



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

VOL. 50, NO. 2

Block Association Board Supports Racial Equity

OUR BOARD HAS BEGUN DISCUSSING how we can best direct some energy toward lessening inequities in our community. Broadway has always represented a dividing line and we'd like to work toward making it less so. We've been successful with past initiatives and are hopeful that we can move forward in a meaningful way.

For now, we have some suggestions if you would like to support this effort:

Residents both to our north and to our south have begun gathering on the corners of Broadway each evening holding signs of support. They stand in silence at 8 p.m. for nine minutes. Others prefer to remain in front of their own buildings at the same time for the same period.

Neighborhood teens are inviting people to create signs in honor of victims of racial violence and gather at the Soldiers and Sailors monument, taking 20-minute shifts. Find more info [here](#) and the signup sheet [here](#).

Support businesses with Black ownership. To get started, here's a list of nearby restaurants, bars, and bakeries that you can patronize. Many will deliver to our catchment area.

We'd like to expand the list to include other types of business. Send submissions and other ideas about how we can accomplish this important goal to editor@w102-103blockassn.org.

LOCAL BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANTS, BARS, BAKERIES

* Indicates that it's worth asking whether delivery is available
x Indicates temporary closure

- * 67 Orange St., 2082 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (W. 113th St.); (212) 662-2030; cocktail bar
- * Amy Ruth's, 113 W. 116th St. (Malcolm X Blvd.); (212) 280-8779; soul food
- * Awash, 947 Amsterdam Ave. (W. 106th St.); (212) 961-1416; Ethiopian
- x B Squared Harlem, 271 W. 119th St. (Frederick Douglass Blvd.); (212) 280-2248; upscale casual, seafood
- * Blvd Bistro, 2149 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (W. 116th St.); (212) 678-2200; soul food
- * Chez Alain, 2046 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. (W. 124th St.); (212) 678-7600; West African
Chocolat Restaurant Lounge, 2223 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (122nd St.); (212) 222-4545; Southern
- * Fieldtrip, 109 Malcolm X Blvd. (W. 115th St.); (917) 639-3919; rice bowls
- * Freda's, 993 Columbus Ave. (W. 108th St.); (917) 409-3689; Caribbean and soul food
- * Greedy Pot, 1944 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. (W. 119th St.); (917) 675-7676; Southern
Harlem Seafood Soul, 163 W. 125th St. (Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.); (646) 533-8518; seafood

(Continued on page 2 - SUPPORT)

Annual Meeting Rescheduled: JULY 14 AT 7 PM VIA ZOOM

THE BAD NEWS IS WE HAD TO CANCEL our Block Association's Annual Meeting, which had been planned for Apr. 1, due to the onset of the coronavirus. The good news is that we have rescheduled the meeting for Tues., Jul. 14 at 7 p.m. That night we will host Caitlin Hawke's wonderful talk, "From Ford's Theatre to 855 West End Avenue: The Marvelous Maggie Mitchell and the Story of the St. Andoche," about the fascinating history of one of the oldest buildings in our territory. Caitlin has spent many years researching her building and its residents and has uncovered great stories, including that of the illustrious theatrical career of its original owner. Zoom in to hear this colorful history of a building we often walk by.

(Continued on page 2 - MEETING)

THE WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

info@w102-103blockassn.org
Hedy Campbell, 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. Phone messages may be left at (212) 865-8524. Previous 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

Service is suspended.
See p. 3 for an update.

Meet Our Newest Volunteer

You may have noticed a new name in our masthead above. Ariana Koblitz has taken up the mantle from Brad Spear as designer for the newsletter.

Ariana and her husband, Robert, recently moved into the neighborhood and have found the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association a welcome resource as they have gotten to know their new surroundings.

Originally from Germany, with a couple years of living and working in Japan, China, and Cambodia, Ariana works at New York Life Insurance Company as an experience designer. When not herding corporate cats, she enjoys multi-media arts and crafts projects. If anyone is traveling to Berlin, Patagonia, or Namibia, she's got recommendations!

(Continued from page 1 - SUPPORT)

- * Harlem Shake, 100 W. 124th St. (Malcolm X Blvd.); (212) 222-8300; burgers and shakes
- * Kingston, 218 W. 116th St. (St. Nicholas Ave.); (212) 861-1082; Jamaican
Lee Lee's Baked Goods, 283 W. 118th St. (Frederick Douglass Blvd.); (917) 493-6633; bakery
- * Lolo's Seafood Shack, 303 W. 116th St. (Frederick Douglass Blvd.); (212) 649-3356; seafood
- * Make My Cake, 121 St. Nicholas Ave (116th St); (212) 234-2344; bakery
Make My Fish, 120 W. 116th St., (Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.); (917) 388-3138; seafood
- * Massawa, 1239 Amsterdam Ave. (W. 121st St.); the oldest East African restaurant on the UWS and Harlem); (212) 663-0505; Ethiopian and Eritrean
- * Melba's, 300 W. 114th St. (Frederick Douglass Blvd.); (212) 864-7777; Southern
- x Miss Mamie's Spoonbread Too, 366 W. 110th St. (Columbus Ave.); (212) 865-6744; Southern
Oasis Jimma Juice Bar, 243 W. 116th St. (Broadway); (212) 590-0685; bowls, sandwiches, salads, smoothies
- * Pikine, 243 W. 116th St. (Frederick Douglass Blvd.); (212) 922-7015; Senegalese
- * Safari, 219 W. 116th St. (Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.); (212) 964-4252; Somali and East African
- * Seasoned Vegan, 55 St. Nicholas Ave. (W. 113th St.); (212) 222-0092; vegan, kosher, organic soul food
- * Teranga, 1280 Fifth Ave. (W. 110th St.); (212) 444-9795; African
- * Vinateria, 2211 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (W. 120th St.); (212) 662-8462; wine bar, Italian
Zoma, 2084 Frederick Douglass Blvd. (W. 113th St.); (212) 662-0620; Ethiopian

(Continued from page 1 - MEETING)

That night we will also elect our new board, hear a summary of the past year's activities, and discuss our plans for the future, particularly regarding guard service. We will also introduce this year's 50-year residents and induct them into our Neighborhood Hall of Fame, if any are identified.

