



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

See page 5 for
an important
meeting
announcement!

SUMMER 2023

VOL. 53, NO. 2

Annual Meeting Focuses on Riverside Park

THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION HOSTED ITS ANNUAL MEETING on Apr. 18 via Zoom. After a brief review of the past year's events and finances, we turned to this year's special guest speakers, both affiliated with Riverside Park.

John Herrold, the Riverside Park administrator, spoke about a number of improvements in the park, including the completion of the Field House renovation, repair of the stairs by the Ellington in the Park restaurant, and the addition of a nighttime trash pickup, a measure meant to help alleviate the rat problem. He also mentioned that Ellington's contract will expire at the end of this season, at which point a fresh round of bids for the dining space will be considered. Other projects include the reconstruction of the overbuild, the structure above the Amtrak train tracks, and a long-overdue renovation of the Dinosaur Playground at W. 97th St.

Next, Merritt Birnbaum, the new president and CEO of the Riverside Park Conservancy, introduced herself. Before joining the conservancy, she was for many years executive director of the Friends of Governors Island. The conservancy, which has been in existence for 40 years and currently has 250 volunteers, works in partnership with the city, and its area of responsibility runs from W. 59th to W. 181st Sts.

Birnbaum emphasized the work being done by the

(continued on page 3)

Help Wanted

WE FILLED HALF OF THE VACANCIES we publicized in our Spring Newsletter! Thanks to Eliza Lansdale for volunteering to coordinate our Spring Planting event (see page 2). Thanks as well to new board member Gary Hack (see page 3) for volunteering as co-treasurer. If you were waiting to see whether anybody else raised a hand, the other two positions still need filling and we've added two more. See page 2 for details..

Our Newest Hall of Fame Members: Ner and Bobbi Beck



At our Annual Meeting in April, we inducted two longtime residents to our Neighborhood Hall of Fame for residents of 50 years or more: Ner and Bobbi Beck. The remarks made by Hedy Campbell at the induction ceremony are excerpted below. The full text (and bios of previous Hall of Fame inductees) is available under the "Neighborhood Hall of Fame" tab at our website (w102-103blockassn.org).

NER AND BOBBI BECK MET IN ART SCHOOL in Philadelphia and were married in 1966. At that time Philly had riots and a high rate of crime. Although they loved Philadelphia, they decided to move to New York, and in 1968, they headed north to their new life on the Upper West Side. They were attracted by the neighborhood and were impressed with the architecture, the parks, and everyone they had met there. Their first, tiny one-bedroom apartment was at W. 104th St. and Riverside Dr. Almost every night they would hear elderly ladies shouting, "They stole my purse!" The muggers would then race at high speed downhill to disappear into the park. In later years, as jogging and marathons became the new craze, neighbors would take off in pursuit and outrun them. Later, locals collected donations and banded together to start several block associations, including our own, that hired guards. After that, the muggers seemed to give up.

In the early 1970s many families left the city in search of suburban schools. As a result, there were plenty of apartments to choose from and the Becks took advantage of the opportunity to move into a larger apartment. They found one at 865 West End Ave. and were knocked out by the size of it. Unfortunately, their old apartment was so tiny that they owned only a few pieces of furniture. But, since so many people were moving at that time, there was a bounty of street finds there for the picking. It was common practice for neighbors to snatch up antiques that were left on the streets and restore them.

One of their favorite finds in the 1970s was a broken-down Victorian bookcase adorned with gryphon carvings

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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; Avery Hudson, indexer. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Address letters to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025. Email may be sent to editor@w102-103blockassn.org. Phone messages may be left at (212) 865-8524. Previous issues of the Newsletter and the index are available online at w102-103blockassn.org.

EMAIL LIST

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

**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.

**July 11
Sept. 12**

Correction

IN OUR LAST ISSUE, we profiled neighborhood resident Lauren S. Stahl, who is a Reiki practitioner, but neglected to give proper contact information. If you'd like to reach her, you can email her at lauren@laurenstahl.com or call (917) 670-1327. Her website is laurenstahl.com.

Help Wanted

**SPRING FAIR COORDINATOR AND
VOLUNTEERS:**

We would like to resurrect our spring fundraising/community-building event. But in order to hit the launch button, we need to find a person or two to commit to get the event organized. In addition, we'll need lots of people to, among other things, help with publicity and set up, staff tables, or help with cleanup on the day of the event. Contact info@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS:

Although the guard service is currently on pause, if we want to reinstate it, the financial shortfall we've recently been experiencing must be addressed. We need someone with fresh eyes who can work with seasoned board members on this project. Contact info@w102-103blockassn.org to volunteer.

