



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

VOL. 51, NO. 2

Spring Planting

By NANCY GROPPER

IN 2020, THE ANNUAL SPRING PLANTING sponsored by the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association had to be canceled because of COVID-19. In 2021, board member Mark Schneiderman took the initiative to revive the event in conjunction with a Streetopia Earth Day celebration on April 24.

Even though he was out of town, Mark funded the cost of the plants and found volunteers to purchase and transport them to W. 103rd St. With the help of resident Peter Frishauf, a table was set up on West End Ave. Block Association board members Nancy Gropper and Celia Knight covered the table, chatted with passersby, and distributed plants, shovels, and watering cans to those who were eager to beautify tree wells in the neighborhood. By early afternoon all the plants were gone! Happily, a number of people also made donations to the Block Association.

It was a beautiful day!

Join our email list by going to the Block Association website (w102-103blockassn.org)

Open Streets Presentation June 15

DEPENDING ON WHICH DIRECTION your comings and goings take you, you may not have noticed that for the better part of the last year, there have been barricades on the corners of W. 103rd St. at both Broadway and West End Ave. They were put in place as part of the New York City Open Streets initiative, meant to slow vehicular traffic and make it possible for people to safely spread out into the street during the pandemic. Now there's talk of making the arrangement permanent, and perhaps extending it all the way to Central Park, creating a park-to-park corridor of slowed traffic and pedestrian-friendly features.

On Tues., June 15, the Block Association will host a presentation in which Peter Frishauf, a W. 103rd St. resident and champion of the project, will explain the project and answer questions. To receive the link to the Zoom meeting, please email amzoom@w102-103blockassn.org.

Hear more about Open Streets
Tues., June 15, 8 p.m. RSVP for Zoom:
AMZoom@w102-103blockassn.org

Annual Meeting Held on Apr. 13

By CYNTHIA DOTY

THANKS TO ALL FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR for our Block Association, in spite of all the challenges we faced here in New York City and across the nation.

This year our neighbors Zoomed in for our Annual Meeting on Apr. 13. We first reviewed the activities of our past year, including all the presentations celebrating our 50th Anniversary. We thanked Caitlin Hawke for her talk about her building, the St. Andoche, at 855 West End Ave.; Anthony Bellov for his talk about Candela Corners (Rosario Candela's buildings at 865 and 875 West End Ave.); Terence Hanrahan for his photo montage and talk about the Block

Association's events over the years; and Asya and Ted Berger for their talk about the history of the association.

Treasurer Komal Rathi gave the annual financial report and Bob Aaronson reported on the guard service. Then the board members were introduced and elected by a voice vote.

Hedy Campbell presented the awards to our newest inductees into the Neighborhood Hall of Fame, Elliott Shapiro and Jill Chase. Congratulations to them, with thanks for sharing their personal stories and memories.

We announced the upcoming events and then adjourned, after which we held our monthly board meeting.

Thanks again to all who attended.

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

info@w102-103blockassn.org

Hedy Campbell, editor; Amy Edelman, copy editor; Ariana Koblitz, designer; Terence Hanrahan, advertising manager. 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

Our security guard makes rounds seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. To report neighborhood security issues to the guard or to request his assistance, call him at (646) 772-2240.

**BLOCK ASSOCIATION
MEETINGS**

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

June 15

July 13 (tentative)

Aug. 10 (tentative)

Help Wanted

Tech Support:

We've become aware that our database isn't as well coordinated with our email list as it should be. If you have tech skills and can help us take bigger steps into the modern age, we'd be glad to have you. Contact alexisbillie@gmail.com if you can lend a hand.

TriBloomingdale Liaison:

The TriBloomingdale Initiative unites our Block Association with Bloomingdale Aging in Place and the West 104th Street Block Association. In-person activities had been largely curtailed because of the pandemic, but now we're starting to look toward resuming activities. If the pandemic taught us anything, it is the importance of the social fabric and connectedness. If you are a good bridge builder, this is the job for you. You'll work with our Block Association, BAiP, and the West 104th Street Block Association to build activities of all sorts, involving neighbors of all ages. Contact caitlinhawke@mac.com

Open Streets Culture Liaison:

In conjunction with the Open Streets and Open Restaurants programs, New York City launched Open Culture earlier this spring. It allows for performances, workshops, and classes to take place out of doors on streets that have received the Open Streets designation. Since we have the space, we're inclined to use it for cultural events; showcasing local talent, of which there's plenty right here in Block Association territory, is priority one. Can you help with this initiative? Contact info@w102-103blockassn.org.

**UPCOMING BLOCK
ASSOCIATION EVENTS**

Open Streets

Tues., June 15, 8 p.m.

Primary Election

Tues., June 22

Fall Newsletter

Early September

2021 BLOCK ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CYNTHIA DOTY

Chair

BOB AARONSON

Guard Service, Spring Block Party

HEDY CAMPBELL

Newsletter, Caroling

AMY EDELMAN

Newsletter

NANCY GROPPER

at large

CELIA KNIGHT

Recording Secretary

GINGER LEIF

Archivist, WSF liaison

SUE MADERER

Co-treasurer

KOMAL RATHI

Co-treasurer

MARK SCHNEIDERMAN

Trees / Tree wells

ALEXIS JAMES WAGGONER

Email list / Publicity

Crime Blotter

NYPD REPORTS A SHOOTING **C**LOSE TO HOME

The NYPD CompStat map confirms a report submitted that at around 2:00 a.m. on Sun., May 2, two teenagers walking near the corner of W. 104th St. and Amsterdam Ave. were shot. According to the *West Side Rag* and PIX11, the shooter was a man who got out of a white sedan and began firing at the men. He then returned to the car and left the scene. Both men were taken to Mount Sinai Morningside hospital for treatment. As far as we know, an investigation is in progress.