Attendance will be by advance reservation only. We'll remind you via email and flyers when we get closer to the date. If you're not already signed up for our email list, go to our website (w102-103blockassn.org) and click on the "Join Us" button. Or, if you're a do-it-today-so-you-don't-forget type, send an email to AMZoom@w102-103blockassn.org. Mark your calendars and plan to meet your neighbors virtually for a wonderful evening of neighborhood history.

BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Annual Meeting

Tues., Jul. 14, 7 p.m. via Zoom
Email AMZoom@w102-103blockassn.org if you'd like to attend

Monthly Board Meeting

Tues., Aug. 11 (tentative)
Email info@w102-103blockassn.org to check status or if you'd like to attend

Monthly Board Meeting

Tues., Sept. 8, 8 p.m.
Email info@w102-103blockassn.org in advance to find out whether the meeting will be held in person or via Zoom if you'd like to attend

BLOCK ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Block Party
Canceled

Spring Planting

Postponed. Possible reschedule late this month
Email trees@w102-103blockassn.org if interested

What's New at the Website

A Blog Filled with Coronarama

By CAITLIN HAWKE

AS WEBMASTER FOR THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION, I felt a sadness wash over me when it became clear sometime in late March that dismantling the many calendar items, including the spring Block Party, was a task that needed doing. How does a community organization build community without coming together?

The next news that came was that this issue of the newsletter would be delivered electronically. So now, right on the homepage, you can sign up to receive the newsletter by email. Some are delighted; others yearn for the paper version to return. And return it will.

But between issues, there's always the blog to fill the gap. These past three months have left a little extra time to write and if you head over to w102-103blockassn.org/blog here's a sampling of what you'll find:

- A gallery from a group of neighborhood photographers who documented "Life in the Time of Covid-19"
- A love letter to the Blue Angels, who flew right over our heads on April 28
- A poem to the pangolin
- A series of performances responding to life in isolation
- And from February 29, my favorite, "This ain't no party, this ain't no disco, this ain't no fooling around."

Looking back to the February 29 post, I see the circle now coming fully around. I wrote with concern about our local stores that "something terrible like an outbreak in NYC could be the final breaking point for so many small businesses already surviving on the thinnest of margins." We are about to take stock of the battlefield. Here's hoping our merchants all pull through, but I know they'll now need us, albeit only a few of us at a time, inside their shops more than ever. Welcome back, Bloomingdale. Stay well.



If you wish to receive blog posts directly to your email, click on the [website](#) and look for the subscription box at the bottom of any of the posts.

Guard Service Update

OUR GUARD SERVICE WAS SUSPENDED as of Mar. 27, when the guard assigned to us became ill. Rather than try to get a new guard trained in the middle of the pandemic, we opted to suspend service for the summer.

By the time we must make a decision about reinstating the service in the fall, we'd like your input. Providing guard service is by far the biggest item in our budget. We work hard to raise the money to pay for it and wonder if it's worth it. We ask you: Do we need a guard? If so, do we put the effort required into improving service with the existing provider? Do we change providers? We're down to a five-night-per-week schedule; should we eliminate it altogether?

Additionally, we need a new person who is willing to dig into this issue. If we decide to change providers, one will need to be identified. Someone needs to act as point person with the service provider as well. Reviewing the guard's route reports is also necessary in order to make sure that we're being provided with the service we expect.

We value your feedback on any and all of the above questions as we consider this issue through the summer.

To share your thoughts, email security@w102-103blockassn.org



CC BY 2.5, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Did You Live Here in 1970?

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION OPERATES a Neighborhood Hall of Fame for residents of long standing? It's true! We launched it in 2010 and are proud to have initiated 31 people so far.

All you have to do to qualify is to have lived within Block Association territory for 50 years or more. 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 are interviewed, usually in person, but currently either by phone or Zoom or from a safe distance outdoors. If participants don't mind, they're photographed by neighbor Gus Butera. Honorees are introduced at our Annual Meeting (rescheduled for Tues., Jul. 14, at 7 p.m. via Zoom; see p. 1). They'll 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 or (212) 865-8524.

Staying Informed and Diverted in the Time of Corona

ALL OF A SUDDEN, in order to stay connected, whether for information or entertainment, having a toe in the digital world has become more critical than ever. In many cases, a few clicks are all that stand between us and an unbelievable array of resources. Until we can all feel safe moving about in the real world again, here's a brief recap of some of what's available virtually.

INFORMATION

All New York State and City agencies have websites at which you can find all manner of up-to-date information. More locally, Borough President Gail Brewer, State Assembly members Linda Rosenthal and Danny O'Donnell, and City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal all publish newsletters and provide email updates. Sign up at their websites to be included.

BAiP has compiled an extensive list of neighborhood resources. Although much has changed since it was published mid-April, and is likely to continue to change now that New York City has been greenlighted for Phase Two of reopening, there's still plenty of useful information there. Check the BAiP website for specifics.

RELIGION

Most religious institutions are making their services available to parishioners digitally in one form or another. Ansche Chesed, St. Michael's, and St. John the Divine are among

them. Check a particular house of worship's website for details.

DIVERSION

Most major cultural institutions are offering free programs to anyone interested in logging on. Many have programs especially for young audiences. For instance, the Museum of Natural History has an upcoming field trip to the moon and a program on the coronavirus. The New York Philharmonic is offering an @ home version of its popular Young People's Concerts series. The New York Botanical Garden is offering virtual garden tours as well as classes. Some of these events are available at your convenience; others are live-streamed so you have to make yourself available at an appointed time.

