Ed Campbell for hauling and setting up the ice and coolers generously provided by the Dive Bar on Broadway. Last, but not least, thanks to Sal and Carmine's Pizza for delivering and discounting their delicious hand-crafted pizza.

Sue Maderer and Komal Rathi organized and sold tickets for the split-pot raffle along with Susan Klimley, Ginger Lief, Stephanie Geffrard, and Margaret Beels. The raffle drawing took place at the end of the Bazaar and Jamie Russel won \$275. Not bad for taking a walk Saturday and buying a one dollar ticket.

The Spring Bazaar drew two of our local elected officials, Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell and Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal, who were guided and introduced to neighbors by Cynthia Doty. They answered questions and heard concerns.

Everyone pitched in for the clean-up and by 6:00 p.m. cars returned to the block. Except for the lasting smiles on the faces of those who'd been there, one couldn't tell that anything unusual had occurred.

Finally, for pictures and another take on the Bazaar check out the Block Association blog at w102-103blockassn.org/blog.

On Broadway



By KERSTIN HASENPUSCH AND JACOB GROSS

★ A **TIAA** office has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 108th and W. 109th Sts.

★ The designer consignment shop **2nd Time Around**, located on the east side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts., has closed. The chain is in the process of closing all its stores nationwide.

★ A new branch of the Northern Italian restaurant chain **Serafina** is opening on the west side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts., in the site formerly occupied by **Toast**. The restaurant is expected to open around August.

★ **Shaking Crab**, a Cajun/Asian/New England fusion seafood restaurant, has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 111th and W. 112th Sts., at the former site of **Varelli**. The restaurant is an outpost of an establishment in Newton, MA.

★ A new clothing and gift shop, **Felix and Fanny**, has opened on the east side of Broadway between W. 111th and W. 112th Sts., at the former site of **2868 Optician**. Reportedly, all the store's profits benefit the Children's Aid Society.

★ In the last issue, we reported that an unnamed Chinese restaurant specializing in dry pot cuisine would be opening at the southeast corner of W. 108th St. and Broadway. The restaurant has opened, and is called **108 Food Dried Hot Pot**.

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Marlow Bistro

Vive la difference!

By KATE MCLEOD

YOU MIGHT AGREE WHEN YOU ENTER MARLOW BISTRO that there's a genuine French bistro feeling. Not Paris necessarily, but Normandy or Brittany. Maybe it's just wishful thinking, since I haven't been to France in a decade.

This much I know to be true: its brick walls, quirky lighting, classic tile floor and dark rafters create a charming rustic atmosphere that, on a packed Friday night in April, was a little noisy. Noise-absorbing materials are scarce and the ceiling is quite high.

From our window perch, a view of St. John the Divine's Synod House at the corner of W. 110th St. and Amsterdam Ave. added an even greater European slant to the evening. The flower boxes jammed with colorful annuals and the warm air somehow added to the feeling that I was on a trip.

A slinky bar with white-washed walls is wedged into a rectangle directly to the left of the main entrance. You should head to Marlow for a nightcap, rather than toss and turn in bed, if you are still pumped after a stimulating night at the theater. It's small enough

to be cozy and, on the busy night we dined, it wasn't a mash up.

In the dining room a large black-board lists all of the farms from which Marlow sources most of its ingredients. A comprehensive list fills the black-board and, impressively, Marlow visits its farms regularly.

Marlow offers a tempting, separate pizza menu. But my companion and I wanted dinner and the choices on that menu were equally as tempting. I asked about the foie gras "Rocher." The foie gras preparation makes it look like the chocolate truffles sold under the

plain salt did the trick. My companion ended up with the most intriguing main course called chicken duo, with wild mushroom, parsnip, and brown butter espuma. Espuma? Well, it's complicated but essentially it is a foamy — and I add, yummy — sauce. The chicken had a complexity that was equal parts comfort and surprising. The menu is somewhat limited but there are fish, beef, chicken, and vegetarian offerings. You won't go hungry unless you are adhering to one of the current fads, in which case you probably don't eat out.

