



WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

VOL. 44, NO.3

HALLOWEEN

Volunteers Give Ghosts a Green Light

WE HAVE GREAT NEWS FOR ghouls and goblins! Three volunteers—brand-new resident Anna Zakiyev and returning helpers Carl Riehl and Sunny Naughton—have stepped up to coordinate the annual Halloween parade and party, meaning the event can go ahead as planned. Watch and be amazed on Fri., Oct. 31 as, in the span of a few minutes just before 6 p.m., the corner of West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. is transformed from cemetery quietude to FrightFest commotion. Multitudes of costumed children and their accompanying, sometimes costumed, adults and pets arrive for the event complete with masks, trick or treat bags, and an abundance of enthusiasm.

The evening's events begin as the throng gathers along the northwest corner of W. 102nd St. and West End Ave. Soon thereafter, the Spooky Stroll begins, heading north along West End Ave., then west down W. 103rd St., south on Riverside Dr., and then east up the hill on closed-off W. 102nd St. Homeowners help set the mood by decorating their stoops with pumpkins, ghosts, spider webs, dancing monsters, and bowls of candy. Volunteers stationed along the route distribute more

candy. At the end of the parade, refreshments are served, arts and crafts activities engage, face-painting delights, and story-telling entrances.

Although we're in good shape in the organizational department, volunteers to perform all sorts of worker-bee jobs are needed. You can contribute baked goods, candy, or other refreshments; you can give out candy or just clap and cheer (perhaps in costume?) along the route; you can decorate your windows or stoop if you live along the route; you can create and/or help run an activity (suggestions for new ones include a photo station, a scavenger hunt, the projecting of age-appropriate images or a film on a building wall); you can

be available for setup or cleanup; or you can stand guard at Riverside Dr. to thwart motorists who try to evade our barricades.

TO VOLUNTEER, please write to Halloween@w102-103blockassn.org. Community service credit is available for teens. Can you think of a better way to spend a couple of hours than making it possible for hundreds of kids to celebrate Halloween happily and safely right in their own neighborhood? We can't.

Watch and be amazed on Oct. 31 as the corner of West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. is transformed from cemetery quietude to FrightFest commotion.

UPDATE

BUILDING PROJECTS AND REGULATIONS

By CYNTHIA L. DOTY

THE WEST END PRESERVATION SOCIETY is disappointed to report that the Landmarks Preservation Commission has declined to include a vote on the final section of the West End Historic District on its 2014 calendar. Check the WEPS website for more information.

Jewish Home Lifecare, as well as area residents, government officials, and teachers, staff, parents and students at P.S. 163 are all anxiously waiting to see the final environmental impact study that will determine whether the project can move forward.

The New York City Housing Authority proposal to build luxury housing amid the Frederick Douglass Houses has been scrapped.

As of July 1, the income cap for SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) increased from \$29,000 to \$50,000. If you think you might qualify you can find more information and application forms at the New York City Department of Finance website.

The construction project at 315 W. 103rd St. remains stalled. Residents hope that Mayor de Blasio will appoint a new Department of Buildings commissioner who will address the issue. Now that Gale Brewer and Helen Rosenthal, both of whom are aware of the ongoing issue, are settled in their new positions, residents also hope they will be able to intervene on residents' behalf.



Two views looking south on Broadway from W. 104th St. The photo on the left was taken on Independence Day in 1888 and was posted at the Stuff Nobody Cares About website. The photo on the right was taken in 1920 by Arthur Hosking and was found by Asher Sarnoff in a collection in the Museum of the City of New York archives. It would be a vast understatement to say that our neighborhood changed a great deal in 32 years!