The New York Times, in addition to publishing all the news that's fit to print, puzzles, games, and recipes, now also offers Live Events at Home. There are upcoming programs you can attend when they're presented as well as an archive of past events dating back to the end of April. Check out "How Does a New Yawker Tawk," and "Offstage: Opening Night," the first in a series in which theater artists talk and perform as they explore how they are "fostering their creative spirit and developing their work during this pause in performances." You can sign up to receive notifications as new programs are scheduled.

Information on COVID-19 Tests

New York City is recommending that everyone get tested and has made free testing available at many locations. The closest place to get a free test is CityMD, on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 104th St. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Appointments are not taken. Cure, on Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 102nd, also offers the

test. The charge will depend on your insurance. Appointments are accepted. Bring proof of ID and, if you go first thing in the morning, drink a big glass of water to balance the normal dehydration that occurs overnight before you head over. For information about other testing sites, call 311 or go to [NYC.gov/covidtest](https://nyc.gov/covidtest)

Help Wanted

Our two most immediate needs are for:

Someone to take an active role in our effort to determine whether the Block Association should continue providing guard service. Please see the article on page 3 for more specifics.

We always need volunteers who would like to help the organization move forward, contributing ideas, organizing events, and adding a fresh perspective. Come to a monthly board meeting (see p. 2) and show us that you're interested or email info@w102-103blockassn.org.

W. 103rd St. Selected for Open Streets

By MARK SCHNEIDERMAN

W. 103RD ST. BETWEEN RIVERSIDE DR. and Broadway was recently selected for inclusion in the temporary Open Streets plan. New York City has implemented the program in order to make it easier for residents to get outside without risk to their health and the health of others. Streets included in the program are closed to vehicular traffic daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in order to allow pedestrians and cyclists to maximize social distancing and avoid crowded and narrow sidewalks. No through traffic is permitted on the street while the program is in effect. Vehicular traffic is limited to local deliveries, pickups and drop-offs, necessary city service vehicles, utility vehicles, and emergency vehicles. More information, including a map, is available at the New York City DOT website: nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/openstreets.shtml.

If you have a comment or suggestion about this program, please contact trees@w102-103blockassn.org.

On Broadway

By NANCY GROPPER

WE ARE NOW INTO OUR FOURTH MONTH of social distancing. But with spring calling, I decided to take a stroll down Broadway from W. 106th St. to W. 96th St., with mask in place, of course. As I walked, I made note of shops that are open for business and others that are closed. Much has changed since I took my walk, but we're as current as we can be.

There is a wide array of bars/restaurants/diners open for takeout or delivery at hours that include lunch and dinner or just dinner. In keeping with NYS restrictions, none are seating customers inside.

Between W. 106th and W. 105th Sts.

- Calle Ocho (Cuban)

Between W. 105th and W. 104th Sts.

- Serafina (Italian)
- Café du Soleil (French)
- Ben & Jerry's
- McDonald's

Between W. 104th and W. 103rd Sts.

- Aangan (Indian)
- Yakitori Sun-Chan (Japanese)
- Ollie's (Chinese)

Between W. 102nd and W. 101st Sts.

- Broadway Dive (also selling T-shirts, fresh produce, and bread)
- Broadway Restaurant (recently reopened after closing to honor co-owner Christos Arsenis, who died recently; see p. 14)

Between W. 101st and W. 100th Sts.

- Metro Diner

Between W. 100th and W. 99th Sts.

- Manhattan Valley (Indian)
- Au Jus (BBQ; see p. 11)

Between W. 99th and W. 98th Sts.

- Regional (Italian)

Between W. 98th and W. 97th Sts.

- Texas Rotisserie and Grill

If you need baked goods, there is Paris Baguette, between W. 96th and

W. 97th Sts., and also Silver Moon, on the corner of W. 105th St., which is open for business, one customer at a time, with somewhat modified hours. If you want to learn how to bake Silver Moon specialties, co-owner Judith Norrell is offering classes on Tuesdays via Zoom. A \$10 contribution (plus \$1 EventBrite fee) finances treats for health-care and other emergency workers. You can register on the Silver Moon website: silvermoonbakery.com.

Schatzie's butcher store, between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts., is also open for modified hours. And if you need to do a complete grocery shop, Gristede's (between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts.) and West Side Market (between W. 97th St. and W. 98th Sts.) are open and well stocked, as is Health Nuts, the health-food store (between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts.).

I won't list them individually, but many of the numerous pizza shops, convenience stores, hardware stores, liquor stores, and dry cleaners are open as well. Phone-service stores are open for modified hours as are opticians. UPS and FedEx service stores are open too.

You can even get your stationery needs met at West Side Stationers on the northeast corner of W. 99th St.

And in regard to health care, the urgent-care facilities between W. 96th and W. 106th Sts. are all open, as is the Duane Reade between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. Suba pharmacy, on the corner of W. 104th St., will take orders by email for pickup outside the store Monday through Friday, 10 a.m to 5 p.m. They are not providing any walk-in service.

Included among the many stores that are closed is Tap a Keg, between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts., and our precious jazz bar/restaurant, Smoke, between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts. Flor de Mayo, between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts., is closed but their location farther south on Amsterdam Ave., between W. 83rd and W. 84th Sts., is open for pickup and delivery.

What does it mean for the future of this short stretch of Broadway? There

are so many spaces that were already empty before Covid-19 struck. Some were vacated recently, and others have been closed for years and even more than a decade—Sterling Optical closed almost 14 years ago and the store remains vacant.



Will any of those ever reopen? Will shops that closed after the pandemic have the financial wherewithal to reopen when restrictions ease? Will the stores that have remained open be able to stay in business for the long haul? I hope so, and I, along with all of you, am doing what I can to give them the business they need in order to stay in business.

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Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA SPRING

THE FIRST ONLINE-ONLY EDITION of the Block Association Newsletter includes, of course, only virtual entries and events. Let's support our local artists—those below and others—and get ourselves through the coronavirus fall as gracefully as possible.