Test Your Memory, Benefit Science All at Once

OUR FRIENDS AT BAI^P have made us aware of a study that is being conducted by Columbia University. It's called Concerns About Memory Problems (CAMP) and is open to anyone who is an English-speaking person age 50 or older and has no diagnosed neurologic conditions. You can participate in the study in person or via Zoom; the assessment of memory, thinking ability, and mood takes between one and two hours. A feedback report about the participant's cognitive ability will be shared with the participant. Call (347) 803-5231 or email memoryconcerns@cumc.columbia.edu with questions or for more information.

BAi^P disseminates information about aging studies to its members whenever a new study is posted. Write to agingstudies@bloominplace.org to be added to the email list. If you're not yet a member, go to bloominplace.org/membership.html to join. The only requirement is that you live in the neighborhood bordered by W. 96th St. and W. 110th St. south to north, and

Central Park West and Riverside Dr. east to west. Membership is free, the online form is easy to fill out, and the roster of activities and benefits that are available to members is enormous!



Con Ed Fines Can Be Reversed

HAVE YOU RECENTLY BEEN slapped with a \$100 charge from Con Ed for not scheduling a gas-pipe inspection in a timely manner? If so, and if you have reason to believe this was charged in error (you never got the letter warning you about it; you scheduled it in a timely manner; or the inspector couldn't come within the time frame required), the best recourse is to file a complaint with the NYS Dept. of Public Service, supplying as much detail as you can, including a photo of the inspection sticker if you actually had the inspection, and any other information, such as whether you ever received the two letters or postcard they claim they sent, what date the inspection was, and

so forth.

Here is the link to the online form: www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/Al1/755C4F39A58C924C85257B2F0067FCA5 or you can call (800) 342-3377, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

You will be assigned a case number, DPS will contact Con Ed, and then Con Ed will contact you—many of our neighbors got the charges reversed within a few days of filing the complaint, while calls directly to Con Ed elicited vague promises that the situation would be “reviewed” in a month or two.

Good luck!

Free Summertime Events on the UWS

By DAYLE VANDER SANDE

ONE OF THE MAIN PRIVILEGES OF LIVING where we do is to have two major parks nearby, where we can bask in greenery, exercise, people- (and dog-) watch, and simply take in the weather, especially during the summer. What's even more amazing is to have free activities, entertainment, and opportunities for education and enrichment available in these public spaces. Yet these often go overlooked and untapped. As pandemic restrictions are being lifted, New Yorkers are seeking social interaction and hands-on activity. Here are some free happenings to check out if getting out your apartment door is your desire for summer 2021. Some schedules hadn't been nailed down when we went to press, so make sure to check the links for up-to-date information.

SUMMERSTAGE

Capital One City Parks Foundation SummerStage [cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage] is New York's largest free outdoor performing arts festival. In a typical year, SummerStage presents approximately 100 performances in 15–18 parks throughout the five boroughs, including all sorts of music, dance, and theater. Most SummerStage events also can be enjoyed virtually with SummerStage Anywhere [cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage-anywhere]

CHARLIE PARKER JAZZ FESTIVAL

Each year, some of the finest musicians in the world gather to promote appreciation for the highly influential and world-renowned artist Charlie Parker. This celebration of jazz in New York brings together both veterans and the next generation of jazz artists. The festival returns this year to Marcus

Garvey Park, Aug. 28–29! Visit cityparksfoundation.org/charlieparker for details.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

The Delacorte Theater in Central Park gears up for a return of Free Shakespeare in the Park, July 6–Aug. 29, with a fresh adaptation by Jocelyn Bioh of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, directed by Saheem Ali, and set in South Harlem amid the West African immigrant community. For more details, check with publictheater.org for updates.

HUDSON WAREHOUSE THEATER: SHAKESPEARE IN RIVERSIDE PARK

The Upper West Side has had its own classical theater in Riverside Park at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Riverside Dr. and W. 89th St. for the past 13 years, and the

(continued on page 6)

Climate and the New York City Candidates

By SHARON WASKOW
IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

WITH NEW YORK CITY ELECTIONS COMING UP, now is the time to become familiar with the various candidates' positions on the critical issues we face. We hear them speak about economic recovery, education reform, affordable housing, and more, but what about climate? Will we have a viable city to live in if we don't tackle climate change?

Consider some of the specific threats climate change poses to our city:

- Sea-level rise/beach erosion
- Heat waves
- More rain, snow, and violent storms
- Increase in mosquitoes and ticks
- More air pollution, leading to asthma and lung disease

What needs to change in the city to protect us from these outcomes? Here are some of the ideas current candidates for public office propose:

- Double the solar tax abatement to encourage move to solar power
- Plant more trees in parks to curb air pollution
- Ensure that city and privately owned buildings are on track to meet emissions-reduction targets
- Remove environmental hazards in low-income communities
- Shift to high-efficiency, low-emission forms of public transportation
- Upgrade wastewater-treatment plants to convert organic waste to renewable energy
- Support robust natural buffers along the coast, including restored wetlands, oyster reefs, dunes, and other living-shoreline approaches

To help you decide whom to vote for, here are links to the climate plans of many of the current candidates for public office. (Not all candidates have posted plans.)