Discover Treasures Just A Block or Two to the North

ON SAT., OCT. 11 ON West 104th St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr., you can enjoy the energy of a bustling street market in an exotic land. If you take a walk through the 25th annual West 104th Street Yard Sale, you'll be able to shop in more than 60 stalls bursting with treasures retrieved from the darkest corners of local closets. Bid on gift certificates, art objects, show tickets, appliances, or services at the Silent Auction. Browse a large selection of novels, plays, poetry, history, biography, children's books, cookbooks, atlases, dictionaries, and CDs at the Book Sale. Select your family dessert at the Bake Sale. Hunt down a two-dollar labor saver or conversation piece at 'What-A-Bargain.' Enjoy a variety of refreshments. Take a chance in a raffle worth hundreds. Tap your foot to live music performed by seasoned New York musicians. Admission is free; the sale takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.bloomingdale.org.

EDITOR'S CORRECTIONS: We are chagrined to report that there were several mistakes in the article about the Block Association's spring Yard Sale that was published in the June issue. Corrections, in the order in which the errors appeared in the article are as follows: refreshments table contributor Nancy Wight's name was misspelled. Marv Schoenberg was identified as a first-time Yard Sale volunteer; in fact, Marv is a former board member who has been active in the organization in a variety of ways for many years. First Republic Bank and Wine in November were omitted from the list of businesses who contributed to the event, as was Mildred Speiser, who secured the First Republic Bank donation.

Apologies to those who were misidentified or given short shrift. You know that we value you and the contributions you make despite the errors in print.

THE WEST 102ND & 103RD STREETS BLOCK ASSOCIATION, info@w102-103blockassn.org

NEWSLETTER Published four times each year. Hedy Campbell, editor. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Address letters to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025. Email may be sent to editor@w102-103blockassn.org. Phone messages may be left at (212) 865-8524. Recent issues of the Newsletter are available online at www.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 Your contributions to the Block Association provide funding for our street guards. Rafael Hernandez makes rounds Tuesday through Saturday; Roy Chavarriaga is on duty Sunday and Monday. Guards patrol weekdays from 5 p.m. until midnight and from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. To report neighborhood security issues to the guards or to request their assistance on the street, call the office of Starr Security at (212) 767-1110.

It's Easier than Ever to Be Green

By LAURA HANRAHAN and SUSAN MADERER

KNOWING HOW TO RECYCLE newspapers, bottles and cans in your building trash is old news. Currently, however, there are several new initiatives through NYC Department of Sanitation that will enable residents to optimize their recycling efforts and become even greener.

One way you can start is by composting. Food scraps can be kept in large yogurt containers and/or frozen in plastic bags and brought over to the 97th St. Greenmarket (Fridays) or the Columbia Greenmarket (Thursdays and Sundays) between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. In the first 5 weeks of the program, over 1000 pounds of donated food scraps, including fruits, vegetables, flowers, coffee grounds, tea bags, cereal, pasta and egg and nut shells were collected! (No meat, fish, bones, dairy, or other greasy food scraps, please.) Universal residential organic composting has several benefits including providing over 100 cubic yards of composting in Riverside Park and a newer Newtown Creek experiment that mixes compost with bioslurry to make natural gas. As Gail Brewer was quoted at a July 10 news conference, "More compost equals less rats."

Another GrowNYC initiative available at the Greenmarkets is textile recycling. You can donate clothing, bedding, belts, handbags, fabric scraps, backpacks, etc. Donations are tax-deductible and forms are available at the tables. Materials are sorted and recycled into other wearable clothing and materials.

If you have textiles to get rid of but don't want to schlep to the Farmers Market, you can now get clothing and textile recycling bins in your own building. Re-fashionNYC, a partnership between New York City and Housing Works, and Wearable Collections will both provide bins to apartment buildings of 10 units or more and empty them regularly. See the organizations' websites for more information and online request forms.

Through its e-cycleNYC program, New York City is also making e-waste recycling available to buildings. Buildings of more than 10 units are eligible for clean-out events. Buildings of more than 50 units are eligible for on-site bins. You can get more information at the www.nyc.gov website.

BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Regular Block Association meetings are held twelve times a year, usually on the second Tuesday of every month.

September 9, October 14, and November 11
306 W. 102nd St. at 8:00 p.m.



