



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

VOL. 52, NO. 2

Annual Meeting News

By CYNTHIA DOTY

THANKS TO ALL WHO JOINED US for our Annual Meeting over Zoom on April 4. Co-Treasurer Komal Rathi gave the annual financial report, and we reviewed our activities of the past year. In spite of COVID's continuing impact on all of us, the Block Association did hold a wonderful Halloween Parade and joyous Solstice Caroling event as well as monthly meetings to discuss our finances, guard service, tree wells, Open Street plans, sidewalk repairs, and garbage concerns. We also distributed our quarterly newsletters throughout the year.

We were honored to have Council Member Gale Brewer as our guest at the meeting. She reported on many issues affecting our area, including composting, sanitation, rats, and the much-needed sidewalk repairs on W. 103rd St. (see related article, page 7). She also discussed the proliferation of dark stores in our neighborhood and her proposals to control them. She talked about the expanding Open Streets

(continued on page 3)

The Dollars and Cents of COVID for the Block Association

By HEDY CAMPBELL

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT: A two-year pandemic is bound to have a significant impact on individuals, corporations, and organizations. The Block Association is no exception. Our revenue is down for a variety of reasons:

We've had to pull the plug on our spring fundraising event for the third year in a row. (When it was time to decide, Omicron was rampant and we could not, in good conscience, throw our support behind a plan that would result in a dense crowd.)

We declined to collect fees from newsletter advertisers, recognizing that every one of the businesses that support the publication was suffering.

When the pandemic was at its worst, we suspended under-the-door newsletter distribution, resulting in a decline in member contributions. Contributions from buildings are lagging as well.

Our cash flow was boosted by curtailing guard service for a year, enabling us to build up a cushion. Although we considered making the change permanent, whenever we survey the neighborhood, we find that at least half of the responding residents are in favor of continuing it. We don't know for sure that our guard service results in a reduction in crime, but we always reach the same conclusion: We don't want to find out the hard way that it does work as a deterrent. Additionally, our local precinct commander recently lauded the idea of hiring private security guards (see "Security Guard Update," page 2).

Last fall, thanks to board member Bob Aaronson, we were able to identify and contract with a much more professional, reliable guard service. Robert Huggins, who is employed by the Allied Universal security company, has been on patrol nightly from 5:30 to 11:30 since the end of October. He's been doing a great job, and we've had lots of positive feedback from residents.

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In Memoriam

JOHN HAMILTON HEWITT III
1952-2022

By HEDY CAMPBELL

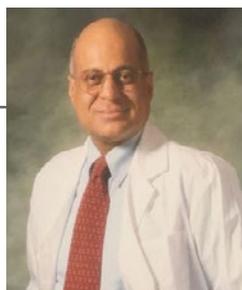


Photo: courtesy of the Hewitt family

THAT'S A MOUTHFUL OF A NAME, isn't it? I like to think of him as Dr. John, one of his nicknames, which was especially fitting, given John's encyclopedic knowledge and vast enthusiasm for the music of his youth. He had a lyric for every occasion, and knew not only who wrote it, but who first performed it and later covered it.

John first came to live on our blocks as a teenager. His parents had found a way around the notorious redlining of the 1960s and bought a townhouse on West End Ave. John's mother, Vivian, lived in the neighborhood until she was 102, and passed away at the end of May; in 2018 we celebrated

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**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 (917) 474-4221.

**BLOCK ASSOCIATION
MEETINGS**

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

June 14
July 12
Aug. 9

Help Wanted

WE HAVE A GREAT JOB for someone who wants a project that can be completed at home: creation of an index of articles that have run in our newsletter. It happens pretty regularly that we scratch our heads, wondering when we reviewed a particular restaurant, profiled a favorite small business, or last revisited a topic of neighborhood importance. Regrettably, since we never created an index, nor did we build a feature into our website that would enable us to search the text, we have few resources to draw on beyond our collective (unreliable!) memory. Twenty years of quarterly newsletters are stored on our website. (More are archived at the Bloomingdale branch of the NYPL, but that's a project for another day.) If you're interested, please write editor@w102-103blockassn.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Community Board 7
Transportation Committee
Meeting (Tentative)**

Discussion of proposed changes to W. 103rd St.
Tues., June 14, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Make Music New York