Mayor

Art Chang: www.chang.nyc/climatechange

Shaun Donovan: shaunfornyc.com/issues/climate/

Aaron Foldenauer: aaronfornyc.com/issues/environment/

Kathryn Garcia: www.kgfornyc.com/policy/climate-change/

Dianne Morales: www.dianne.nyc/green

Scott Stringer: stringerformayor.com/plans/climate-action/

Maya Wiley: mayawileyformayor.com/maya-wileys-community-first-climate-action-plan/

Andrew Yang: www.yangfornyc.com/policies/our-environment

Upper West Side City Council

Shaun Abreu: shaunabreu.nyc/shauns-vision/

Dan Cohen: www.cohen2021.com/issues

Marti Cummings: www.martiformanhattan.com/platform-1

Stacy Lynch: www.stacyforcitycouncil.com/environmental-justice

Maria Ordoñez: mariaordonez.nyc/our-platform/

Manhattan Borough President

Brad Holyman: www.bradhoylman.com/myplatform

Ben Kallos: kallos.nyc/idea/climate-emergency

For a complete list of candidates running for citywide office in New York City on June 22, consult nycffb.info/follow-the-money/candidates. Most important of all, vote!

It's Easy Being Green is your neighborhood climate-education and personal-action group. Find us at www.itseasybeinggreen.org/

Residential Composting Will Return! But Why Wait?

By JANET HARVILCHUCK

The Pre-Pandemic Scenario

I live at 300 Riverside Dr., on the north corner of 102nd St. My building, like many in the neighborhood, participated in the composting program sponsored by the city; we were given brown bins and encouraged to put vegetable and fruit scraps in. The Sanitation Department emptied the bins on a regular basis and took the contents to various composting operations around the city. But soon after the onset of the pandemic, the mayor announced that he was suspending composting pickups at residential buildings, and although composting at greenmarkets had been an alternative, that option was to be closed as well.

New Developments

Good news! The city announced in April that it will restart the program. Buildings interested in participating must opt in in August and the pickups will begin again in October.

So what can you do in these months till October?

First, contact your co-op board or landlord. Tell them that you want them to do the sustainable thing and opt in to the composting program in August. That way, your building will start composting in October.

Next, start composting now! The greenmarkets are accepting compost again. We started at my building and it was easy! Here's the scoop!

When composting came back to the Friday greenmarket at W. 97th St. (between Amsterdam Ave. and Columbus Ave.), I walked my food scraps the few blocks that morning. But some of my neighbors couldn't do that because of job or child-care responsibilities or physical constraints.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Composting

One day it came to me. If I was walking over to the greenmarket every Friday, why not roll over one of the brown bins too? I checked with our super and he told me that he had the bins. I checked with our co-op board and got the OK to restart the program. I wrote an email to all the residents of our building, informing them of my plan and inviting them to participate.

The reaction was unbelievably positive! Many neighbors expressed their gratitude and several offered to help wheel the bins over on Friday mornings. It has been a big success!

I will be happy to share with you the letter I wrote to my neighbors and any advice you need so you can restart composting in your building. Just contact me at jharvilchuck@hotmail.com.

By starting now, you can help your neighbors get back into the habit of composting. And you will keep hundreds of pounds of food scraps from going to the landfill and instead divert them so they can create new soil!

What can I compost?

The rule that's easy to remember is "No animal products except eggshells."

Here are the details:

YES!

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- non-greasy food scraps (rice, pasta, bread, grains, cereal)
- coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
- egg shells
- nuts
- cut flowers and houseplants, potting soil

NO!

- meat or fish
- bones
- dairy
- fat, oil, greasy food scraps
- animal waste
- charcoal
- coconuts
- insect-infested plants, plastics, twist ties, rubber bands, or receipts
- **Please don't put any plastic bags into the bin.**

How should I store my food scraps?

Food scraps can be collected in reusable containers, paper bags, or plastic bags. To reduce odors at home and at the collection sites, store items in the freezer or refrigerator. (I use big yogurt containers on the door of my freezer.)

Neighbors: Join the Party!

My dream is to see a parade of neighbors rolling brown bins from their buildings en route to the greenmarket on Friday mornings this summer!

It's Easier to Recycle Now

IF YOU LIVE IN A BUILDING that has 10 or more units, your building can apply to be a part of refashionNYC and recycleNYC. They're programs through which the Department of Sanitation supplies individual buildings with storage units in which textiles and electronics can be deposited for collection. You can get information about the programs at the DOS website. The applications for each program are there as well.

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

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 TUESDAY NIGHTS **9PM**

ILANA IL LOBET
FRAMING STUDIO



ILANALOBETFRAMING.COM

BY APPOINTMENT

212 665 3666 B 917 968 2347 C

ILOBFR@AOL.COM

310 RIVERSIDE DRIVE SUITE 2011 NY NY 10025

(continued from page 3)

Summertime

Hudson Warehouse Theater returns in 2021 with *Love's Labour's Lost* (Thursdays–Sundays, July 1–25, at 6:30 p.m.). A second show may be scheduled for August. Follow the company's Facebook page [[facebook.com/HudsonWarehouse](https://www.facebook.com/HudsonWarehouse)] or website [[hudsonwarehouse.org](https://www.hudsonwarehouse.org)] for updates. They have recently become the official theater-in-residence at the Goddard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Avenue, with shows all year.

FILMS IN NYC PARKS

Films in the parks have become a ubiquitous phenomenon in recent years such that you can find programming in every borough. As venues are too numerous to mention, it is best to bookmark these sites to keep up on what is being shown where this summer: [nycinsiderguide.com/outdoor-movies-nyc](https://www.nycinsiderguide.com/outdoor-movies-nyc) and [donyc.com/p/guide-to-summer-movies-in-the-park](https://www.donyc.com/p/guide-to-summer-movies-in-the-park).