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BAiP: How Young Is Too Young?

By MARY KOVAL AND CAITLIN HAWKE

DID YOU KNOW that there is no minimum age to participate in the offerings of Bloomingdale Aging in Place? Members' ages span 50 years. Adults of any age are welcome!

Because of its name, BAiP is sometimes misunderstood. Its essential mission is to build community among neighbors so that, as the years go by, we are all more connected. One way BAiP builds community is through ongoing interest and activity groups. Take a look at the list of BAiP's activities, on page 6, and you'll see that there are so many activity sessions that you could do something twice a day, every day of the year, and still not have participated in everything! If you don't see something that appeals to you today, there may well be something tomorrow. We're constantly adding activities to the list. Join our mailing list to receive regular updates by emailing info@bloominplace.org.

Admittedly, BAiP draws most of its members from the top third of the age range. For what is known as the Sandwich Generation, making time for more obligations is challenging. But BAiP does indeed include folks in their 30s, 40s and 50s who participate as group members or volunteers, such as building representatives or activity leaders.

Take for example watercolors co-leader and group member Cynthia Moore. Cynthia, who is in her 30s, lives with her husband on W. 102nd St. and volunteers as a co-representative in her building, helping to get the word out about what BAiP is up to. What about BAiP's mission appeals to Cynthia? "I like the idea of connecting with neighbors. Too often there's a sense of isolation in this big city!" Her advice to younger people in the neighborhood is simple: "Visit a group and be open to meeting people of all ages."

Ellen Lieberman lives with her husband on W. 103rd St. She juggles the challenges of assisting aging parents, marriage, and parenthood. Still, she has found time to help plan BAiP's public meetings, serving for many years on the panel committee. Ellen reflected, "I've always had friends of all ages. It makes life much more interesting!"

Ellen was inspired by the neighbors who helped her mother in Ohio after her father died. "She lives far away and I couldn't be there to help her, so I thought this would be a way to give that to someone here who needs help and may not have a relative nearby. Also, I found that when my mom started to fail, my brother and I were scrambling to get help and find resources. BAiP panel discussions were very informative and useful in getting the help we needed."

What makes BAiP so strong is the variety of the neighbors involved. Many continue to work, while others are embracing retirement. They represent an incredible mix of abilities and interests. Just what you'd expect from your neighbors! Stop wondering what this group is all about, and give us a try! Email us at info@bloominplace.org.

OBITUARIES

Community Mourns Three Long-time Residents

By KEN HENWOOD AND HEDY CAMPBELL

We're sad to report the loss of three neighbors and extend our condolences to the families and friends of each of them.



GUS BUTERA

ANNA BERGER died on May 26 as the result of a fall. An acclaimed actress, she appeared in well-known films such as *The Taking of Pelham One, Two, Three*, and *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, and on popular television shows such as "Law & Order." She can currently be seen in the movie *Chinese Puzzle* and had just come back from California where she was offered parts in two films. In 2010 she'd starred in a one-woman, autobiographical show, "Absolutely Anna." A lifelong New Yorker and member of the Block Association Residents of Long-Standing Hall of Fame, she was a familiar face in the neighborhood, as she walked to and from the Broadway, the coffee shop where she and her husband Bob Malatzky had breakfast most mornings. She is also survived by two brothers, two sisters, and two daughters. She was 91.



GUS BUTERA

On June 12, **ALICE MITCHELL**, the oldest resident of the Broadmoor, died peacefully in her sleep. She'd celebrated her 100th birthday at an open house in January of this year, which was noted in the March issue of our newsletter. Having lived in the Broadmoor since 1958, when she emigrated from Hungary, she was also a member of the Residents of Long-Standing Hall of Fame. She had worked as a math teacher and applied her skills by conducting a study of 200 bus drivers for Mt. Sinai Hospital and then tackling computational projects for New York State. She is survived by a son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.