MAKE MUSIC NEW YORK

Since 2006, on the summer solstice, Make Music New York has organized concerts of various sizes and genres in locations all over the city. This year it will be a virtual celebration. Amateurs, youth and beginners, not just professionals, are encouraged to go to makemusicny.org and put their own performances online. Watch/listen on Sun., June 21.



JON REINER

The Riverside Dr. resident, author, and filmmaker sent a link to his piece "Rear Windows," published in April, about his and his wife's experience of having Covid19: pendemic.me/rear-windows/ctsakis



JEAN-PIERRE SCHMITT

The Classical Saxophone Project, which Jean-Pierre conducts, has a new release, which was recorded last summer with the City of Prague Philharmonic, Javier Oviedo, alto saxophone: Florent Schmitt's *Légende*, Opus 66. Listen to it on youtu.be/aTT8h4bRz8Y

RUTH KOZODOY

The author and collagist has an online album of abstract "coronavirus collages" that express her feelings about what we're all going through [here](#)

BAIP COLLAGE GROUP

This group has an online gallery, showcasing its recent work. Go to bloominplace.org/collage.html



BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Our local music school has a full slate of online classes and will begin a free virtual faculty concert series in June, probably on Fridays at 7 p.m. Sign up at bsmny.org to get regular notice of the school's offerings.

VITA WALLACE

Vita co-founded and directs What a Neighborhood!, which sends out periodic announcements about interesting, mostly musical events—now virtual—on the Upper West Side. Her most recent email included an evocative photo of a Central Park staircase surrounded by early spring flowers, with trees still bare. Contact Vita at orfeoduo@gmail.com to get future emails. Check out whataneighborhood.blog for future announcements and events.

MARK DANNA

Mark creates puzzles of all kinds. His large-print, spiral-bound word-search puzzle books are available through Amazon and other outlets (just Google his name). I sent some to a relative who is quarantined in an acute rehab.

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 Fall 2020 Newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!

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Bloomingtondale BAIp Responds to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Call to Shelter in Place

By MARIAN ANDERSON

WITH THE NEED TO SHELTER IN PLACE TO PROTECT ONE another from coronavirus spread, BAIp neighbors were challenged as to how to keep this community of older adults connected without meeting face to face. Pre-coronavirus, BAIp had successfully done so by organizing more than 80 social activity groups, largely in living rooms, sharing information in monthly large-group sessions, and lending a helping hand to neighbors as they continued to live at home. Clearly, none of this was going to be possible under social-distancing mandates. We soon recognized that a time frame for a return to “normal” was uncertain.

This was no time for handwringing or brooding over potential losses. Instead, BAIp turned its attention to identifying, then incrementally putting in place, new ways to maintain neighbor-to-neighbor connections.

We are proving those wrong who have said that older adults can't be taught to use technology. They have not seen the three-times-per-week chair-yoga classes attended by up to 80 neighbors per session and delivered on Zoom. These sessions play a vital role in not just connectedness but in attending to mind, body, and spirit as contact with the outside world has diminished. Our thanks to yoga instructor Nobue Hirabayashi.

Monthly BAIp Presents sessions have also transitioned to Zoom with 90 neighbors participating in the first session, “Coronavirus Q and A,” presented by a gerontologist from the Martha Stewart Center for Living. This session focused on the unique health needs of older adults regarding prevention, symptom detection, and the process of getting help. For the second presentation, “Coronavirus and Our Mental Health: Shared Distress,” a clinical psychologist responded to questions about mental and emotional

health and reinforced how resilient we, as older adults, are. The BAIp Presents committee of ten is busy meeting on Zoom to plan upcoming presentations and welcomes you to join BAIp to learn of future topics.

Would you have thought that a photography group of 12 members meeting for two hours each month could gather on Zoom to discuss photos taken, and voice opinions on what could be done to improve the photos? All this was made possible when the group's leader, Ozzie Alfonso, stepped up to find ways and techniques to keep the group connected and inspired.

BAIp is also known for its fun initiatives, and these have continued in the form of a Virtual Water Cooler, where neighbors meet to do what one does at any water cooler—connect. And the laughter continued with the first remote Blooming Hour/ Open Mic Comedy Nite, a stand-up comedy joke night with close to 45 in attendance. Hooray for Hollywood, a film lecture series led by Rick Harris, attracted 84 neighbors for its first virtual session devoted to the first part of Cary Grant's career.

We acknowledge that there are groups/activities that might not readily lend themselves to blossoming on Zoom and that some people might find Zoom off-putting. Many who lead BAIp activity groups have found that telephone and email remain effective ways to connect with others and keep groups together. BAIp remains committed to seeking ways to ensure that its activities are accessible to all neighbors.

While so many neighbors quickly adopted and adapted to Zoom, we could not have transitioned to as many remote activities without volunteers who teach others. We'd like to offer a special acknowledgment to our network of volunteers and members for finding the way forward and providing

the behind-the-scenes lift we need as we work together to help BAIp to survive and thrive. BAIp's doors are open! Join us.

Marian Anderson is a BAIp board member and chair of the BAIp Presents Planning Committee

BAIp membership is free for all adults residing between W. 96th and W. 110th Sts, Central Park West to Riverside Dr. To learn more about us, we invite you to visit our website: bloominplace.org.

News from TriBloomingtondale

THE IT'S EASY BEING GREEN INITIATIVE recently enjoyed some important publicity. An article by founders Sharon Waskow and Christine Campbell was published on April 17 in the Sallan Foundation's “Snapshot” column. The Sallan Foundation promotes the greening of cities, disseminating information and ideas via publications such as the “Snapshot” column. Especially now that the city has put the kibosh on composting and electronics recycling, if only temporarily, we hope, finding ways to support green initiatives will be more important than ever. Find the article at: allan.org/Snapshot/2020/04/the_power_of_community.php#Xtz6ZvlKgdW.