W. 103rd St. Open Street
Tues., June 21
4:00-7:30 p.m.

Primary Elections

First primary (all offices except U.S. Congress and NY State Senate)
Tues., June 28, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Early Voting: Sat., June 18-Sun., June 26

Second primary (U.S. Congress, NY State Senate only)
Tues., Aug. 23

Fall Newsletter Distribution

Early September

104th St. Block Assn. Yard Sale

Sat., Sept. 24

Corrections

Much to our regret, several errors found their way into the Spring 2022 Newsletter:

IN THE "MEET YOUR TALENTED NEIGHBORS" COLUMN, a few lines of text were occluded by a graphic. The text should have read: Anthony Bello and Dayle Vander Sande have started a new season of their *Eats A Pizza* show. They are reviewing city pizzerias through April. Here's the first hilarious episode: "Bloomingdale: The Upper West Side's Pizza Gold Coast" (youtu.be/ps29dYfjuhk).

In the article "Answers to Your Open Streets Questions," the url for the "Park to Park 2020-2021 Report & Community Vision" was incorrect. It is: parktopark103.com/reports/. In the same article, the Block Association was incorrectly identified as a member of the Open Streets Community Coalition. Although the Block Association works closely with the coalition, we are not members of it. We apologize for the misstatement.

Security Guard Update

By BOB AARONSON

AS SPRING ARRIVES, MORE PEOPLE ARE OUT AND ABOUT, and our security guard, Robert Huggins, is still on duty from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., seven days a week. There appear to be increasing reports of criminal activities on the Upper West Side, and at a forum sponsored by the Upper West Side Coalition of Block Associations & Community Groups on May 19, Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi, commander of the 24th Precinct, confirmed the effectiveness of private security-guard services, pointing out that this was another valuable set of eyes and ears on the street. As we know, a good security service is expensive, so we will need to launch a special fundraising effort to continue it in the fall and winter.

(continued from page 1)

Dollars and Cents

Quality service doesn't come cheap, though. We're paying more than ever before and our cushion is quickly dwindling. In the next few months, we'll have to decide whether we can afford to maintain the current schedule or will have to pare it back.

If you're one of our stalwart benefactors, we thank you for your generosity. If you can throw a little extra our way, now's a really good time.

If you donate quarterly, or only sporadically, why not start making your contribution annually?

If you've never donated before, what are you waiting for?

If you're a resident in a landlord building, co-op, or condo, encourage your landlord or board to contribute on behalf of the building. Our efforts contribute to real estate values, which benefits the building's bottom line.

If you own the building, please donate.

Suggested contribution is \$140 per year for residents. Building contributions are calculated at \$15

per unit. All amounts are gratefully received.

Although the lion's share of our funds goes to paying for the guard service, our efforts are widespread. We sponsor well-attended events, some informative, some social, throughout the year, publish a quarterly newsletter, maintain relationships with local politicians and a variety of other neighborhood organizations, keep tabs on conditions and projects that have an impact on our area, and generally look out for our blocks and the residents who inhabit them.

You can make your contribution using the envelope you received with your newsletter. Or visit our website (w102-103blockassn.org) and click on the "Join Us" tab. There you can sign up to receive our emails and make a donation using your credit card. You have the option to have your contribution repeat monthly, which is a great way to make sure you don't forget!

Your support will enable us to keep the guard on the street, ensuring a safer environment for you and your property. It will also allow us to redirect energy to all sorts of projects beyond funding the guard.

(continued from page 1)

Annual Meeting

program, her support for Riverside Park, and her concern about excessive noise from helicopters flying over Manhattan. Council Member Brewer took numerous questions from our attendees, including one about the large number of bins and pallets left on the sidewalk by Duane Reade. (She followed up the very next day with Duane Reade and they removed the bins and pallets immediately.) All were pleased that Council Member Brewer spent so much time with us, and we look forward to a continuing partnership with her.

Hedy Campbell introduced our new inductees into the Neighborhood Hall of Fame (for those who have lived in our area for 50 years or more): Janet Doeden Hansen, Bill Williams, Leilani Straw, and Sheldon Fine. Congratulations to them, with thanks for sharing their personal stories and memories. And thanks to Hedy for organizing the interviews and awards. The full text of Hedy's tributes to these long-standing wonderful neighbors can be found on our website (w102-103blockassn.org/neighborhood-hall-of-fame.html).