So, if an online social life has you parked at home longing for human contact and fresh air, zoom into summer at Riverside and Central Parks! The list above is in no way comprehensive, and the links often have ongoing calendars and other related programs. Only one request other than to enjoy yourself: The pandemic is still with us, so please continue to follow COVID protocol protections when socializing. We still need to keep one another safe as we move forward. The latest updates on New York City COVID guidelines can be found at the website www1.nyc.gov.

Yes, This Really Did Take Place in the Spring of 2021

By PETER FRISHAUF

WERE IT NOT FOR MASKS, one could easily have mistaken the activities in our neighborhood on April 24 for celebratory times prior to COVID-19. Hundreds of people came together to celebrate Earth Day and look to a more pedestrian-friendly future for our neighborhood.

Outside, socially distanced, masked, and largely vaccinated, we were safe and celebratory at an Earth Day #StreetArts103 event, a glimpse of a better future. On the corner of West End Ave. and W. 103rd St., the Block Association provided plants for residents, generously purchased as a donation by board member/Green Committee chair Mark Schneiderman, and supervised by board members Bob Aaronson and Nancy Gropper.

On W. 103rd St., our very own Open Street, there was great fun as local performers, artists, podcasters, artists, and politicians (two candidates

for mayor, nine for city council, one for civil court judge, and one for Manhattan borough president) joined in. The event, which included a survey of participants about a park-to-park Open Street, connecting Central Park and Riverside Park and everyone in between (more info: [@parktopark103](https://twitter.com/parktopark103) on Twitter), was organized by the nonprofit Open Plans and their local affiliate Streetopia Upper West Side, and sponsored by the New York City Department of Transportation and Department of Cultural Affairs, in cooperation with the City Council.

The pictures here tell the story. On the web, you can find videos, podcasts, and even a clever little TikTok. For a three-minute clip of the event, search for "[Joy on 103rd Street video](#)."

To learn more about the plans for the W. 103rd St. corridor, come to the Block Association Zoom presentation on Tues., June 15, at 8 p.m. Email AMZoom@w102-103blockassn.org to receive the link.



Kids having fun celebrating Earth Day. Photo: Anne Leone



Jody Sperling/Time Lapse Dance. Photo: Peter Frishauf

JAMES PEREZ

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

BROWN HARRIS STEVENS Residential Sales, LLC

1926 Broadway, New York, New York 10023

[BROWNHARRISSTEVENS.COM](https://www.brownharrisstevens.com)

Tel 212.588.5656 Cell 917.902.7193 Fax 212.418.9763

Email jperez@bhsusa.com

GRAPE COLLECTIVE



**Great New Selections
Compare Our Prices**

Visit [GrapeCollective.com](https://www.GrapeCollective.com)

2669 Broadway (102 St)

212-222-3640

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

**Over 80 Winemaker Videos
on Our Website**

BAiP Honors Its COVID Heroes

By MARIAN ANDERSON AND PHYLLIS SPERLING

BAiP (BLOOMINGDALE AGING IN PLACE), a community of volunteers, helps our neighbors live vital and active lives in a variety of ways: by establishing educational and social groups, by sponsoring free wellness classes, and by lending a hand on a one-to-one basis. Volunteerism is the very culture of this 11-year-old organization, which boasts more than 1,400 members.

In these unusual times of COVID restrictions, volunteerism has never been more important. As the pandemic took hold, our members suddenly could no longer meet in living rooms or walk together outside. There were no more social hours in the park or wellness classes in community spaces. Very early on, BAiP realized how sequestered our members had become and endeavored to ease the social isolation. With COVID-19, we had little time to plan, but we were deliberate. The goal was clear—we had to keep our neighbors connected. We decided to see if we could deliver our programs virtually, through on-line media. And we did.

We began our transition to delivering our programs virtually with one person who took the lead, Caitlin Hawke. Using the train-the-trainer model, she began the process of demystifying Zoom, the platform that became the link between our homes and those who existed outside our homes—our BAiP neighbors. With a call-out for volunteers to assist with what seemed then to be a monumental task—getting members with dramatically varying levels of comfort with technology to use Zoom skills—members responded, often themselves learning about Zoom and giving of themselves tirelessly. And so our programs were brought into people's living rooms: wellness classes, presentations, BAiP/LIVE!, and about half of our 85 groups.

Two special teams of volunteers served as an underpinning to keep

BAiP members connected and the organization growing over the past year, our Zoom and Tech Squads. On Apr. 6, 2021, BAiP recognized the exceptional contributions that these volunteers have made over the past year, and awarded them its highest honor, the Sands Award.

THE TECH SQUAD

The Tech Squad, a BAiP staple for many years, has traditionally helped BAiP neighbors with computer devices and minor household repairs, but with this crisis it expanded its numbers to meet ever-increasing needs. In pandemic lockdown, the now-10-member squad transitioned from providing in-home help to handling requests using Zoom or telephone. In 2020, the team managed 136 requests from 89 members, a 288% increase from 2019. The Squad arranged classes to teach Zoom and tutored individuals in its use. In addition, they helped people acquire or update their skills. All along, they helped solve hardware and software issues. Special thanks go to Teresa Elwert, who has led the Tech Squad these last few years. Her problem-solving savvy and quick response to members' requests was above and beyond the call of duty.

The Tech Squad members are Bob Aaronson, Thea Callender, Teresa Elwert, Jennie Kline, Kathie Kuhlman, David Reich, Marlene Schonbrun, Henry Siegel, Larry Sikon, and Bill Williams.