Photo Credit: Nancy Anderson/Sallan

How You Can Support Local Food Pantries, Businesses, and Other Resources

By DAYLE VANDER SANDE

AS QUARANTINE REMAINS THE RULE OF THE LAND and resources become more and more scarce, it is important to remember how urgent access to food is, especially for those who rely on the help of programs. Others suddenly have found themselves without their regular employment, and government assistance is slow to arrive. Some may be wondering what to do with time and energy while not working or unable to socialize. Small businesses and restaurants are trying to make a go of delivery service alone, and for most, it is not enough to make rent. These indeed are difficult times for us all. Perhaps there is something helpful in the following article for anyone facing some of the above situations. Please share the information throughout the community.



FOOD PANTRIES AND SOUP KITCHENS

In this Block Association's Winter Newsletter, we suggested giving business cards, with information on local food pantries and soup kitchens, to people you may meet on the street who ask for money or food. While it may be more difficult to distribute them and keep your distance, they are still available. At the Association website under "Hunger Resources," you can download a Word file to print the cards at home, or you can email hotmeals@w102-103blockassn.org to obtain a stack of pre-printed cards. Soup kitchens are listed by

day of the week and are still in operation, with some modifications due to the pandemic. While a third of food pantries in the city have closed at this time, the programs in the Bloomingdale area have worked hard to remain open. Donations and volunteers are urgently needed. See below for a description of each program and ways you can help.

Holy Name Food Pantry, 207 W. 96th St./ Amsterdam Ave., Mon., 11-3; and Sandwich Line, 214 W. 97th St., Tue./Thu., 11-1

Holy Name of Jesus Church states on their website that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for their emergency food pantry and sandwich lines has never felt so urgent. They have helped a record number of individuals since March, supplying more than 700 families with canned goods, dry goods, milk, juice, and protein products and serving an additional 1,000 individuals a nutritious lunch twice a week. The food pantry is located in the lower level of Holy Name of Jesus Church, which serves 225 households per week on average, and is open on Mondays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. The Sandwich Line provides around 450 nutritious lunches weekly

on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. All are welcome. The entrance is located at 214 W. 97th St. in the Franciscan Community Center.

Monetary donations can be made online at: holynamenyc.churchgiving.com. All food donations are appreciated, but there is greater need for cereal, canned meat or fish, stews and soups, peanut butter, jelly/jam, mac and cheese, canned fruit, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, dried beans, paper products, and personal-care items.

Volunteers are always needed to staff the pantry stocking shelves, cleaning, and removing trash. If interested in volunteering, contact

Leona Urena at lurena@hnj.nyc and/or Milagros Ortega at mortega@hnj.nyc, or call (212) 932-8040.

Broadway Community Soup Kitchen, 601 W. 114th St., Mon./Wed./Fri., 10-3

Broadway Community sets an abundant table, believing that everyone deserves justice, dignity, health, and wholeness. Broadway Community began in 1982 with the Community Lunch program created by volunteers from Broadway Presbyterian Church, Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, and other neighboring organizations and continues today with the mission to break down the barriers of poverty, inequity, and privilege so that a new community might be born from the brokenness of the world.

Broadway Community's regular services have been modified due to the coronavirus. Their soup kitchen will not serve breakfast and provide only bagged lunches until further notice.

- Bagged lunches are being provided Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- The Supermarket Pantry continues, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., on the fourth Saturday of the month
- Community Tables have been canceled until further notice
- The doctor's office remains open on Mondays and Wednesdays

Volunteers who are healthy and willing are still welcome for various tasks. On a Sunday or Tuesday, 6–8 p.m., help Chef Michael prepare meals for Monday or Wednesday lunches; and/or distribute meals every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., for all or part of that time and/or help clean up. Volunteer at the Supermarket Pantry, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., on the fourth Saturday of the month, sorting pantry items, setting up the supermarket, cleaning up, and guiding pantry-goers in picking out items. To volunteer, email volunteer@broadwaycommunity.org for the latest

information. And monetary donations matter greatly at this time. To donate, visit in person at 601 W. 114th St. or see broadwaycommunity.org/donate, where you can also find a list of most needed items.

Saturday Kitchen, St. Michael's Church, 225 W. 99th St., Sat., 10-11am

St. Michael's Saturday Kitchen has served the poor and homeless since 1983. This feeding program provides a healthy and satisfying meal every Saturday morning at 10 a.m., serving more than 200 people. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office at (212) 222-2700. They ask that younger volunteers be at least of high school age.

Volunteer as a Midnight Marauder! Marauders meet every Friday night at 9 p.m. to deliver food donated by Whole Foods to St. Michael's Parish House. The food is served at the next morning's Saturday Kitchen. In 2019 they hauled about 300 big bags of bread and sweets and about 190 boxes of fruit and vegetables. Hands to help and wheels to deliver are always needed. Pickup and delivery typically take a half hour of your time. To sign up to volunteer, visit stmichaelsnyc.org/volunteer.com/marauders. Questions may be addressed to Jeff Jeffreys at jeff1038@hotmail.com or (917) 680-8337.

Volunteers who have served for more than a month at the Saturday Kitchen may volunteer with St. Michael's Pilgrim Resource Center (PRC), also open every Saturday morning, 10-11a.m., in the Parish House Gray Lounge. The services provided include information on food pantries, soup kitchens, free clothing, drop-in-centers, shelters, family support, job training, alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs, and free legal assistance locations. Vouchers are regularly prepared for food pantries and letters of introduction are written upon request. A medical van is also available Saturday morning in conjunction with the Resource Center. See Anne or Ginger at the Saturday Kitchen to learn more about becoming a PRC volunteer.

Church of the Ascension Food Pantry, 221 W. 107th St, 3rd Sat., 10am-noon

The Church of the Ascension Food Pantry is run by the children of the Religious Education program. Donations are always needed—currently in need of rice and pasta especially, as well as canned fruits, canned tuna and/or chicken, and cereal. Bulk donations (large quantities/cases) are the best. The pantry is open year-round. Distribution is 10 a.m.–noon on the third Saturday of each month in the rectory basement. If you wish to volunteer to work at the pantry, please contact Robin at rklueber@ascensionchurchnyc.org.