Then the board members were introduced, including newest members Mary Chestaro Coss and Peter Frishauf, and all were elected by a voice vote. (See below for the list of our board members and check out our website for their full biographies: w102-103blockassn.org/board-of-directors.html.)

We look forward to another productive year in the Block Association.

What's New at the Website

THERE'S MUCH NEW MATERIAL to see at our website! You'll now find:

- bios of our three newest board members: Mary Chestaro Coss, Amy Edelman, and Peter Frishauf
- bios of our newest 50-year Hall of Fame honorees: Janet Doeden Hansen, Bill Williams, Leilani Straw, and Shelly and Fran Fine.
- a schematic with DOT's proposed changes to W. 103rd St. for the CB7 Transportation Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for June 14.

And, as always, you'll find

- a link you can use to sign up for our email list, so you can be sure to stay on top of Block Association events.
- a link you can use to contribute using a credit card, with the option of making monthly contributions automatically.



2022 BLOCK ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CYNTHIA DOTY, chair

CELIA KNIGHT, recording secretary

SUE MADERER, co-treasurer

KOMAL RATHI, co-treasurer

BOB AARONSON, guard service, Block Party coordinator

HEDY CAMPBELL, newsletter editor, Solstice Caroling

MARY CHARTARO COSS, fundraising, Halloween Parade/Party

AMY EDELMAN, newsletter, new members, UWS Coalition liaison

PETER FRISHAUF, Park to Park 103

GINGER LIEF, archivist, WSFED representative

ALEXIS LILLIE, marketing, communications

MARK SCHNEIDERMAN, street trees, tree wells

Summer on the Hudson Events

RIVERSIDE PARK IS ONCE AGAIN HOSTING AN IMPRESSIVE SERIES of special activities at various locations along the river this summer. There's a wide variety of things to do, including exercise classes, a monuments tour, art instruction, astronomy, birding, music, dancing, films (including *Singin' in the Rain*, *Sunset Blvd.*, and *La La Land*), and children's activities. For the full calendar, go to: nycgovparks.org/pagefiles/175/summer-on-the-hudson-events-calendar_6247422eb54ba.pdf



Encourage Composting in Your Building!

By Sharon Waskow

COMPOSTING IS ALIVE AND WELL on the UWS, and NYC lawmakers have introduced a bill to make it mandatory by 2023. If your building is already signed up but resident participation is still low, consider holding a lobby information session. Put the brown bin front and center, demonstrate how to lock it, and let people know that it's a proven sanitary way to dispose of food scraps. Want

help setting an information session up? Contact Emily at emily@bigreuse.org. She will bring spiffy countertop food-scrap containers to hand out to anyone who wants one. After our session at 320 Riverside Dr., the super added three more bins, for a total of six, because so many more residents were composting! For more details and all matters compost, consult It's Easy Being Green's Compost Resource Page (itseasybeinggreen.org/compost-resources/).

Shredding Event June 11

ASSEMBLYPERSON DANNY O'DONNELL IS CO-SPONSORING, with the Columbus Amsterdam BID, an on-site paper-shredding event, Sat., June 11, 12- 3 p.m., at W. 109th St. and

Amsterdam Ave. For more information, contact (212) 866-3970 or odonnell@nysassembly.gov.



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Full Alternate-Side Parking Resumes July 5

IN MID-MAY, THE NYC DEPT. OF SANITATION COMMISSIONER, Jessica Tisch, announced that alternate-side-of-the-street parking would resume its pre-pandemic, twice-

a-week frequency beginning Tues., July 5. It's part of an \$11 million package of measures intended to improve street cleanliness. So it's back to moving your car Mondays and Thursdays or Tuesdays and Fridays, depending on which street or avenue you are on. Keep this in mind as you enjoy your barbecues, fireworks, and other Independence Day celebrations.

Shawn Bhandari
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The Automat: A Taste of Nostalgia and History

By Cynthia Doty

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IN PHILADELPHIA, our family Sunday treat was a trip to the Automat for lunch: putting the nickels into the slots, turning the knobs, and opening the windows for delicious macaroni and cheese, sandwiches, and pies. So when I had a chance to see the documentary *The Automat* recently, I happily bought my ticket.