Marlow

BISTRO

Rocher name. While a bit of flavor was lost on our "Rocher" by being a little too cold, a tasty warmed bread combined with the foie gras added both flavor and texture. Texture is a notable element of practically all the dishes we tried. The beets carpaccio starter with goat cheese crema, pistachios, and oranges is a perfect blending of flavors and textures. Other starters include a homemade pork pate, a burrata with za'ttar dressing and a creamy polenta with Brussels sprouts, all of which want sampling next time.

Main courses include the homemade ricotta cavatelli. Our cavatelli had a sauce made with asparagus. Again, the flavor needed a goose —

For dessert we ordered the simply-named citrus. It was a light delicate lemon curd, with orange-white chocolate bavarois, pate sucee, and meringue. Order it.

Marlow Bistro, 1018 Amsterdam Ave., 212-662-9020; marlowbistro.com. Hours: Mon.-Thur., 4:30-11:00 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 4:30-11:30 p.m.; Sun., 4:30-11:00 p.m.; open for brunch Sat. and Sun., 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Bar open Fri. and Sat. until 2:00 a.m.

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Board Takes Action on Guard Service, Receives Your Feedback

WE WERE GRATEFUL that so many of you took the time to respond to the poll we printed in the Spring newsletter. The question on the floor is whether keeping the guard service patrolling our blocks is a priority to our residents. The input we received suggests that the neighborhood is pretty evenly divided on the subject. For a variety of reasons, half of you want to keep the guards in place even if it means increasing the suggested contribution amount. Some of the main reasons cited were personal safety, property protection, and the desire to support the guards' continued employment. The other half thought that guard service is

no longer a necessity.

Because our dwindling bank balance required immediate action, we've already put two money-saving measures in place: the length of each shift was reduced by one hour, and the Sunday night shift was eliminated.

We still have one newsletter worth of envelopes to use up before we print a new batch with an increased suggested contribution amount. They're costly enough to print to warrant using them up rather than wasting them. Feel free to start contributing more even before we start distributing the updated envelopes. If enough of you pay a little extra, or perhaps convince a noncontributing

neighbor or two to begin contributing, the increase will help us keep our guards on the street while we weigh our options.

In addition, we're on the verge of sending out our annual appeal letter to co-op boards, landlords, and private homeowners. We are suggesting to them that they increase their contribution amounts as well. From the checks we receive in return, we should be able to pretty easily tell whether retaining the guard service is important to them.

If you haven't already let us know where you stand on the issue and would like to, please write to info@w102-103blockassn.org.

Joy Brown Sculpture Comes to Our Broadway Mall

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THIS LARGER-THAN-LIFE SCULPTURE that since May has been on our mall at W. 103rd St. It is titled "Two Together," and is part of a series of bronze sculptures running along the Broadway Malls entitled "Joy Brown on Broadway." The two figures will continue to take up residence in our mall until at least November.

The sculptures are by artist Joy Brown, who works out of a studio in Kent, Connecticut. Her bronze pieces start out life as small ceramic models that are then turned into scaled up versions made of foam. These full size pieces are adjusted to take into account scale, and are then cast in bronze.

To learn more about the artist, you can visit Brown's website at joybrownstudio.com. If you are feeling generous and really want to show your appreciation, Brown has a fundraising campaign seeking to raise \$40,000 to defray the cost of installation.

There are perks to donating beyond the satisfaction of supporting the arts:

patrons receive a gift from Brown that varies based on donation amount. They range from an animal postcard for a \$25 contribution, to two bronze animal sculptures for \$10,000.

So if you enjoy the sculpture series, why not give yourself a lasting memento to remember it?

For more information on the exhibition, visit broadwaymall.org.

"Two Together"
by Joy Brown



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