STEFAN SAVAGE

NADJA TESICH, novelist, filmmaker, and political activist, had lived in our area for almost 40 years when she died on February 20. Born in Serbia in 1939, she immigrated with her family as a young teenager. She starred in French filmmaker Eric Rohmer's lyrical short called *Nadja à Paris* in 1964, taught film at Brooklyn College, directed two films, and published four novels. Passionate in her politics and political activism, Nadja was a committed member of the International Action Center who was known for wearing a splash of red to every demonstration she attended. At her memorial service, her son Stefan recalled she devoted her remarks at his wedding reception to the subject of nuclear disarmament. She is also survived by two grandchildren, a sister-in-law and a niece. Nadja was talented, remarkable, captivating, impossible to live with and impossible ever to forget.

NEW RESIDENT TAKES OVER NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Big thanks to Donna Agajanian who volunteered to handle design and layouts for our quarterly newsletter. She works as a magazine art director, so she's well-equipped to keep our little rag looking sharp. Be on the lookout for the the next issue of *House Beautiful*; she's responsible for its recent redesign.

Although new to our blocks, Donna is no stranger to New York City, having lived here between long sojourns in LA and Ossining. She and her teenaged daughter decided to move into the city to make their work and school commutes less arduous. "It is a luxury to walk home from work, walk to the market, and have spare time in our day. It is a completely different experience, a wonderful change having culture, food and energy of the city around us," Donna says. "As a California native, having water to the west feels right to me."

Welcome, and thanks for lending a much-needed hand.

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LAUREN STAHL: Bridging Two Careers that Transform Lives

By JANE HOPKINS

YOU MIGHT THINK that historic preservation and alternative medicine are unrelated fields. To resident Lauren Stahl, however, whose professional life incorporates both, they're absolutely interconnected. Read on and you'll understand why.

A New York City native who grew up in New Jersey, Lauren majored in the Growth and Structure of Cities and completed her graduate work in historic preservation. She worked with the Central Park Conservancy supporting its work restoring the park's bridges and arches. In that work, it became apparent to her that the beauty of Central Park is of critical importance when city dwellers need to escape from the intensity of their urban environment. She went on to work at various architectural and engineering firms, surveying structures, developing projects, and writing project specifications. Recently, she contributed to the historic preservation of West Point.

At one point in her career, Lauren found herself in an especially demanding work environment. She accepted a friend's invitation to join her at a weekend Reiki workshop, hoping the experience would help relieve some of her own stress. She found the experience so gratifying that she was inspired to study Reiki. Over the years, she pursued advanced certifications through the master level and developed a client base. Her business is called Lauren Stahl Healing Arts; you may have seen her advertisements in our newsletter.

Reiki and Reflexology, which Lauren also practices, are disciplines within the field of alternative medicine. Deep

healing, relaxation, and stimulation of our body's own natural ability to heal are used to combat the negative effects of chronic stress, which is a contributing factor in many illnesses. Reiki uses a technique commonly called laying on of hands. Universal energy is transferred through the practitioner's palms to support the patient's self-healing. Reflexology is based on the principle that there are reflex areas in the feet and hands that correspond to different parts of the body. The practitioner uses his or her thumb and fingers on these reflex points to relieve areas of tension and help the body operate at peak efficiency.

Over the years Lauren found the natural connection between historic preservation and the healing arts. To quote from her website: "In restoring, preserving, and modernizing places, spaces, and objects for people, I work to harmonize the needs of the space and its owner to elevate its quality so it can be enjoyed again in the present. Just as the way aesthetically pleasing spaces and objects can change the energy of the surrounding environment, allowing yourself to relax and become present helps enhance your experience of your own life."

Lauren loves her work in preservation and the healing arts. She's found the hands on part of her career so effective that she's expanded her practice to include pets. She reports that after a Reiki session, cats and dogs often become very calm and relaxed, which can help with behavioral problems or relieve discomfort during illness. You can get more information about Lauren and her work at her website (www.laurenstahl.com).