The film is a real treat, telling the history of both the restaurant and the dining trends of the past hundred years, and featuring Mel Brooks, who provides a hilarious commentary and an original song; he is among many other special (and sometimes surprising) guests, all of whom speak fondly and expansively of their Automat memories.

Our own local Automat is pictured briefly, reminding me that, through neighborhood efforts, including those of our very own Block Association, the building was landmarked in 2007. It is at the southeast corner of W. 104th St. and Broadway, a space now occupied by CityMD (see photo below).

After the showing I went to, Marianne Hardart (great-granddaughter of the company co-founder

Frank Hardart) and Lorraine Diehl, the authors of the book *The Automat: The History, Recipes, and Allure of Horn & Hardart's Masterpiece*, told wonderful stories about our local Automat, which was a favorite of the many singles who lived at the Masters.

The film, while not yet distributed nationally (though available on streaming), is currently playing through the month of June at the New Plaza Cinema, which frequently concludes showings with a Q and A with the film's director, Lisa Hurwitz. It is a wonderful film: Go see it and

support our local independent theater at the same time!

The Automat

Director: Lisa Hurwitz

Writer: Michael Levine

Featuring: Mel Brooks, many others

Running Time: 1 hour, 19 minutes

New Plaza Cinema (weekends only)

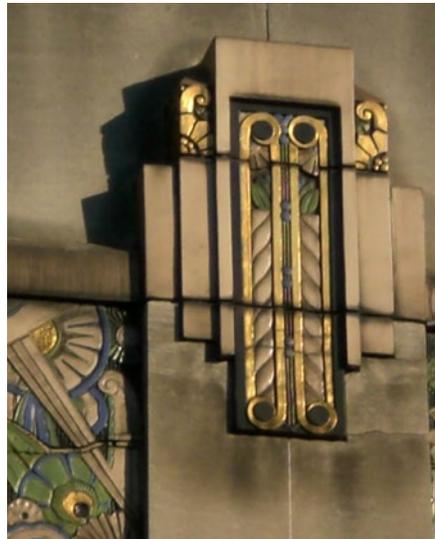
The West End Theater

263 W. 86th St., between West End

Ave. and Broadway

newplazacinema.org/showtimes/

contact@newplazacinema.org



Above: View of the facade details. Photo: Hedy Campbell



Left: Our neighborhood Automat, on Broadway and W. 104th St., in 1942. Photo: Robert F. Byrnes Collection of Automat Memorabilia, NYPL, Horn Hardart

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REASONABLE RATES

On Broadway

By KEITH TAURO



CLOSED

- **Suba Pharmacy**, on the northwest corner of W. 104th St. and Broadway, shuttered a few months ago. A sign on the storefront suggests customers go to San Juan Pharmacy (northwest corner of W. 107th St. and Amsterdam Ave.), and has an email address to contact the former Suba owners.



OPEN

- **Just Pho You**, a neat-looking Vietnamese place on the east side of Broadway between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts. (at the former Yu Kitchen location), has been open for a couple of months, and has been getting good reviews.
- **Zelma's Caffe**, a cute coffee shop on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., offers coffee-based drinks, pastries, and, soon, lunch items (see review to the right).
- **Street Taco**, the casual bar and taquería on the southeast corner of W. 102nd St. and Broadway (at the former Mexican Festival location), opened in May, featuring heritage-driven Mexican street food.



HAPPENINGS

- **Sushi W**, the well-liked omakase addition on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., has added lunch seating (\$33/fixd menu). They also now serve sake.
- **Aangan**, the long-standing Indian restaurant on the northwest corner of W. 103rd St. and Broadway, has added a cute little outdoor seating area, as well as a daily happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m..

Zelma's Caffe: More Than Great Coffee—Your Kitchen Away from Home

By DAYLE VANDER SANDE

BLOOMINGDALE HAS A REPUTATION for a having a homey, neighborhood kind of feeling. A stroll along Riverside and shopping along Broadway or Amsterdam are enjoyable pastimes for this reason. Mom-and-pop shops bring a warm, inviting character to the experience of our blocks, and this is the very essence of the new coffee shop Zelma's Caffe, located on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts.

Proprietor Zelma Aguilar was born and raised on the Upper West Side, which to this day reminds her of going out to get coffee with her grandma; her family would drink coffee like water, she says, and so enjoying coffee became a symbolic, personal memory for her. It was only natural that she became a connoisseur and an entrepreneur with a vision. She recognized that, compared to much of Manhattan, the slower pace of Bloomingdale lends itself to a certain sense of leisure, even reflection. She muses that taking a sip of coffee is having a moment to oneself.