Advent Lutheran Church, 2504 Broadway/93rd St., Sat.

Just a few blocks below Bloomingdale, Advent Lutheran Church provides food ministries. As food insecurity rises due to the coronavirus pandemic, their food ministries will increase their frequency while observing safety precautions to keep everyone safe. Community Lunch and Food Pantry will alternate every Saturday.

To volunteer or for more information on Advent Lutheran's food ministry programs, email Fred at grummgallo@optonline.net regarding the Community Lunch and Frankie at salsafrankie@gmail.com for their Food Pantry. Monetary donations may be made at adventnyc.org/food-ministry.

Cathedral Community Cares Sunday Soup Kitchen, St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Ave., Sun., 10am

The mission of Cathedral Community Cares (CCC) is to combat and alleviate poverty through preventive poverty services, education, and advocacy, specifically targeting the issues of health and hunger. For further information on all Cathedral Community Cares services, please visit stjohndivine.org/education/community or call (212) 316-7583.

During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the CCC Soup Kitchen remains open, serving bagged meals only to those in need, distributed at 10 a.m. on Sundays.

The Sunday Soup Kitchen is an

on-site congregate meal program that serves predominately homeless individuals, as well as children and families. CCC preventive poverty services include beyond-emergency information and referral services, as well as food stamp pre-screening for individuals and families. With no eligibility restrictions, meal services are offered to all. Sunday Soup Kitchen meals consist of a healthy, diverse menu that includes fresh produce, a wide variety of meat/proteins, and low-salt, heart-healthy food options.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Sunday Soup Kitchen, please go to newyorkcares.org and click on "Become a Volunteer." Once you've become a New York Cares volunteer, you can select Cathedral Community Cares as your project site. For questions, please contact Thomas Perry at (212) 316-7583.

In addition to providing meals, the Sunday Soup Kitchen is an opportunity for clients to receive information and referral services regarding health screenings, medical and alcohol/substance abuse programs, clothing distribution, benefits/entitlements, legal services, housing and employment assistance, rapid HIV testing, and other social service programs.

Ansche Chesed Synagogue, 251 W. 100th St./West End Ave.

From their men's homeless shelter, which operates 365 days a year, to the many social action programs for adults, teens, and families, they strive to live up to our name—to be ansche chesed, people of kindness, working to build the world through good deeds. The busy Social Action Committee hosts activities throughout the year and partners with many local charities, including the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, among others focused on hunger and homelessness. For more information about their ongoing programs, email SocialAction@anscheched.org. Monetary donations may be given online by clicking "Donate" on their home page, anscheched.org.

(Continued on the next page)

Other City Food Emergency Resources:

Hunger Hotline: (866) 692-3663 or (866) 888-8777 (English and Spanish)

Food Bank of NYC (foodbanknyc.org)

New York City Coalition Against Hunger: Hunger Maps (hungerfreeamerica.org/hunger-free-nyc)



HELP WITH PAYING BILLS

During the pandemic, one may be experiencing financial duress through unemployment, yet not require emergency aid from the programs above. Visit needhelpayingbills.com to find information on programs that offer help with paying various bills. Assistance is available for everything from debts to energy bills, food, housing, property taxes, and much more. Nonprofits may also offer help with paying car loans and transportation programs.



HELPING LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Local restaurants have been struggling to stay afloat at this time, open for takeout and delivery business only. According to an article on Gothamist.com, ordering through delivery apps such as Grubhub adds hefty fees for restaurant owners to pay, so it is suggested to order takeout directly from the restaurant itself. Check and see if your favorite restaurant may offer gift cards to purchase. Many have started crowdfunding pages to receive monetary donations. One longtime, beloved establishment, the Yakitori Sun-Chan Japanese restaurant located at 2707 Broadway between W. 103th and W. 104th Sts. ((212) 749-5008), has set up a GoFundMe page at the following link: gf.me/u/x2fwmv. At the time of writing this article, they report that sales are down 80 percent and they have raised less than 10 percent of their goal to date. Even a small donation could help them reach their fundraising goal.



IMPORTANT FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

If you are a pet owner affected by Covid-19 and need assistance, call the NYC Covid-19 Pet Hotline, (877) 204-8821, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., seven days a week. Whether you are seeking assistance or looking to help meet the needs of your community, you do not have to look much further than our own Bloomingdale blocks. We at the Block Association wish you and yours health, safety, and security during this trying time.

Bloomingdale School of Music: All Dressed Up with No Place to Go!

SOME SAY THAT TIMING IS EVERYTHING. What a quirk of timing it is that our neighborhood institution was just treated to a fabulous makeover courtesy of the show "George to the Rescue," but because of the pandemic, nobody can currently enjoy the beautiful renovation in person. You can read about the project and find a link to the episode, which aired in April, at our blog, w102-103blockassn.org/blog/by-george-hes-done-it. You can also view the episode at the school's website (bsmny.org). Meanwhile, we'll all just have to look forward to attending a concert or taking a class there when an in-person debut of the refreshed space becomes possible.

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Au Jus: Dripping with Meaty Flavor

By CAITLIN HAWKE

AS IF THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS WEREN'T HARD ENOUGH AS it is, try opening a place the second week of March 2020. Yes, that's right. Just as Governor Cuomo put the pause on, Au Jus stepped out with a big, juicy splash.

For months, I'd had my eye on that spot. A prime storefront once housing a Starbucks, the northwest corner of W. 99th St. and Broadway had been brimming with potential since December, when signs went up that an Oklahoman invasion was imminent: "Slow-roasted meats and more": "Authentic OK BBQ."