BAiP ACTIVITY LIST

BAiP currently has 26 ongoing groups; an asterisk below denotes that there is space in the group. Finding new leaders enables us to launch additional sections of existing groups as well as adding new groups. Even if a group is full, if it interests you, please contact us to learn more. Adults of any age are welcome. Email: activities@bloominplace.org; or phone: (212) 842-8831, ext.12.

ART, WRITING & HOBBY GROUPS

Art Discussion
Evening Movie Discussion
Film Buff Lunch
Memoir Writing
Movie Club
Photography
Poetry Writing
Watercolor
Stitchery
Tech Squad*

READING GROUPS

Fiction Reading
Play Reading
History Reading
Mystery Reading
Nonfiction Reading
Poetry Reading
Short Fiction Reading

EXERCISE & WELLNESS GROUPS

"Move It to Music"
Tai chi
Yoga
Brisk Walking*
Semi-Brisk Walking*
Walking*
Cycling*
Juggling
Ping pong

* space available

SAVE THE DATE!

Push Up Your Sleeves to Beautify the Neighborhood

ON SAT., OCT. 18, beginning at 9:30, we'll be planting daffodil bulbs so our tree wells will be even more gorgeous next Spring than they were this year. (Raindate is Sun., Oct. 19.) The Block Association will again have 1,000 daffodil bulbs, donated by the New York City Daffodil Project, to plant. We will also lay fresh mulch to protect trees from salt this winter. Bulbs, trowels, mulch, and gardening gloves will be at the staging area near 878 West End Ave. Not to worry, though; daffodils bloom so early that they won't get in the way when it's time to plant spring and summer flowers. Our Spring Planting event is tentatively scheduled for Sat., May 3, 2015. Contact trees@W102-103blockassn.org for info

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Once again, Block Association members and neighbors offer a variety of arts events and publications in the autumn. By JULIA C. SPRING

OZZIE ALFONSO and JANET DOEDEN HANSEN

Two W. 102nd St. neighbors are organizing a public reading of "Twelve Angry Men" at the NYPL's Bloomingdale Branch (150 W. 100th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam) on Sat., Oct. 25 in the early afternoon. Both are active volunteers with Bloomingdale Aging in Place (bloominplace.org): Janet is an Off-Off Broadway actor who served as coordinator of the Actors Studio and artistic manager of Actors Repertory Theater; Ozzie is an Emmy-award winning director, editor and producer, and member of the Directors Guild of America. In January they launched BAiP's "The Blooming Stage," an ongoing bi-monthly playreading group. Reservations are required for the Oct. 25th reading, but the event is free. For detailed information, please contact thebloomingstage@bloominplace.org or (212) 842-8831 x12.

BOBBI BECK

Bobbi, a long-time resident of the neighborhood, has had over 25 solo exhibitions of her art. Currently she has one called *Mind Puzzles: An Exhibition of Autobiographical Artworks* at the Morningside Heights Library (Broadway and W. 113th St. It may be viewed through Sept. 30 during library hours, Mon.-Thurs. 10-7, Fri. and Sat. 10-5. Bobbi's drawings are "mysterious and puzzling," reminding some of Alice in Wonderland. Her work has frequent references to women—like Alice—traveling through perilous situations. Her drawings are triggered by specific emotions, thoughts, events, and daily human experiences resulting in a

visual story full of ornamentation and arrangement of mysterious components on paper. Go to bobbi.beck@verizon.net for more information.

ANTHONY BELLOV and DAYLE VANDER SANDE

Dayle and Anthony founded the Bond Street Euterpean Singing Society a decade ago to raise funds for the restoration of the 1837 pianoforte and subsequent reinstallation of the rooms in Merchant's House, the city's only completely intact 19th-century family home. On Fri., Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. the BSESS will present "Chant Macabre: Songs from the Crypt." True to the house's era, ghosts, ghouls, and goblins haunt the music (by Mussorgsky, Schubert, Liszt, Debussy, and others) and are predicted to send shivers down your spine. The museum is at 29 E 4th St., between Lafayette and the Bowery. Reservations are required; tickets (\$25) are NOT sold at the door. Contact 212-777-1089 or www.merchantshouse.org.