GUARD SERVICE MONITOR:

It doesn't make any sense to spend another dime on a guard until we can identify a higher-quality service provider. Do you have a contact? If security is your area of interest, please contact info@w102-103blockassn.org.

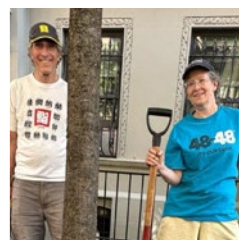
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS:

We need two people to get the quarterly publication into the hands of others who slide them under doors. One is needed for the W. 102nd St. block between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr., the other for the smaller buildings along W. 103rd St. between Broadway and Riverside Dr. Time commitment is about an hour four times a year. The ability to count and to go up and down townhouse stoops are the only job requirements. Contact editor@w102-103blockassn.org.

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

Volunteer Planters Tackle Tree Wells

THE BLOCK ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL SPRING PLANTING was organized this year by Eliza Lansdale. Thank you, Eliza! With the help of Eddie Mrkulic, porter at 878 West End Ave.; Terence Hanrahan; and Block Association board member Celia Knight, she organized the delivery of flowers and supplies so our neighbors could beautify their tree wells. The event took place on the same day as the Open Street's Mother's Day event, at which families painted flower pots, took backgammon lessons, and enjoyed an exhibition about how to help butterflies survive, among other things. Many people (including plenty of mothers) came out to practice their gardening skills and at the same time help spruce up our blocks—certainly inspired by the perfect weather!



A neglected tree bed on W. 102nd St. was transformed by Park to Park 103's Ira Gershenhorn and the Block Association's Spring Planting leader, Eliza Lansdale.

Roschel and Michael Stearns handled the tables (supplied by the Marseilles and several residents), distributing flowers and shovels and watering cans to requestors. Several passersby donated to the Block Association and asked how their own blocks could be similarly improved. Peter Frishauf and Bella Gallo of Park to Park 103 were hardworking champions of the planting effort on W. 103rd St., their Youth Ambassadors helping with setup, digging, planting, and cleanup. Thanks to former board member Mark Schneiderman for footing the bill for the flowers and Bob Aaronson and Amy Edelman for helping with supplies and communication.

Sixteen tree wells were cleaned, planted, and mulched. Now we need your help to keep them clean and water them if you have the means. Most of all, enjoy the beauty!

(continued from page 1)

Annual Meeting

conservancy over the course of the year to address erosion and flooding issues in the park, reliably clear snow and ice from stairs and paths, and compost branches, leaves, twigs, and other natural materials. Among other initiatives, including the youth summer camps, the addition of pickle ball courts near W. 108th St., and the Summer on the Hudson cultural offerings, she announced the return of the very

popular goat program, where a herd of the animals spends the summer months chowing down on invasive plants in a hard-to-reach section of the park between W. 119th and W. 125th Sts. The conservancy welcomes volunteers. If you are interested in joining their efforts, go to riversideparknyc.org/volunteer/.

The meeting then moved on to the Neighborhood Hall of Fame induction for residents of 50 years or more. Hedy Campbell introduced our newest inductees, artists Ner and Bobbi Beck.

See the article about the Becks on page 1.

After announcements about upcoming events, we voted in our 2023 board. See the article below for bios of our newest members and a full list of all directors.



Join Us

www.w102-103blockassn.org

Meet Our Newly Elected Board Members

AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING in April (see page 1), we voted in a new slate of board members, which includes three residents who responded to our plea in the last newsletter. We are grateful to them for stepping forward. Bios of our returning board members can be found under the “Home” tab at our website (w102-103blockassn.org).

HERB ALTER

Herb has been politically aware and engaged for a long time, but has never before taken the time to get involved in local politics. His recent engagement in opposition to the Open Street on W. 103rd St. exposed him to the Block Association, the Community Board, our local Democratic Party club, the City Council, and the Department of Transportation. In his own words, “It’s been an eye-opener!”

Herb has had a long career in computer software as an employee, consultant, and teacher at Bell Labs, IBM, and many financial services companies. He has designed solutions for problems, both business and technical, and thinks of himself as a problem solver with a reputation for out-of-the-box thinking.