THE ZOOM SQUAD

With the increasing numbers of programs offered on Zoom, it soon became clear that a dedicated Zoom Squad was needed. Lo-Yi Chan stepped up to lead this effort and, with a cross-over of three members from the Tech Squad, increased the number of people trained to host and provide technical support for large-group gatherings delivered via Zoom. Now with 15 members, they have individually and collectively contributed to keeping BAiP members

healthy, informed, and entertained by hosting and providing technical support to BAiP's four weekly wellness classes and monthly large-group gatherings, including BAiP Presents, Hurray for Hollywood, and BAiP/LIVE!

The Zoom Squad members are Barbara Burns, Jon Cardon, Lo-Yi Chan, Mary Kay Conwell, Teresa Elwert, Kathleen Haskins, Pat Keeton, Bonnie Mairs, David Reich, Marlene Schonbrun, Pat Schuett, Gil Tauber, Isabella Calisi-Wagner, Jandy Warner, and Robin Willner.

SPECIAL AWARD

BAiP also extended a Special Award to Barbara Burns for leading the design of a new member database, BAiP/GAP, which provides protected access to the membership and activities database. Barbara also contributed her technical skills to the launch of many BAiP programs and activities on the Zoom platform.

The pandemic has challenged us in unforeseen ways. BAiP's treasure trove of volunteers once again stepped up in an admirable manner to meet each challenge. Congratulations and thanks to those who were recognized and who continually lend a helping hand in support of the BAiP mission.

BAiP membership is free to 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. For information about how to volunteer, email: info@bloominplace.org or call us at (212) 842-8831.

Marian Anderson is chair of the BAiP Presents Planning Committee, chair of the BAiP Inclusion and Diversity Initiative, and a former BAiP board member

Phyllis Sperling is co-chair of the BAiP Activities Committee, co-producer of BAiP/LIVE!, and a former BAiP board member

2021 Neighborhood Hall of Fame Inductees

By HEDY CAMPBELL

I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD to introducing our inductees to our Neighborhood Hall of Fame, but I must admit that I feel especially pleased to be able to say that both of our honorees have a long history of participation in the Block Association. To be truthful, though, until recently I was only aware that one of them, Jill Chase, had been involved in the organization. For many years she was always on duty at the refreshments table of the annual Halloween Parade and Party. But last winter, watching Asya and Ted Berger's wonderful presentation about the Block Association's early years, I was delighted to spy our other inductee, Elliott Shapiro, holding a mic on a stage at an early Block Party, predating my involvement in Block Association activities by a number of years. On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank both for their contributions to the organization.

Jill and Elliott share something else in common: They both moved into the neighborhood in the same year, 1971. Because there's only a few months' difference in their tenure, I'm opting to introduce them to you alphabetically, beginning with Jill.

JILL CHASE

Most of the people I've interviewed for the Hall of Fame have an interesting story to tell me about how they found their apartments. Among the many distinctions that make Jill the unusual person I know her to be, she moved into her apartment at 865 West End Ave. having never laid eyes on it. Her husband found it for them while she was stuck in the hospital with an illness. Obviously it was to her liking, as she's remained here ever since!

Jill had moved around plenty before putting down her roots in our neighborhood. She was born in Holland, and in order to escape the Nazis, was hidden by nuns in an orphanage. She moved here at fifteen, living at first in Brooklyn, then for a short time in Los Angeles with her

sister while attending high school. Soon after returning to New York, she met and married her husband, Murray Chase. They owned a fabric store that was originally located in the West Eighties, but later moved to W. 106th St. It was during that time that Jill picked up Spanish, her fourth language, in addition to Dutch, Yiddish, and English. She also had two children, a son and a daughter, who have since given her four granddaughters, one of whom currently lives with her, and a grandson. She also has a niece and two nephews.

In addition to helping run the fabric store, over the years, Jill has worn many additional hats: She worked at the American Electric Power Company; she was a promotion model at Macy's; she ran a household for a millionaire; she ran a construction company; she's been a child-care provider and a street vendor. She gave us both a chuckle when she remarked that she's peddled everything but herself!

Clearly, the common thread throughout Jill's lifetime has not been pursuing a specific career, but providing support for the most vulnerable in whatever way she can. She's known in her building and in the neighborhood as a valuable resource. She collects castoff clothing and household goods and redistributes them to various people, charities, and institutions, including a hospital for undernourished children, all over the world. You may have seen Jill behind her table at our Block Parties, selling all manner of goods; the proceeds from those sales become charitable donations as well. She puts her rationale very simply, "I like to make people feel better."

She loves to read, loves animals, and loves to cook and bake, giving away the proceeds to friends and neighbors. She also has participated in research studies, hoping that what science can learn from her will help others.

As I do with all of our 50-year residents, I asked Jill to identify what has remained the same about the neighborhood and what's changed. "I still don't need to go downtown

for anything," she said, reflecting on the variety of stores that continue to be found along Broadway despite the many vacancies. Crime is way less of a problem, Jill observed, and the neighborhood is much safer.



ELLIOTT SHAPIRO

A lifelong New York City resident, except for a brief sojourn in Nassau County, Elliott moved into a furnished flat in the Master Apartments that was meant to be temporary, on Valentine's Day, 1971. In a way, it was temporary; he moved from that east-facing apartment across the hall to a west-facing one.

Elliott spent his professional life as a lawyer, working first as an assistant district attorney in the Bronx and then as a criminal defense lawyer in Manhattan, serving in the Army's JAG Corps along the way. After chatting with him, I got the sense that being a lawyer had been his day job, a means to support himself and allow him to explore a diverse menu of outside interests. He loves to travel. He is much involved in the arts: He's a painter and a photographer, a songwriter and musician, who plays the bamboo flute, guitar, piano, and banjo, and has participated in BAiP's poetry group and a DOROT storytelling group. He was a jogger when the craze first took off, and practices yoga and Tai Chi. Although his apartment kitchen is not big enough to support meal preparation, recent access to farmers' markets and a real kitchen during an out-of-the-city visit to his sister sparked his interest in cooking.