ANTHONY DECURTIS

Anthony (adecurtis@aol.com) is a music critic who has written for many publications including *Rolling Stone* and the *New York Times*; he collaborated with Clive Davis on *The Soundtrack of My Life*, which became a best-seller. He has recently written introductory essays for three books of photographs being published in September: *Lenny Kravitz*; *Deborah Feingold: Music*; and *Journeyman: Eric Clapton—a Photographic Narrative*. All will be available at Barnes and Noble as well as other booksellers.

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18:
Fall Bulb Planting and Mulching, 10 a.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31:
Halloween Parade and Party, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1:
Winter Newsletter Distribution

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21:
Solstice Caroling, 7 p.m.

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Crowd-sourcing Comes to Our Blog and Calendar

By CAITLIN HAWKE

ONE OF OUR best kept secrets is the excellent website that so many people worked so hard to get up and running. If you are not familiar with it, take a look and send us your thoughts: w102-103blockassn.org. We're always striving to improve it, and with your help, right now we're working on enhancing our blog and calendar.

There is lots of new content up on the blog. If you have not been on the site recently, you may have missed some interesting coverage of things local. For example, you would have to have lived here for 60 years to remember Hudes Delicatessen. But recently we were treated to its fabulous old-timey sign as work began on the frontage of the old Korean deli, 103 Grocery & Flower, which sat in the very same spot. Two delis. Two eras. Changing neighborhoods. This is just one of the local-interest items you'll find on the blog.

To keep it fresh, we're calling all neighbors. We'd like to start an occasional series on the blog where locals write an ode to a favorite thing in the neighborhood. Silver Moon's blueberry ginger muffin was my muse. What's yours? If you have an absolute favorite thing within a block or two, that's a blog post! It could be a dumpling at Xi'an Foods, a pepperoni slice snack attack at Sal & Carmine's, a tap dance class at Bridge for Dance, or a favorite craft beer at the Dive Bar. We

all have guilty pleasures that are close to home.

Alas, some of those pleasures are gone, but not forgotten. Do you remember grabbing a foreign film at the Movie Place on your way home from work on a Friday night? Or did you pick up a hot cup of coffee at Positively 104th Street in the days before Starbucks. Who remembers that coffee house where Toast is now; you could sit all afternoon nursing an iced tea and playing backgammon. What was it called? That's a post, too.

Send us a few words about your favorite thing! Limit your submissions to between 300 and 400 words and include a picture, if possible. The Block Association web editors reserve the right to edit submissions.

Also, if you wish to add an event to our calendar, we're accepting information about local meetings and performances, as well as public events in which our members are involved such as concerts and art shows. Send us the name, date and time and a url, and we'll post it on the calendar.

Take a look at the site from time to time; you'll be surprised to see what is going on around here!

Please email all blog and calendar submissions to: blog@w102-103blockassn.org. If you do not have email, please mail your submission to: Box 1940, New York, NY 10025.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

GASTRONOMIA CULINARIA

By KATE MCLEOD

IT WAS EASY TO corral a couple of my friends to join me last minute at Gas-tronomia Culinaria, a small, intimate restaurant that seems out of the neighborhood because it is almost at Central Park on W. 106th Street. They'd heard about this restaurant and wanted to check it out with me. Although there's no sign outside, it was easy to spot it by its rustic wooden door. Inside, wide floorboards and bare brick continue the casual theme.

The attentive wait staff was quick to provide service and presented us with small and selective menus and a beer and wine list. The three of us zeroed in on the crispy rice balls with lemon zest and basil and parmesan aioli (\$10) as our appetizer. The rice balls were lightly fried, cooked to perfection. Bite into one and the fluffy texture and flavor of parmesan and lemon zest hits the palate perfectly. The aioli kicks up even

more flavor. We also tried a tuscan kale salad with lemon anchovy dressing and Sardinian pecorino shavings (\$9). The raw young kale was as tender as lettuce. The anchovy dressing was a perfect complement.