Zelma's small storefront has a warm, welcoming decor that lends itself to such relaxation. She invites her patrons to linger and read a book, do some work on their laptop, or sit and chat with a friend. This is not an establishment that will shoo you out of doors to bring in the next dollar. Sales are secondary to the environment Zelma wants people to come to expect.

Zelma's is a lovely, unassuming neighborhood coffee shop boasting superior coffee and quality ingredients. I ordered my typical regular coffee with almond milk, which one might think is the blandest of selections among Zelma's vast offerings (ask for your favorite espresso, latte, cappuccino, macchiato, Cuban cortadito—they'll make it!), and to my delight, my beverage had a rich, robust flavor with



the finest-quality almond milk I have ever enjoyed. Zelma works with her own roasters to hand-pick a proprietary blend for her own brand of coffee, which will soon be available for home brewing!

I was also taken in by the barista's remarkably affable service, making me feel my requests to make my order exactly how I like it were of the utmost importance.

In addition to coffee, your palate may be tempted by the croissants, muffins, tiramisù, cheesecake, and guava tres leches cake on display. Soon, lunch items, including pressed panini and avocado toast, will be available. Zelma's also offers private catering, so you can impress your guests with fine home cooking and enjoy your own party at the same time!

And beyond cuisine, Zelma's will offer community events to bring a smile, such as live jazz, painting parties for children and their parents, and meditation, to name a few plans in the works that certainly set this café apart from the norm.

We are most fortunate to have a new coffee shop enter our sphere that carries on the Bloomingdale legacy of creative small businesses. Zelma's grand scheme is to build a franchise, with a second location opening soon in Fort Lee, N.J., so you may also enjoy the taste of Bloomingdale on your travels! All the same, you need not suffer traffic for your delectation! Set your sights no farther than a block or two and make Zelma's Caffe an extension of your kitchen.

Zelma's Caffe, 2661 Broadway, between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts.; (646) 370-3851; Instagram: @zelmascaffè. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. & Sat.: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri.: 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun.: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.



W. 103rd St. Sidewalk Update

AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 4, City Council Member Gale Brewer announced that her office had contacted DOT, NYCHA, and the Dept. of Buildings about the broken sidewalk in front of 239 W. 103rd St., which is on the north side of the block between Broadway and West End Ave. She reported that repairs to the foundation of the building had finally been completed. As soon as NYCHA has the scaffolding removed, DOT will then repair the sidewalk. She expected that to take place soon. (As of late May, asphalt had been laid over the broken part of the sidewalk, as a temporary measure, but the scaffolding is still up.) Council Member Brewer's office will stay on top of the sidewalk issue as well as the rat situation at that site.



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

Contact me to set up a no-obligation call to learn more.
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Latest from the UWS Coalition

ON MAY 19, THE UWS COALITION of Block Associations & Community Groups hosted a virtual forum on crime and crime prevention, with the commanders of the 20th, 24th, and Central Park precincts as guests. It was a very well attended event, with a lively discussion; more than 450 people logged on.

The next forum is scheduled for Wed., June 22, 6:30 p.m., and will focus on New York State's proposed regulations for the cannabis stores that will be arriving on the Upper West Side in the near future. The guest will be Pascale Bernard, NYS Office of Cannabis Management, and the YouTube link is: youtu.be/eUZRYnIBn3E. No registration is necessary. For more information: upperwestsidecoalition.org



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

(continued from page 1)

John Hewitt

her 50-year residency and ushered her into our Neighborhood Hall of Fame. John went off to college, and then to medical school, and raised his family in Maryland. We didn't get to enjoy his company locally until he retired from his medical practice and came home.

He then began volunteering at Block Association events, eventually becoming a board member. He had a particular fondness for beautification and could be found painting over graffiti on mailboxes, hauling flats of flowers for our spring planting events, and helping to rid our street tree branches of plastic bags that had become snagged there over the winter.