Elliott's recollections of the neighborhood when he moved in are full of references to favorite restaurants and shops that are no longer. He remembers dining at the Ideal restaurant, as well as at a cafeteria that was on the second floor of the building that now houses McDonald's. He misses the old-school European

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Inductees

bakeries that were common fixtures, and the health food restaurants that were popular in the 1980s and 1990s.

Like Sally Jo Sandelin, another 50-year resident, whom we introduced in January, Elliott also remembers a time when his building was filled with colorful characters who enjoyed casually socializing with one another. Some would congregate around the pay phone in the lobby. The other residents on his floor, all of them women, retired teachers and social workers, chatted in the hallway. He was a frequent guest at the weekly salon hosted by another resident, crossing paths with an ever-evolving cast of notables, including psychologist Rollo May and British cellist Jacqueline du Pré.

He notices that the population of the neighborhood overall has changed as well. There are fewer artists and performers than ever before. In fact he recalls that the competition to get a cab downtown an hour before a weekend evening performance at Lincoln Center or on Broadway was fierce, with instrument-toting musicians usually carrying the day. And he remembers that when he switched jobs and started taking the subway downtown from W. 103rd St. to Chambers St., he stood out for being the only one on the platform dressed in a coat and tie.

Like Jill, he is very aware of the decrease in crime on our streets. His car was broken into so often that he stopped locking it. He was mugged twice as well, and remembers with gratitude that in one of the incidents, Len Tredanari, a Block Association founder, scared off the attackers.

The architectural integrity of the neighborhood is one element that has remained constant, Elliott observed, including the contrast between the large buildings on the avenues and the townhouses on the side streets. He also feels that the neighborhood's solidity, and the stability afforded by the unchanging nature of the park and the river, has remained the same all these years.

ON BROADWAY: The Price of a Quart of Milk

By NANCY GROPPER

[Ed: Since there isn't much new to report about the comings and goings of businesses on Broadway, our trusty correspondent has chosen instead to ruminate about milk, her memories of the old milk deliveries when she was growing up, and current prices on Broadway. We hope to have news about the post-pandemic revival of our local stores and eateries in our next issue.]

BORN IN 1944, I MAY HAVE SEEN the last horse-drawn milk truck in Brooklyn. Around 1947, while sitting at the kitchen table for breakfast, I looked out onto Avenue I at the corner of Ocean Avenue. There I saw our milkman leave his truck to make deliveries to an apartment building across the street. With great pleasure, I then observed his horse step up onto the sidewalk, pulling the milk truck behind him, in order to munch on the hedges that abutted the building the milkman had entered,

By 1952 we were no longer getting our milk delivered to our apartment door and my mother felt comfortable giving my older sister and me a quarter and sending us off to buy a quart of

milk at the local grocery, which was five blocks away. That memory got me thinking about the cost of milk now, compared to back then.

What is the price of milk on Broadway today? Well, I already knew that "it depends." I did a bit of comparison-shopping, going into chain groceries, mini-marts, and even a drugstore, all on Broadway between W. 96th St. and W. 110th St. I found the price of a quart to be as low as \$1.49 and as high as \$1.99---a range of 50 cents. But even at the highest price, the inflation rate for milk since 1952 is only 8%, less than the overall inflation rate of 10% for that period of 69 years. This assuaged my guilt at choosing convenience over cost when I run out of milk for my coffee and am too lazy to walk a few extra blocks to save some money.

But of course this says nothing about the inflation rate for the cost of housing since 1952! Another story for another time.

Here is a link to explore if you are curious about the price of milk going back in time. www.tasteofhome.com/article/heres-the-price-of-milk-the-year-you-were-born/



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

Flower Power: In Search of the Abolafias of Bloomingdale

By MICHAEL ABOLAFIA

LOUIS ABOLAFIA, BORN IN 1941 to a Sephardic Jewish family living at 200 W. 102nd St. (near the corner of Amsterdam Ave.), is a lesser known, but nonetheless vivid, blossom in Bloomingdale's flowery history. The Abolafia family settled in the Bloomingdale neighborhood in the 1930s; my great-grandfather, Vital (Victor) Abolafia, arrived at Ellis Island from Gallipoli in May 1921, part of a wave of immigration that brought some 70,000 Sephardim to America's shores, many from the Ottoman Empire ports of Salonica, Izmir, and Gallipoli. The Abolafias operated a pushcart that sold flowers throughout the neighborhood until opening a stall at the corner of W. 103rd St. and Broadway, which my grandfather, Irving, ran until the early 1970s. Louis Abolafia, the youngest of the siblings (there was also Oscar, the well-known celebrity photographer; and Rebecca), attended Booker T. Washington Junior High (MS 54), on W. 107th St. and Columbus Ave., from 1953 to 1955; one of his classmates, Frank Vazquez, remembered Louis—and the neighborhood—this way:

In the 1950's the Upper West Side of Manhattan was a dynamic mixing pot of diversity of socio-economic, ethnic and racial groups. Our orchestra class was a microcosm of the neighbourhood; the bass player came from Norway, a cellist's parents were blind newspaper sellers, a French horn player's father was a refugee psychiatrist from Nazi Germany, the first violin was a girl born in Mexico, a trumpet player's family of Sephardic Jews had a flower stand by the 103rd St. Broadway subway station. We had middle class children whose parents were physicians, and working class children whose parents were janitors. [Keep (It) Swinging blog, Dec. 14, 2009]

Louis's musical talents earned him a spot at the High School of Music & Art, where he cultivated the artistic interests and ambitions that would propel him into the countercultural limelight in the ensuing decades. He

later achieved notoriety as a 24-year-old artist, staging public hunger strikes against institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art because they excluded the works of living artists from their storied halls.