I am a BBQ skeptic. It's all context and rare is the rib I've had in NYC that has been memorable. Still, I hoped for the best. Then I saw that the co-owner, Patrick Griffin, was an Oklahoma native who'd come to study at Columbia at the age of sixteen and stayed. His partner, Philip Bozzo, is a born-and-bred New Yorker. And the 99th St. corner is the site of their fourth branch of Au Jus, including restaurants in Brooklyn and Harlem. It started to sound very promising.

After a soft open with dine-in service, Au Jus was forced to pivot to takeout only. With Broadway turned into a dust bowl, hollowed-out streets

with no passersby, Au Jus may have felt right at home as the tumbleweeds rolled by. But they persevered, fueled by hickory chips and word of mouth.

The first thing to understand is that Au Jus knows it belongs to the land and the land it belongs to is grand. Ribs, dry-rubbed; brisket, hickory-smoked and mouth-melting; pork, roasted and pulled. The meats are succulent, smoky, and spicy. Choose from a slider, sandwich, platter, or by the pound. Accompanying the meats are very tangy—verging on sour—sauces with just the right amount of sweet to reel them back in. A kale salad with goat cheese and candied walnuts (salads come in two sizes) was my only attempt at integrating a plant-based item into my order. And it, too, was deeply satisfying and welcome after weeks of cooking in.

There is a lot to explore on this menu (sides, soups, desserts), and had it not been for the ordeal of moving around during the lockdown, I would have done more damage. I hope that the summer will see Au Jus's roots deepen in Bloomingdale, and that they will still be smoking up a storm as we head into the cooler months this fall, when this kind of comfort food will really stick to the ribs.

Ayipioeeay! I'm only saying they're

doing fine, Oklahoma.

Truth is Au Jus is better than OK. Go sop it up for yourself but try not to lick your fingers.

Au Jus is currently open daily from noon to 9 p.m. for takeout and delivery only. For more information, visit: aujusnyc.com/locations-upper-west-side/.

Contributor's List

OUR TREASURER GOT STUCK ABROAD during the pandemic, so our records are not up to date. Rather than publish incorrect information, we are skipping it this time. Our gratitude for your support remains unchanged and abundant! Feel free to make a contribution using the PayPal link you'll find at our website (w102-103blockassn.org) or by mailing a check made out to W. 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association to Box 1940, New York, NY 10025.

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Residents Share Tales from the Pause

LAURA HANRAHAN

When schools suddenly closed on Mon., Mar. 16, classrooms all over the city were frozen in time: It still said Mar. 13 on the whiteboards, pencils had been left behind, unchecked work remained on teachers' desks. Not a major concern for most teachers, but by mid-April, when I knew it was unlikely school would reopen, one of the things left behind was keeping me up at night: eggs.



I'm a culinary teacher in a special-ed high school. We cook and bake every week and use eggs for various recipes. Having recently shopped at a wholesale food store in the Bronx, I had almost 400 eggs in my commercial refrigerator at school.

My mission: Get the eggs to people in need so they don't spoil.

Problem #1: How to get access to the school?

Problem #2: How to get the eggs home?

Problem #3: What to do with them?

My first thought was to get the eggs and make frittatas to distribute to health-care workers. That's a lot of frittatas! How would I package them? Would they take them?

Next idea.

Perhaps I could distribute the eggs

to my students via bicycle all over the city.

Next.

It was obvious I could not store all those eggs at home. Maybe I could donate them to a food pantry? I contacted my friend Hope Kaye, a community liaison with Robert Jackson's office uptown. She provided contact information on food pantries and food banks in Manhattan. I

found several near the school (W. Houston St.) that would be willing to take them. Though I was getting closer to a resolution to problem #3, problem #1 remained: How to get access to the school, and then transport them to the food pantries? I didn't have a car. The subway was out. A cab presented a whole new logistical challenge: I could get to the school via cab but wasn't sure I would be able to get a cab to the food pantry, and then again to get home!

I began to focus on finding food pantries close to my home to eliminate the need for three different cabs. I noticed that St. Michael's Church on W. 99th St. was on the list. The next day, my son was volunteering to help make sandwiches there. He asked the coordinator if they would take raw eggs to perhaps make egg salad, or my original thought, frittatas. They agreed.

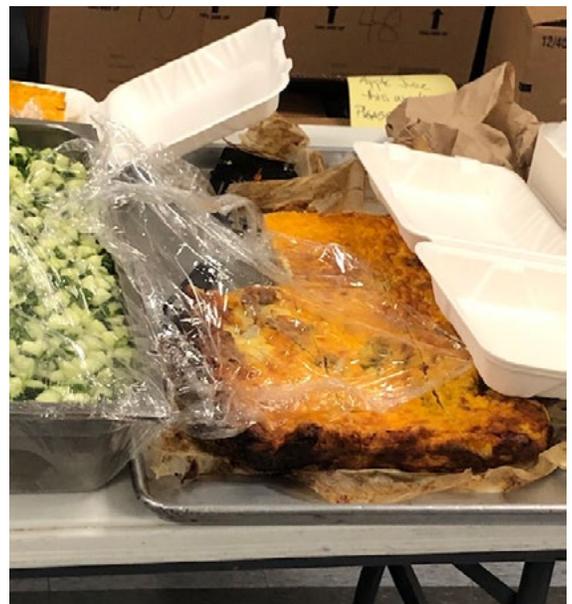
Then my husband stepped in. His friend Billy, who lived in Mount Vernon, had a car and wanted to do something to help. So suddenly I had a personal driver, who would pick me up, drive me to school to get the eggs, and then help me deliver them to the church! Problem # 2 solved!

I contacted my school's principal and coordinated a day and a time. I made sure there would be someone at the church for a drop-off, Billy was set for pickup, and we were ready! Problem #1 checked off!

Then I saw a posting on Facebook from West Side Campaign Against Hunger, looking for donations. The day before the big egg transport, I contacted them and another coordinator said drop-off could be done at their location at W. 86th St. on the same day!