John Hewitt III prepares to distribute flowers for spring planting. Photo: Hedy Campbell

Working as a volunteer with John, one quickly discovered that his quiet manner belied a wicked sense of humor and unusual patience. In addition to knowing music, he was a skillful teller of tales and a connoisseur of fine bourbon. He leaves behind the mother of his two daughters, Marie Anne Hewitt; his daughters; and ten grandchildren. Those of us who worked alongside him will remember him with fondness, and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family.



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What's New on Our Open Street?

By Kimberly Mota

THERE WAS A LOT TO CELEBRATE on the W. 103rd St. Open Street in March and April, and we look forward to additional events later this spring and throughout the summer.

On Mar. 26, a spring celebration on the Amsterdam block of the Open Street featured a NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) community-listening workshop. The presentation included details of proposed improvements to the street and the invitation to take a survey about those changes. Despite intermittent rain, participants' spirits were buoyed by an Afro-cardio dance class, chess games, live jazz, and the ever-popular LaGuardia High School sketch artists, who drew portraits of community residents and visitors.



Players of all ages face off over chessboards. Photo: Kimberly Mota

Great weather greeted the next spring event on the block between West End Ave. and Broadway on Apr. 24. It was Park to Park 103's second annual #StreetArts Earth Day event. There was a tree-well-plant giveaway hosted by the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association (thanks to Block Association board members Bob Aaronson, Mary Chestaro Coss, Amy Edelman, and Peter Frishauf, as well as Open Streets volunteers, for staffing the table, lending tools, and generally supporting the tree-well-beautification effort; to the NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation for the compost and mulch; and to the City Parks Foundation for the grant that paid for the plants).

There were also tables sponsored by the Friends of Bloomingdale Inclusive Park and Playground (at W. 104th St. and Amsterdam Ave.), Council Member Gale A. Brewer, and the Department of Sanitation.

Esther Crow and the Crow Family Band opened the event with a performance that got dozens of kids dancing with them. Jody Sperling and Time Lapse Dance followed, the mesmerizing performers dancing down the street from West End Ave. toward Broadway. The canvas that was utilized for Jody's performance was then repurposed into a large community mural that any passersby could paint or draw on. Next, play:groundNYC led activities where kids got creative with recyclable materials (mostly cardboard box parts) and enjoyed live music from Rebecca McCartney. The day finished off with an energetic Zumba class led by befitnyc, which partnered with local public middle school West Prep Academy (W. 105th St. between Columbus and Amsterdam Aves.), to raise funds for their eighth-grade prom and club materials.



Block Association volunteers prepare to give away tree-well plants. Photo: Peter Frishauf

Below: Children paint on Jody Sperling's repurposed canvas. Photo: Rachel Albetki



Energetic participants enjoy a befitnyc Zumba class. Photo: Kimberly Mota

Park to Park 103 is planning the following summertime activities on the Open Street:

- June 10: "Funday," 5–7 p.m., live music, arts activities, games
- June 21: Make Music New York, 4:00–7:30 p.m., annual Summer Solstice musical celebration, including live music, games, interactive activities
- July 2: "School's Out" celebration, 12–3 p.m., live music, interactive games, dance classes
- Aug. 6: Citywide Dance Party, 12–3 p.m., social, dance classes

DOT will continue its discussions about the Open Street with Community Board 7 at a Transportation Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on June 14. A schematic reflecting the proposed changes is available at: w102-103blockassn.org. For more information on the meeting: www1.nyc.gov/site/manhattancb7/meetings/committee-agendas.page

Kimberly Mota is a public programming and community engagement manager at Street Plans. Her work for Park to Park 103 is supported by a grant from the nonprofit Open Plans.

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The Future Is Now: EVs in New York City!

By SHARON WASKOW

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

ACCORDING TO THE NYC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION, "There has never been a better time for car owners to go electric. Electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming much more affordable, battery range is increasing, and more models are hitting the market."

Wait a second--isn't there a lot more to think about before city residents rush to replace their gas-guzzling cars? Let's consider what's involved.

For starters, let's remember what's wrong with gas-fueled cars.

According to a recent *New York Times* article, gas-fueled vehicles emit climate-changing greenhouse gases that lead to elevated levels of particulate matter, which have contributed to health problems, including lung cancer and heart attacks, and which disproportionately hurt communities of color.

Are EVs actually good for the environment?