With a few interruptions, Herb has lived on the Upper West Side since 1968, and on West End Ave. and W. 103rd St. since 1996. He’s been walking his dogs in Riverside Park since 1970.

Because he has an interest in problem-solving, he decided it was time to step up and volunteer. Joining

the Block Association board has been his first step in that direction.

GARY HACK

Gary Hack has had a long and varied career in urban planning. He’s worked for a long time in academia, including 12 years as dean of the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania and as a professor and department head at MIT. He has also taught at several Chinese universities, including Tsinghua, Tongji, and Chongqing.

His projects in the private sector include work on the West Side Waterfront, the planning of Rockefeller Park at Battery Park City, and the redevelopment of the World Trade Center. He’s also worked on the redevelopment of the Prudential Center in Boston and directed the Canadian government’s housing and urban development research and demonstration programs. He has served as an urban design consultant for projects in Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, China, and Saudi Arabia.

Gary has written extensively on urban design, the regional form of cities, urban creative districts, Chinese urbanism, and other subjects. He is the author or co-author of several influential books in the field. He is the former chair of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and has served on many other boards and commissions.

RICHARD ROBBINS

Richard Robbins has lived on W. 103rd St. for nearly 20 years and has been an active member of our community. This includes serving for eight years on Manhattan Community Board 7, serving on the board of the Riverside Clay Tennis Association, being an active parent in his daughters’ schools, and supporting various Block Association initiatives (including taking a leading role in addressing problematic construction on his block when a developer claimed that a fully occupied building was vacant in order to get construction permits). Professionally, he owns a small business, Upper West Strategies, which runs workforce development programs for New York City, including internships for life sciences and cybersecurity. He has two daughters, who are now in New York City public high schools.

2023 Board of Directors

Cynthia Doty, chair
Gary Hack, co-treasurer
Komal Rathi, co-treasurer
Celia Knight, recording secretary
Herb Alter
Hedy Campbell
Mary Chestaro Coss
Amy Edelman
Peter Frishauf
Ginger Lief
Richard Robbins

Open Street Celebrates Earth Day & Mother's Day

By ISABELLA GALLO

THE W. 103RD ST. OPEN STREET celebrated its fourth year this spring. With two events completed and five more planned for the summer and fall, it was a successful start to the season.

The first event, #StreetArts2023, was a celebration of Earth Day, the environment, and the arts that featured environmental-themed dance by Jody Sperling, participatory movement practice by choreographer Jill Sigman, crafts led by Park to Park's Youth Ambassadors and mentor Cidalia Costa, tabling from environmental-centric organizations, a sketch artist, tarot card readings, chess lessons, and a musical performance by Esther Crow.



Park to Park Youth Ambassadors and organizers after the #StreetArts2023 event on the Open Street

"I value the opportunity to gather outdoors in my neighborhood, to feel at home there in a way that I never have before, and to share my art with neighbors," Sigman wrote after participating in the event. She called Open Streets "vital as a way of developing community preparedness

and resilience" and "a way of investing in our shared humanity, our safety, and our future. It is a crucial step toward preparing for a changing world."

Bar Crawl Radio, hosted by Alan Winson and Rebecca McKean, produced a live, participatory podcast at the Earth Day event, with guests that included Council Member Gale Brewer, Peter Frishauf, Sheldon Fine, Rich Robbins, Cidalia Costa, multiple Youth Ambassadors, and event attendees. The podcast focused on the purpose of the Open Street, Park to Park 103, and the Street Improvement Plan that will be implemented on W. 103rd St. later this summer. The full episode can be found at shows.acast.com/bar-crawl-radio/episodes/on-the-street-where-we-live-park-to-park-103.



Barcast Radio recording their podcast on the Open Street during #StreetArts2023

The Open Street's May event was a Spring Planting, held on Mother's Day in conjunction with the Block Association (see page 2). This included dance performances by Jody Sperling and Christopher Bislam; music from Brennan Connell; Mother's Day crafting tables; a houseplant-potting

station; environmental education from Street Lab and iDig2Learn; and backgammon lessons from Antoinette-Marie Williams, a world-champion backgammon player.