All systems were go on a rainy Thursday morning. Billy picked me up. We both had our masks on, and I huddled in the far corner of the car as we drove down an empty West Side Highway. What might have taken 30 to 40 minutes on a normal weekday morning took 15. Packing up the two dozen 18-egg cartons took another 15 minutes, and we were off in the car to deliver the eggs to West Side Campaign Against Hunger and St. Michael's Church.

The next week my son reported the eggs were made into frittatas. Mission truly accomplished. It takes a village.



Residents Share Tales from the Pause

ARIANA KOBLITZ

Having just moved to the neighborhood from Brooklyn in the middle of February, we were excited to explore our new home. That has to be done virtually now, unfortunately. My husband and I reflect on how insanely grateful we are to be in this neighborhood to weather the pandemic. We're able to walk to a local butcher, we have a great set of grocery options, there's a nearby pet store with the kindest staff, a local printer, UPS, FedEx, and USPS, to name just a few of the "amenities" that help us function. Those benefits, plus home-cooked meals and being home in time to make and enjoy them, both benefits of losing our daily commutes, has been fantastic. Watching our cats get to know the new sights from our windows has been a joy. They are intrigued by these new developments ... as are we!



DEBBY HOLLAND DIAZ

Senior Solidarity

I came down the steps from the Firemen's Memorial at W. 100th St. and waited for the light. When the white walk icon appeared, I entered the crosswalk of Riverside Dr. A man with a cane started to cross from the other side.

Whoosh! A bike with a boy about seven years old rushed between the two of us, immediately followed by an adult man on a racing bike.

"Hey," shouted the man with the cane. "You don't have the light! You have to stop!"

Bike Man jumped off of his bike. He threw the bike down in the crosswalk and threatened the senior. "You wanna make something of it, buddy?"

By now, I'd crossed and was next to the senior. "Yeah!" I cried to Bike Man. "You were breaking the law! Do not threaten this gentleman."

"Yeah!" shouted another senior, a woman approaching from the park. "You have to stop for the light and let pedestrians cross!"

Wordlessly, Bike Man got back on his bike and pedaled off in the direction of the little boy, who had long since disappeared.

We three seniors enjoyed our solidarity with calls of encouragement to one another as we went our separate ways.

JULIA SPRING

In the middle of the day on Monday, May 8, standing on the corner of W. 104th St. at West End Ave., I see a long black car stopped at the light. Three women, wearing masks, getting rained on, are at its back end. I wonder what they are getting out of the trunk, why they are so close to one another. Then I realize it is a hearse and they are crying, sobbing, peering in the window. Are they going to follow it at snail's pace? The light changes and the hearse heads east, leaving them behind. On the far side of the car are two more people, one with an umbrella. The five cry and hug in the rain. A few minutes later they have dispersed.

JAMES PEREZ

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Obituary:

Mourning Our Losses

SO FAR, we're aware of two neighborhood fixtures whose lives were taken by the coronavirus:



Christos Arsenis, one of the proprietors of the Broadway Restaurant, pictured at right in this photo, which accompanied Dayle Vander Sande's article about the restaurant in our Fall 2018 issue, died on May 6 at age 75.



Orlando Cuevas, pharmacist at Town Drugs on Columbus Ave. and W. 110th St., formerly of Unity Drugs, which stood on the corner of Broadway and W. 99th St. for 10 years until it was bought out by Rite Aid in 1998, died on June 1 at age 60. If you would like to be notified about an intended, but as-yet unplanned, memorial service for Orlando, please visit: memorial.scarrfh.com/orlando-cuevas/4232306/index.php

Charles Wuorinen: Composer, Musician, Neighbor

By DAYLE VANDER SANDE

CHARLES WUORINEN (June 9, 1938 – March 11, 2020), celebrated American contemporary classical composer of more than 270 works, virtuosic pianist, conductor, and resident of our Block Association, passed away recently from complications from a fall last September. He leaves behind operas, ballets, symphonies, and chamber and vocal works, having premiered his last completed work, *Second Percussion Symphony* in Miami last fall.

World-class conductors commissioned his works for their symphonies, including James Levine, an avid champion (Boston Symphony Orchestra and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra), Michael Tilson Thomas (San Francisco Symphony), and Christoph von Dohnányi (Cleveland Orchestra), and he composed six works for New York City Ballet and two stage operas. His first opera was based on Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (1997–2001) with an acclaimed libretto by James Fenton, which premiered at New York City Opera on October 31, 2004. His second opera, *Brokeback Mountain*, libretto by Annie Proulx, the author of the original story, saw a major cultural event worldwide with "[r]epresentatives of more than 100 international media outlets and more than a dozen opera companies [present] at the Teatro Real (an absolute record for opera in Spain) for the *Brokeback* premiere [January 28, 2014]" (*Opera News*). The *Los Angeles Times* extolled the work, stating, "Wuorinen's complex score is beautifully made, excellently colored, carefully detailed and coolly descriptive." Wuorinen's music has been called "maximalist," said to be complex and full, expressive and dramatic, with powerful harmonies, elegantly crafted, recalling music's past, yet with a vision toward its future.

Wuorinen lectured at universities throughout the United States and abroad and served on the faculties of Columbia, Princeton, and Yale



Photo credit: Nina Roberts

universities, the University of Iowa, University of California, San Diego, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, State University of New York at Buffalo, and Rutgers University.

In 1962 he co-founded The Group for Contemporary Music with Harvey Sollberger, the precursor to a large number of contemporary chamber-music ensembles formed in the decades following. He began composing at the age of five, but beyond music, he took considerable interest in fractal geometry, which came to influence his compositional approach, astrophysics, Egyptology, and Chinese calligraphy.

Among many awards, fellowships, and honors, most notably he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Time's Encomium* in 1970--the youngest composer recipient at the time to have won--and a MacArthur Fellowship. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

He is survived by his husband of thirty-two years and manager, Howard Stokar. A comprehensive list of compositions and further details about his life and work can be found at charleswuorinen.com.

If you would like us to remember someone from the neighborhood, please send relevant background information about the person to editor@w102-103blockassn.org.