In 2019, transportation accounted for 38 percent of NYC's greenhouse-gas emissions. According to a Treehugger report, in the short term, the manufacture of an EV creates more greenhouse gases than that of a gas-powered car, due to the mining and transport of the rare earth minerals required for the battery. Once the vehicle is produced, however, emissions drop significantly, and over the long haul, an EV is a much more sustainable

option than its gas-powered equivalent.

Also, since EVs generally run on standard grid electricity, their emissions levels depend on how clean the electricity is that is going into their batteries. By 2035, NYC plans to build new transmission lines to connect renewables such as high-speed wind and hydropower facilities.

When will NYC have public chargers in place?

City officials plan to have 1,000 public curbside chargers in place around the city by 2025, with a goal of 10,000 chargers by 2030.

Are there financial incentives for purchasing an EV?

Yes, the state is offering a rebate of up to \$2,000 at point of sale. And the federal government offers a tax credit.

Shouldn't we also be thinking about electrifying NYC's municipal fleet of nearly 30,000 vehicles?

Yes, we should. There are just 15 electric public buses on the streets of New York, out of a fleet of more than 5,900. There is just a single electric police patrol car, a Tesla, and only one electric garbage truck. The city has allocated \$442.5 million so far in the effort to electrify the municipal fleet. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the city's buses, plans to spend \$1.1 billion to buy another

500 electric buses and retrofit eight bus depots with charging equipment, aiming to achieve a goal of a zero-emissions bus fleet by 2040. Riders could see another 60 electric buses on the road as soon as next year.

In Conclusion

Of course, the most planet-friendly ways to travel around the city are via public transportation, foot or bicycle. If you choose or need to own an automobile, consider swapping out your gas-fueled car for a hybrid or electric one. It seems the city is working on making that a viable option.

It's Easy Being Green is your neighborhood climate-education and personal-action group. Consider subscribing to the It's Easy Being Green newsletter to keep in the know on NYC environmental information and tips for a greener lifestyle (itseasybeinggreen.org).



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BAiP: Antiques Zoomshow

By DOROTHY CALLACI

MORE THAN 150 TREASURED ITEMS were submitted by BAiP members to the organization's "Antiques Zoomshow" on Feb. 24. The Doyle Auction Gallery provided the experts, who chose 13 of the submitted items to focus on for the Zoom presentation and provided written appraisals for all the others. The event was attended by a record number of BAiP members.

Lynn and Steve Max said they were "excited to see [their] antique pocket watch appear on the show" and to learn it was a gentleman's hunting case pocket watch from the 1820s with a complex chronograph Suisse movement of gears for greater accuracy.

Lynn noted, "As a young man, Steve actually wore the watch . . . an unusual fashion statement at the time."



Hunting case pocket watch. Photo: Steve Max.

Also among the wide range of antiques featured was Gil Tauber's beautiful 110-piece porcelain dinner service for 18 that was said to be produced by the Royal Porcelain factory in Austria in 1907. But, as the expert noted, dinner parties and dining tables today are not designed for 18 guests.

"My daughter and granddaughter love looking at the delicate porcelain," Gil said, "but neither has any desire to own it because it can't be put in the dishwasher. The porcelain was inherited by my late wife, who taught dance at SUNY, and it was used at every Thanksgiving. Washing was never a problem because the foreign students she invited always volunteered to help with the dishes."

The Doyle experts were specialists in everything from rare books and paintings to Asian artifacts, jewelry, and more. The furniture specialist described

Stan Weiss's coffee table as a 1950s Vladimir Kagan design made of walnut and brass with glass mosaic tiles that was "chic then and is chic now."

Throughout the show, the experts advised all BAiP members who own antiques about the importance of recording details of and saving documentation about the provenance of their valuables. They also gave some valuable tips about caring for these items. If it's meant to shine, polish it, they said. However, do not clean furniture; simply wipe it with a cloth. As for papers, textiles, and other delicate items, keep them out of the sun.

Susie Saunders Wolfe described having "emotional feelings in revisiting my grandfather's letters with an expert who could validate his pioneering role in early aviation history," adding, "I want to thank BAiP for all the work that went into creating such a fascinating program."

It took the significant efforts of a number of BAiP members to make the Antiques Zoomshow happen. Roses Katz and Gil Tauber connected the individual antique owners with the Doyle Gallery personnel. David Reich was chief troubleshooter and set up the Dropbox. The critical and complex arrangements for handoffs, screen sharing, and the audio/visual quality of the show were managed by Lo-Yi Chan. Marlene Schonbrun photographed most of the items seen on screen.