Antoinette-Marie Williams and backgammon lesson participants at May Spring Planting event

This event marked the start of a more concentrated effort by Park to Park 103 to take on the responsibility of caring for our local environment. Watering schedules for the street trees, newly planted flowers, and freshly planted planters that line the street were worked out among event attendees who live on the street and in nearby buildings with water access.

As the summer gets under way, Park to Park hopes to see even more people out on the Open Street. Monthly events will be held from June to October to continue building and strengthening community and fostering stewardship of our street and surrounding neighborhood.



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IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY, the NYC DOT installed 14 planters along the W. 103rd St. corridor, on both sides of the West End Ave. intersection, as well as on Broadway and Amsterdam Ave. These represent a temporary upgrade until the end of summer, when, under the Street Improvement Plan, some 30 planters will beautify our streets.

Daily maintenance is provided by the DOT under its contract with the Horticultural Society and by volunteers from Park to Park 103. Several buildings, organizations, and businesses on or near the corridor have also agreed to help keep an eye on the planters to ensure they are watered and kept free of trash.

At their May Board of Directors meeting, the Block Association voted to express their gratitude to the DOT for the planters and for providing daily maintenance.

Public Meeting to Address Open Street Concerns

WHAT, WHEN, AND WHERE

There is going to be a public meeting, tentatively set for **July 6**, at Anshe Chesed, the synagogue on the corner of West End Ave. and W. 100th St., to discuss the W. 103rd St. Open Streets project and the opposition to it. The Block Association is funding the facility fee, and the date, time, and further details will soon be publicized on our website, via flyers in your building, and in an announcement sent to our email list. (To be added to our email list, go to our website, w102-103blockassn.org; or use the QR code on page 3.) **If you are at all interested in the Open Streets project, whether pro or con, please make sure to attend.**

WHO AND WHY

You may recall that in our Winter 2022 issue, we published a letter from a group called Upper West Siders for Parking. The group has been organized in opposition to the initiative to make the W. 103rd St. Open Street permanent. In that issue we also published a response from Peter Frishauf, the volunteer coordinator of Park to Park 103, which has spearheaded the campaign in favor of permanence; Peter is a Block Association board member, and Herb Alter, who is involved with the Upper West Siders for Parking group, recently was elected to the board as well.

BACK STORY

When the campaign to make the Open Street permanent began, the Block Association invested a great

deal of time and effort to inform the neighborhood of the plans and take its pulse about them. Based on the responses, the board decided to support the effort. Community Board 7 overwhelmingly supported it as well, and the Dept. of Transportation decided to move ahead.

Meanwhile, it became apparent that there are people who were unaware of the project or its particulars. The loss of parking spaces along W. 103rd St. as a result of this project is the Gorilla Glue of the sticky wickets.

In order to arrive at a consensus, Block Association chair Cynthia Doty reached out to the New York Peace Institute, which offers mediation services, and we went from there.

For background information, you can visit the Block Association website (w102-103blockassn.org). There we have schematics of the proposed changes. Click on the "Resources" tab and then on "Open Streets." In addition, you can:

Visit the Park to Park 103 website (parktopark103.nyc); a contact form is available.

Check out the Upper West Siders for Parking Facebook group, UWS4Parking [Caveat: There are some statements and characterizations there that the Block Association considers inaccurate]; or contact them at UWS.for.Parking@gmail.com.

Share your thoughts about the project with us by writing to info@w102-103blockassn.org.

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Hall of Fame

that they spotted as they were walking past one of the limestone buildings on W. 102nd between West End and Riverside. A woman sitting on the front steps revealed that it was her last day in her original family home, and she was about to move to Long Island to live with her sister. Ner and Bobbi asked if the bookcase was trash, and she asked if they would like to have it. She explained that she and her sister had been raised in that house and that her father had bought it new in the early 1900s. She told them many stories about how there were still horses being used at that time, and how the whipping winds off of the Hudson blew the aroma of dried horse manure up the street. She described how awful it was to breathe.

She asked Ner and Bobbi where



Top: Artist Bobbi Beck at work in her studio
Bottom: Photographer Ner Beck, with his camera, in front of a street-found church door

they lived, and they told her they were her next-door neighbors in the 15-story apartment building that looked down on her rooftop. Suddenly she went cold and stopped talking to them. Ner and Bobbi were afraid they'd said something to offend her. She recounted that when 865 was built in the 1920s, the racket from construction made living unbearable for her and her sister. In a stern voice, she went on to say that it used to be such a nice neighborhood before they built those 15-story monster apartment buildings!