From his small E. 4th St. storefront on the Lower East Side, Abolafia, as the "Cosmic Love" candidate, launched a series of incendiary political campaigns—for mayor of New York, for governor, and for president—that transformed his studio into a nerve center of the revolution. It also served as a runaway shelter, where Abolafia helped reunite youth with their concerned families. Longtime New Yorkers may be able to summon a vision of his flyers affixed to lampposts across the city during the Summer of Love, emblazoned with the headline "I have nothing to hide." He appeared on all the talk shows and radio stations, bringing hippiedom to the airwaves on WBAI, *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, *The Merv Griffin Show*, and spangled across the pages of the *East Village Other*. Known as the "Love King," he counted among his friends and collaborators Bob Dylan, Andy Warhol, John and Yoko, Yayoi Kusama, and other luminaries.

While I was growing up, my father and aunt would regale our family with near-fantasy tales of their larger-than-life uncle Louis, who would appear at their childhood home spinning around in a handmade cape—looking part magician, part mystic. For them it was "Uncle Louie time!"—for me it is legend, a figure whose abstract expressionist paintings spilled out into my childhood, fascinating me with their explosive colors and mysterious, feminine personae, and whose life story catapulted me into a Manhattan that seems all but lost.

Since graduating from Columbia University in 2017, I've been working to expand my tree of family knowledge, and I'm hoping to connect with those who remember Louis and the Abolafias of Bloomingdale. It was heartening to see Louis's inclusion in Jim Mackin's

incredible *Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side*, and in a recent blog post by poet and Columbia University School of the Arts professor Alan Ziegler ("My Visit with Louis Abolafia," *Best American Poetry blog*, December 2019).

Neighbors, your memories about my family, Louis, the flower stand, and the old neighborhood have sustained me in my quest, which feels increasingly like a series of pitched battles with Time. I would be grateful to hear from those who knew or remember the flower stall; my Yippie great-uncle and his quixotic doings across Manhattan; (Sephardic) Bloomingdale in the 1950s; or anything else you feel interested to share. What better time to remember fertile cultural moments than this inflection point, as our city stands once more on the cusp of rebirth?

Michael Abolafia (W. 86th St.)
mja2181@columbia.edu



Louis Abolafia in front of his campaign headquarters/runaway shelter/studio at 129 E. 4th St. Photo: AP/Shutterstock

Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

A virtual 1845 wedding, a Riverside Park printmaking event, a lottery for outdoor Chamber Music Society tickets, a new country-music talent in our midst, and more . . .

ANTHONY BELLOV

Anthony, a staunch and longime supporter of the Merchant's House Museum, is producing and acting in an immersive video experience for it. *Dearly Beloved* is a reenactment of the 1845 courtship and wedding of Elizabeth Tredwell, whose family actually lived in the house at the time. It will be filmed in the parlor of this 1832 home, which has been preserved, complete with period furniture and possessions. A \$10 nonmember ticket provides unlimited access to the video **Thurs., June 10 through Sun., June 13.** A \$15 ticket admits you to the premiere, **Wed. June 9, 6 p.m.**, and the Q&A afterward. www.merchantshouse.org

VITA WALLACE/WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD!

What a Neighborhood! presents an outdoor printmaking workshop **Sat., June 12, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.**, on the west side of Riverside Dr. at 113th St. Artist Lysander Puccio will guide people of all ages in making two prints on fabric—one to take home, one to adorn future neighborhood events. Members of the Accord-O-Leles will play live music. Free, but email orfeoduo@gmail.com or text (212) 666-0928 for more information, especially in case of rain.

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

Free tickets to a pod for two at outdoor CMS concerts during **June and early July** are available only by lottery. Go to www.chambermusicsociety.org/nyc/events/ and set up a lottery alert for yourself.

BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The music school, at 323 W. 108th St., plans a summer hybrid program, virtual and in person, for children of all ages. Go to its website for information: www.bsmny.org/

MARY JO PAGANO/CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER

The Chamber Music Center of New York, which Mary Jo founded and directs, will also have a blended virtual/in-person summer program for teenagers and younger students.

Go to its website to apply: www.chambermusiccenter.org. While you're there, click on the blue stripe at the top of the screen to see a delightful video about a Zoom concert in June 20 that combined the New York players with another youth orchestra in Switzerland.

KATE MCLEOD

Kate, actor in musical theater and frequent contributor to this newsletter, has recently tried something new and recorded three songs for which she wrote the music and lyrics. Go to soundcloud.com and put "girldriverusa" in the search bar and you will get to her songs for free. All are written in folk country style. The first is about love gone bad, the next is a journey song, and the third is about unrequited love. The first, "Bad Actor," is my favorite.

SUSAN C DESSEL

Local artist susan c dessel is a contributor to *The Art of Being Dangerous: Exploring Women and Danger Through Creative Expression*. This collection of feminist art, which includes 50 contemporary artists and writers with varying identities and creative forms, explores what it means to be a dangerous woman. Just released, it can be purchased, preferably from Cornell University Press (www.cornellpress.cornell.edu), or else Amazon.

PETER AND WILL ANDERSON

This saxophone duo performs with other jazz musicians in Riverside Park at W. 106th St. **every Saturday and Sunday, 3:00–5:00 p.m.**, at least until they start getting gigs again. peterandwillanderson.com/

RIVERSIDE CLAY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The much-beloved sunset concerts are on hold so far this year because of the pandemic. To see if they will start up again, check rcta.tennisgroups.us/rcta/summer-concerts/.