KPM porcelain dinner service. Photo: Marlene Schonbrun

The Zoomshow was a wonderful example of many members volunteering their time and skills at multiple levels to create an exciting event for the community.

If you missed the show, you may watch it on the BAiP Presents page of

the website: bloominplace.org/baip-presents.html

To enjoy future BAiP events such as this, become a member! Go to bloominplace.org

[This was adapted from an article that appeared in the Spring 2022 issue of The BUZZ, the BAiP newsletter.]

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Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

VITA WALLACE/WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD!

What a Neighborhood! and the Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District present a free printmaking workshop for kids and adults as well as live music on Sat., **June 11, 12:00–2:00 p.m.**, on Amsterdam Ave. between W. 108th and W. 109th Sts. Artist Lysander Puccio will guide participants in making two prints on fabric—one to take home, one to adorn future neighborhood events. Members of the Accord-O-Leles and guest flutist Joseph Trent will play live music. We hope for a beautiful day in the neighborhood! Reservations not required. Email orfeoduo@gmail.com or text (212) 666-0928 for more information, especially in case of rain.

DONNA TRINKOFF

Donna, artistic producer of the Amas Musical Theatre, has a new, very funny Off-Broadway musical running through **Sun., June 26**. In *Romeo & Bernadette: A Musical Tale of Verona & Brooklyn*, Romeo awakens in Brooklyn in 1960 and discovers his Juliet is instead Bernadette, the foul-mouthed daughter of a modern crime family. Amas is located at 555 W. 42nd St. Tickets may be reserved at romeoandbernadette.com.

BLOOMINGDALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The school is holding summer music camps for all age groups between **July 11 and July 22**. Go to bsmny.org for information and to register.

SUSAN C. DESSEL

Artwork that susan did based on her research as a Frankel Fellow at the University of Michigan has been acquired by the Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. It constitutes portraits from 2013 and 2014 of Martha Gruening, an American

journalist, lawyer, suffragette, and civil rights activist. The acquisition includes a series of susan's *Brick in a Soft Hat* portraits from 2014, one of which is on the cover of the Spring/Summer 2022 issue of the Frankel Center publication *Frankely Speaking*.

DIANA CALDERAZZO

Diana, a Broadmoor resident, creates drawings of pets from photographs and would love to do pets from the neighborhood. Contact her at dcalderazzo@yahoo.com to receive sample drawings and discuss price.

CAROL ANN RABOLT

Carol is selling greeting cards—some with original art, most with photographs taken in Riverside Park and upstate, at West Side Stationers, 2620 Broadway, the northeast corner of W. 99th St. and Broadway. Support a local artist and a local business! Her Etsy shop, boltartstudio.etsy.com, sells cards, art prints, mugs, and T-shirts. New shirts have been added that are appropriate for Pride Month.

METRO THEATER

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine has reported that a multiplex movie theater is coming to the site. There will be new stadium seating and possible dining options, and the theater is expected to open in 2023.

NEW PLAZA CINEMA

Not having been in a large movie theater since before the pandemic, I have gone twice recently to see films at New Plaza Cinema, which finally has its own space in the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, 263 W. 86th St. (between West End Ave. and Broadway). It has 74 red-velvet tiered theater seats and a screen that's the right size for the space. Masks required. newplazacinema.org/

THEATER DEVELOPMENT FUND

I recently rejoined TDF for \$35 and got tickets for events out of our

neighborhood but not otherwise available so inexpensively. I saw Pilobolus at Lehman College in the Bronx and one of the last performances of *For Colored Girls . . .* I'm going to keep looking on its website as I get back in the habit of going out on the town. tdf.org/

Do you have an upcoming publication, release, concert, exhibition, or other arts event, physical or virtual? Let me know. Send questions or notices for inclusion in the Fall 2022 Newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!



WALK WITH DOGS

By KATE MCLEOD

O ye with dogs
Who pee and poop
Please curb your pup
And use a scoop

Your neighbors' walk
Can be quite vile
Dog urine smell
Just ain't our style

Appreciate
You pick up—curb
For those who don't
There is a verb

Seeing, smelling
What your pup dumps
We know for sure
A clean sidewalk trumps.

P-L-E-A-S-E!

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

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