The Becks had a better understanding of

her words years later, when the two opposing, 30-plus-story apartment towers were erected just a few blocks away on Broadway. A friend of Ner's took him into a high-floor

apartment to check out the view from the soaring height. From that vantage point, the 15-story prewar buildings like 865 looked tiny. Ner and Bobbi recall the opinions that many neighbors expressed at the time of construction; hearing comments like "Those monsters are ruining our neighborhood" was déjà vu all over again.

Ner and Bobbi had a graphic design business for 47 years, and finally retired a decade ago. They now devote all their days to exhibiting Bobbi's artwork and Ner's photographs. Their works can be found on the New York Public Library website.

Ner and Bobbi raised their daughter, Melinda, at 865 West End Ave. She followed in her parents' footsteps and became a talented artist in her own right. Melinda's two daughters are now studying art in college, continuing the family tradition.

See more of this bio, including the Becks' stories about the old neighborhood and what's changed and what hasn't, under the "Neighborhood Hall of Fame" tab at our website (w102-103blockassn.org).

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What Would General Tso Say? A Tale of Two Shun Lees

By GAY HAUBNER

FOOD AND FILM FRIEND (FFF) is the only person in New York City who doesn't like Chinese food. I don't know what she does on Christmas.

But like a lot of us New Yorkers of a certain age, FFF was taken on many first dates to Shun Lee. When I was a young Midwest transplant, I thought Shun Lee, black and red and so dark you couldn't see what the hell you were eating, was the height of sophistication. (I grew up on Chun King tinned chop suey.)

When FFF saw the new Shun Lee Café on the southeast corner of W. 98th St. and Broadway, we had to go. My conclusion: If the Shun Lee Café is related to the famous Shun Lees, then I'm the Queen of Romania.

In case you've missed this tempest in a pot of green tea, no one knows for sure. Shun Lee Café is the Schrödinger's cat of Chinese food. *The New York Times* put its best investigative journalists on it and came up with shrugged shoulders. It is Shun Lee and it isn't Shun Lee, all at once! Read all about it: [nytimes.com/2023/04/07/nyregion/new-york-shun-lee-chinese-restaurants.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/07/nyregion/new-york-shun-lee-chinese-restaurants.html)

The place is lit up like an operating room, the prices are not for the budget-minded (the scallion pancake is \$11.95!), and if they are working the kinks out, they need a better massage.

FFF asked our sweet, mixed-up waitperson if they had Chardonnay. She goggled for a sec, as if asked for the capital of Alaska, ran away, and came

back with a bottle each of Riesling and sauvignon blanc. FFF shuddered at the sauvignon and ordered the Riesling. It was a decent pour. FFF took a slug and said, "This is the wrong wine."

I had a beer served in an attractive, extra-tall pilsner glass. A glass made of plastic. With a tiny base, like an inverted Cleopatra's Needle. Spills abounded, until I wised up and drank from the bottle.

The waiter came back to the table with another decent pour and said, "I'm sorry. I brought the wrong wine." I have no problem with a sauvignon blanc and free wine.

How was the food? Expensive. Chinese-y. No neon-orange giant shrimps, my old date meal of choice, but Peking duck for \$98.00.

As FFF was dealing with the check, I bundled up. My new scarf, dove-gray shot through with golden strands, was as firmly stuck to the back of my chair as if it had been Elmered on. Or if the chair had been freshly shellacked. Your guess is as good as mine.

After I dined out on this story for a few days, my pals the doyenne of W. 102nd St. and her amiable husband decided that we would take the Nero Wolfe approach to the Shun Lee mystery and had a leisurely midweek lunch at Shun Lee West (43 W. 65th St.).

I guess no one goes out for lunch anymore. The lovely joint, almost as dim at noon in 2023 as it had been at 9 p.m. in 1983, was empty. We

HEALING ARTS

Lauren Stahl

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had our choice of expansive booths and waiters flocked to us.

The food was not quite as expensive as the red-headed stepchild, Shun Lee Café 40 blocks north, and was deliciously nostalgic. The dry sautéed green beans were worth the price of admission and so healthy-tasting they allowed us to feel okay about devouring that throwback staple of Chinese American food the crunchy, just-greasy-enough egg roll. The enormous portion of sesame shredded chicken in spicy garlic sauce was daunting, but we happily finished every spicy shred.