MARK WISNIEWSKI AND ELIZABETH COFFEY

Mark and Elizabeth continue to seek short stories for their inaugural volume, *Cooler American Stories Anthology*. Stories by a Pulitzer Prize finalist and a recent winner of a major book award are already slated to be in it. Don't let that intimidate you—submit no matter who you are: www.cooleramericanstories.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 Fall 2021 Newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!



THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

RESIDENTS

235 W. 102 ST.

Abhyankar/Behrstock
Antonino
Awner
Baxter
Berens
E. Davis
Fair/Guide
Greene
Kirkpatrick
Knight
Koffler
Lin
Lyman
Martinez
O'Hanlon
Patterson/Praserdsuwan
Rabbai
Scott
Spital
Timperley
Van Buskirk
B. Williams
Wilson
Zetlan

240 W. 102 ST.

Cope/Becker
Ellis
Fish/Davis
Fishman
Flanagan/Hopkins
Kalish
Kennedy
Nissenbaum/Kim
Worman/Chun

247 W. 102 ST.

Robbins

252 W. 102 ST.

Carroll/Musk

254 W. 102 ST.

Moshier/Sagi

307 W. 102 ST.

Zakaria

309 W. 102 ST.

Wishengrad

310 W. 102 ST.

Albert

315 W. 102 ST.

Knox
Weil

320 W. 102 ST.

Brail

250 W. 103 ST.

Agathocleous
Katzner
Mulkin/Robertson
Rahmani
Soskin
Sue/Lin
Wall
Weinstein/Meislin

254 W. 103 ST.

Doherty

305 W. 103 ST.

Bertin

307 W. 103 ST.

Bridger/Paul

308 W. 103 ST.

Ellis/Lifchitz
Naruo
Roskam
Verzar

312 W. 103 ST.

Aaronson

315 W. 103 ST.

Kleidon / Ahmed

855 WEST END AVE.

Ausubel
Crain
Ehrenfeld
Huey
Koblitz

858 WEST END AVE.

Regensburg

865 WEST END AVE.

Axelrod
Beels
Blumm/Snell-Blumm
Carroll/Bartlik
Chase
Krasner/Perchanok
Lowenthal
Machlin
Mao
Nye
Sands
Zakrzewski

870 WEST END AVE.

Stokar

875 WEST END AVE.

Babush/Catalano
Barbor
Beilenson
Borinstein/Vartanian
Canin
Canin/Sauer
DeCurtis
Drath/Sieger
Felton
Fricke/Klimley
Grosch/Fisch
Hopkins
Issacharoff
Keane
Lasher
Levin
N. Levine
T. Levine
Lohr/Trucco
Malatzky
McDermott
Meyer
Roberts
Rogers
Rosenfeld/Stein
M. Stein
P. Stein
Straw/Gubitosa
Ward
Yahr
Yood/Helfrich

878 WEST END AVE.

S. Adams
Barrett/Dubitsky
Butler/Rybski
Feinberg Alvarez
Frizell/Smith
Gross/Ochshorn
Lansdale
Lawrey
Orr/Robbins
Sagalyn/Hack
Schachter
Stearns
Winograd

884 WEST END AVE.

Colas
Cutler/Young
Davis
Fisch/Irizarry
Pines
Yin

885 WEST END AVE.

Bernstein/Bowen
Brown/Gruber

Cryer
Fitzgerald
Friedman
Goldberg
Sherman/Chafetz
Spring/Miller
Stokinger/Maas
Tolkow/Woodbury
Weiss

299 RIVERSIDE DR.

Alamo
Bauchner/Weil
Dane
del Alamo
Flateman/Goldstein
Healy/Emery
Holtz/Horowitz
Kastanis
Leidner/Ruden
McLean/Wang
Rich
Seidel/Field
Shear
Tedoff
Titowsky/Price
Wagner/Cecil
Wang/Sedlis

300 RIVERSIDE DR.

Alfonso/Gouck
Bauman
Cherry/Hudson
Chevray
Corcoran
Davenport/Miller
Edelman/Gold
Forbes/De Prenger
Greenwald/Struhl
Halberstam/Cohen
Kowal/Paul
Maderer
Malpica
McLeod
Meer
Mills
Park
Parker
Rack/Agnew
Rasmussen
Reich/Greenberg
Reiner/Lally
Rocks
Schiff
Seget/LaBasse
Simon
Smith/Castellano
Smith/Silverman
Themm/Clevenger
Thomas
Tyler/Van Arsdale
van Schaardenburg
Vernacchio/Valsamis

Weissberg
Wimpfheimer/Snyder

305 RIVERSIDE DR.

Avidon
Borrell
Colon
Doty
Galbraith
Gold
Hoffman
McGinn
Pozen/Bulmon-Pozen
Wiedt

310 RIVERSIDE DR.

Acero/Dyer
Bien
Brown
Cooper
Dooley
Huber
Kostelanetz
Ledy
Maffei
Mortel
Wagner
Woodward
Zuger

OTHER

Applebaum
Goldschein
Judd
Reid

LANDLORDS/CO-OPS

240 W. 102 St.
252 W. 102 St.
250 W. 103 St.
308 W. 103 St.
309 W. 103 St.
315 W. 103 St.
317 W. 103 St.
319 W. 103 St.
321 W. 103 St.
884 West End Ave.
299 Riverside Dr.
310 Riverside Dr.

COMMERCIAL

Best Copy & Shipping
Broadway Dive Bar
Condo CFO
Grape Collective
Ilana Lobet Framing
James Perez, Brown Harris
Stevens

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.