How often have you had wonderful appetizers in a restaurant only to be disappointed in the main courses? I was prepared for exactly that, and was happy to be proven wrong. Chef Vincenzo Pezzilli, who learned to cook as a child in his native Rome before mentoring under acclaimed Chef Paul Boscuse, wouldn't allow it! Skirt steak came with exceptional roasted potatoes and arugula salad that tasted as if it had just come out of the garden (\$24). Risotto with crayfish and octopus was excellent, although my friend felt that the fish more or less sat atop the risotto rather than enriching it. Pork belly nicely combined with sautéed eggplant and

zucchini ribbons. The various menus cater to many moods. Feel like having pizza? There's a pizza menu. Want panini? They have that too.

For dessert, we tried the blueberry panna cotta (\$7). The classic taste of panna cotta worked beautifully with the summer-fresh blueberries.

The only disappointing facet of this gem was the presence of a television tuned to a food channel. Why would a nice restaurant like this want to be at all like a sports bar? Background music played at a low volume would be a big improvement.

The restaurant is located at 53 W. 106th St., between Columbus and Manhattan Aves. It's open Mon.-Thurs. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Credit cards accepted. Entrée prices range from \$11 to \$30. Reservations are advised. Call 212-663-1040.

On Broadway

★ A new Indian restaurant called **Awadh** (initially proposed as Varq), has opened at 2588 Broadway (between W. 97th and W. 98th St.), a space that was previously occupied by the French restaurant Alouette. The name indicates that the cuisine comes from Northern India. The owner, Guarav Anand, has two other restaurants on the east side of Manhattan. He plans to run cooking classes at Awadh in conjunction with Macy's.

★ **Academy Floral**, formerly at the northeast corner of W. 107th St. and Broadway, has moved to the retail space in the Ariel East building next to the former Metro Theater on the east side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts.

★ For the past ten years, **PicNic Market and Café** has been a fixture on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. It was the site of the Café Columbia talks by the university's professors, live music, and the Alsatian cooking of chef-owner Jean Luc Kieffer. On June 27, he sent the following in an email to patrons: "All good things must come to an end, and so it goes with PicNic. Our rent and monthly expenses have increased to the point where our beloved restaurant has become unsustainable." A couple of weeks later, he announced that the restaurant would remain open through July. In late-August, it was still open. Stay tuned!

★ The Beauty Plus Salon and beauty supplies shop on the east side of Broadway between W. 96th and W. 97th Sts. had a going-out-of-business sale in the middle of July and closed by the end of the month.

★ **Crumbs**, the bakery chain that specialized in cupcakes, had a store on the east side of Broadway between W. 108th and W. 109th Sts., which closed in June. Now the whole company has filed for bankruptcy but may be rescued by a group of investors who said they would reopen some of the stores.

★ The storefront of the fruit and vegetable store that used to be on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts. is slowly being peeled away. There are now visible the remains of what once was a sign for another deli. Although the name of that shop is somewhat obliterated, a blog post at our website and the ensuing conversation reveals that the space was once Hudes Delicatessen.

★ **RiteAid**, on the east side of Broadway at W. 104th St. closed at the end of June. The closing was followed by a half-off sale of merchandise and then the dismantling of the store as fixtures, shelves, and even cardboard balers were offered for sale. It will be replaced by a CityMD Urgent Care office.

★ The former Juice Generation juice bar on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. that closed back in February is being replaced by a coffee bar. The owner was in the shop overseeing renovation at the end of July but was not prepared to provide the name of his business nor more information other than he hoped to be open by the end of August (well past the deadline for this article).

★ **NYCity Blinds**, which has a shop of the same name at 450 E. 78th St., will be opening a second shop on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. Owners expect to be open for business selling blinds, shades, shutters, and other window treatments in the former location of In and Out Nails by mid-October.

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