Waiters hovered like Roombas, refilling water, fetching beers, and whisking away plates before we could lick them clean.

Unlike very few things, Shun Lee West maintains its magic from the last century. If I ever have a date again, he better take me there.

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The BYO Container Program Has Arrived!

By SHARON WASKOW
It's Easy Being Green



IN THE COMING MONTHS, look for **Bring Your Own Container/UWS Reduces Waste** stickers in the windows of neighborhood businesses and go in with confidence that the store will accept your reusable container to fill and you won't be saddled with single-use plastic that you don't need or want.

BYO Container/UWS Reduces Waste is a new project of It's Easy Being Green, your neighborhood climate-education and personal-action group. We are asking our local coffee and tea shops and restaurants to display our BYO Container stickers in their windows to let customers know that they will accept travel mugs and/or food containers brought from home to fill. We hope to include prepared-food stores in the future, when the state and city health codes are updated. (We're working on this, too!)

By encouraging consumers and businesses to practice waste reduction, we can make a difference on the Upper West Side. Join our effort! Please help us find conscientious businesses

who would like to put the BYO sticker in their windows. Send your ideas and recommendations to [BYO. itseasybeinggreen@gmail.com](mailto:itseasybeinggreen@gmail.com).

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).

These fantastic UWS shops are the first participants in our BYO Container/UWS Reduces Waste campaign. They are happy to let you use your own drink container when you purchase a hot or cold drink. We hope you will show your support for our plastic-reduction campaign by giving them your business. Don't forget to carry your reusable drink container and tell them that you appreciate their sustainability efforts. P.S. All serve delectable food!

- **Zelma's Caffe**
2661 Broadway, near W. 101st St.
- **Broadway Pizza** (They serve coffee.)
2709 Broadway, near W. 104th St.
- **Silver Moon Bakery**
W. 105th St. and Broadway
- **Omonia Café**
W. 108th St and Broadway
- **Samad's Gourmet**
2867 Broadway, near W. 111th St.

On Broadway

By KEITH TAURO

OPENING

- **Zurna** appears to be opening at the former Jerusalem Restaurant on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts.—with a similar Mediterranean cuisine.
- **One Medical:** We've said this before, but now it seems imminent—the primary-care provider with locations across the city appears to finally be setting up on the west side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts.



CLOSED

- **Steps**, the clothing store on the southeast corner of W. 105th St. and Broadway, is closing.
- **Regional**, the Italian wine bar and restaurant on the west side of Broadway between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts., has closed.
- **The Broadway Restaurant**, on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., which has been an institution in the neighborhood for 43 years, has closed. A note on the door thanked staff and patrons. Read Dayle Vander Sande's tribute to this beloved diner on page 9 of our Fall 2018 issue: w102-103blockassn.org/uploads/8/8/7/5/8875571/102-3blkassociationfall_2018final.pdf

Sharon Waskow Receives 2023 Sands Award

By GERALDINE BORRELL

ON APRIL 23 BLOOMINGDALE AGING IN PLACE (BAiP) honored member Sharon Waskow with the 2023 Herman Sands Volunteer Appreciation Award, named in memory of a founder of the organization. Sharon has been a member of BAiP since its founding in 2009. She is also the leader of a BAiP history reading group now in its 12th year, and has participated in a film group. She was recognized for founding the climate education and action group It's Easy Being Green (IEBG), formed in 2019 as a TriBloomingtondale Initiative of the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association, the West 104th Street Block Association, and BAiP.



Sharon Waskow (left) receiving the Sands Award from BAiP's Phyllis Sperling
Photo credit: Miriam Cukier

The award was presented in person for the first time since 2019, and the gathering was lively and well attended. Not one to overlook an opportunity to educate and recruit for IEBG, Sharon introduced a table game that engaged everyone in considering how and where to properly recycle.

BAiP currently has 1,400 members, more than 280 active volunteers, and 40-plus active groups. For information on joining BAiP (it's free), go to bloominplace.org/membership.html.

This was adapted from an article that appeared in the Spring 2023 issue of The BUZZ, the BAiP newsletter.

Meet Your Talented Neighbors

By JULIA C. SPRING

susan c. dessel

The exhibit *Tzedek Boxes: Justice Shall You Pursue*, at the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum of Hebrew Union College, has been extended through **Fri., June 30**. *Ha Lamaot (The Whys)*, by susan, is included. Each box is a ritual object for gathering an individual's written reflections about their efforts to improve the world, whether through volunteering, philanthropy, advocacy, education, or other just acts. It is located at 1 W. 4th St., Lower Level Gallery, and is open **Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.** Admission is free. There are docent tours each **Tuesday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** Government-issued photo ID and proof of vaccination required. For more information: huc.edu/public-programs-events/museums/dr-bernard-heller-museum-in-new-york; (212) 824-2218

LIZ QUELER, SETH FARBER, AND JOEY FARBER

Liz, Seth, and their son, Joey, have many musical events going on (redwallrecords.com). Their family band will have performed at the Dream Away Lodge in Becket, Mass., before this newsletter is out. Liz's new single, "Paris, My Love," has been released on all streaming platforms. Seth is currently working on *Rock & Roll Man*, a musical that will be presented at New World Stages **early June through Labor Day** (rockandrollmanthemusical.com).

The *West Side Rag* has an article about their project Urban Garage, which is a place for those ages 11 to 22 to take part in free "guided jams" (westsiderag.com/2023/03/18/urban-garage-a-place-for-city-kids-to-jam-for-free). Urban Garage has a three-day summer intensive clinic exploring pop music at The Bitter End (147 Bleecker St.), **Mon., July 10, to Wed., July 12, 12-4:30 p.m.**, culminating in a family jam and open mic on **Wed., July 12, 4-6 p.m.** (urbangaragenyc.squarespace.com/summer-clinic).

MARY BETH KELLY

Mary Beth's exhibit *Threshold*, featuring her photographs of Greece, Israel, and Portugal, will be on view at The Master Gallery, 310 Riverside Dr., at W. 103rd St., through **Sun., July 30**.

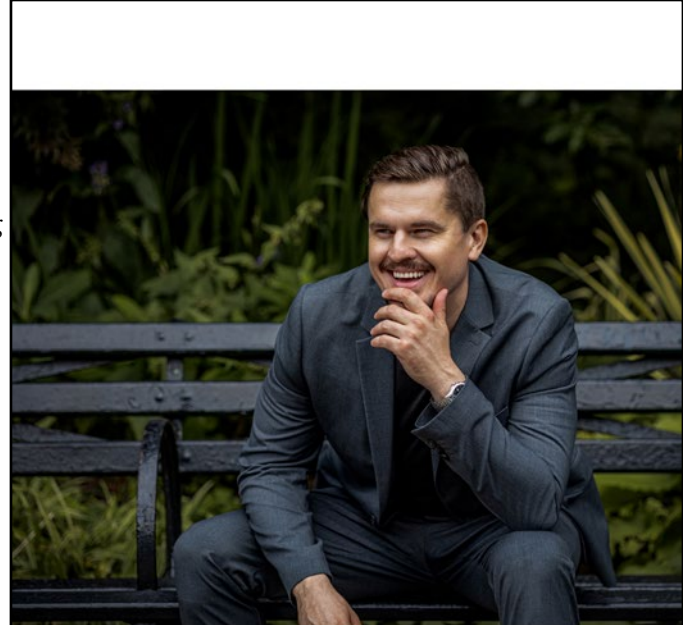
THE LOTUS GARDEN

The Lotus Garden on W. 97th St. (above the parking garage between West End and Broadway), is open to all every **Sun., 1-4 p.m.** There are 28 plots, a koi/lotus pond, and shady seating to enjoy the garden's beauty and tranquillity. There is always something new in bloom. The plots' gardeners will be present to answer questions. If you'd like to become a community member and keyholder, go to thelotusgarden.org.

RIVERSIDE CLAY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Every June and July the RCTA hosts summer concerts (bring your own seats and picnics) next to its courts in Riverside Park at W. 96th St. To see the schedule, go to rcta.tennisgroups.us and click on "Events" and then "Summer Concerts." The courts are located just off the Hudson River Greenway (bike path). They can be reached by bike or foot via the pedestrian tunnels that run underneath the West Side Highway at W. 101st and W. 91st Sts.

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 2023 Newsletter (or beyond) to creative@w102-103blockassn.org. Do it today, before you forget!



Shawn Bhandari

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Thanks so much!

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

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W102-103 Streets Block Assn., PO Box 1940, New York, NY 10025.
Or contribute online at w102-103blockassn.org.