



## Double the Vendors, Double the Fun at Spring Yard Sale

Everyone who was at the Yard Sale on Saturday, May 14, knows it was a great event but they may not know how much effort went in to making it run so smoothly.

First of all, three roaring cheers for Anthony Bellov, our ringmaster, who coordinated the space applications, put up posters and managed the assignments of space as the vendors arrived early in the morning. Anthony was rock-solid, providing advice and encouragement throughout the weeks leading up to the big event and giving the thumbs-up for Saturday in spite of ominous weather reports. We sold 41 spaces this year compared to 22 last year for a take of \$1630. Great job, Anthony!

Hedy Campbell organized the bake sale, getting many contributors to make everything from brownies to muffins to chocolate chip cookies to snickerdoodles. Many thanks to the bakers: Doris Basner, Nancy Becker, Jill Chase, Susan Dessel, Maura Gouck, Penelope Kim, Marlene Lee, Deborah Lott, Libby Mark and David Reich. Sales were even brisker than expected: the whole lot sold out by 4pm raising almost \$200 for the Block Association. Hedy also arranged the purchases of the caps and mugs with our logo that were displayed and sold

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# The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association *NEWSLETTER*

## Rosalyn Cherry, Longtime Board Member, Resigns

By Ginger Lief

In March, Rosalyn Cherry, the longest serving member of the Block Association's Board of Directors, resigned from the Board and her position as co-chair in order to devote more time to other pursuits.

Rosalyn's participation began with a call, in May 1983, for volunteers for the Block Fair arts committee, chaired by Cherie Tredanari. The theme of the block fair that year was *A Salute to Equity Library Theatre* (then located in the Master Building at 310 Riverside Drive). In supporting the Block Fair, Rosalyn met Fred and Mary Fried, Edna Guttag, Jenness Eertmoed, Ted and Asya Berger, and Len Tredanari—all of whom had given generously of their time and talents to the Block Association since its 1971 inception.

The 1983 Block Fair was a great success and Rosalyn had become a committed Block Association member, helping to plan the next three block fairs. From then on, she regularly attended the Block Association's monthly meetings and contributed to the many aspects of its community-enhancing work.

In 1986, she served as a chairperson for the auction as well as the volunteer drive. In October 1995, Rosalyn co-chaired, with Anthony Bellov, a walk-

ing tour and centennial celebration of a row of five brownstones on W. 103rd Street. The following May, she and Anthony presented a second walking tour and a celebration of the Block Association's twenty-fifth anniversary. Eight years later, in the spring of 2004, she again worked with Anthony to organize the April Yard Sale—the first major Block Association fund raiser since 1986.

Rosalyn has also been a regular contributor to the Block Association Newsletter. Her first article, in the April/May 1985 issue, profiled neighborhood pianist and composer, Jimmy Roberts. Later, she brought attention to another local artist: playwright Gretchen Cryer. Upon Jock Davenport's retirement as editor in 2002, Rosalyn wrote thoughtfully about Jock's considerable contributions.

Four years ago, Rosalyn initiated a

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### BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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

TIME: 8:00 p.m.  
PLACE: 306 W. 102nd St.

The next three meetings are scheduled for Jun. 14, Jul. 12 and Aug 9.

# Theater Party Enjoys *China Doll* at Pan Asian Rep

By Rosalyn Cherry

On the beautiful Sunday afternoon of April 10, the Block Association's annual Pan Asian Repertory Theater Party convened on W. 86th St. to see this year's production, *China Doll*, based on the life of actress Anna May Wong. Our largest group ever, the twenty attendees were Block Association residents as well as neighbors from W. 104th Street and beyond.

Our afternoon started with a talk before the show by Colgate University History Professor Graham Russell Gao Hodges, author of *Anna May Wong: From Laundryman's Daughter to Hollywood Legend*. His presentation included some of Wong's own words and highlights of her relationships with her family and her Hollywood and international co-stars. Prof. Hodges set the context for her struggle

to reach fame in this country: Wong became a star in Europe before returning to success on Broadway and in Hollywood.

Anna May's obstacles included the ban against Asian actresses kissing Caucasian male stars, which was prohibited in Hollywood as a reflection of laws against interracial marriage that persisted in some states until 1969. One member of our group, Sheridan Prasso, author of *The Asian Mystique: Dragon Ladies, Geisha Girls, and Our Fantasies of the Exotic Orient*, commented, "The performance of *China Doll* causes us to consider how prejudice and stereotypes still persist in the Hollywood images of Asian women today. In that we still see Asian women portrayed as either submissive lotus flowers and geisha girls, or the opposite, as dragon lady dominatrix characters, very little has changed since the

days of Anna May Wong."

This was a world premiere production with the author, Elizabeth Wong, (no relation to her subject), in attendance. We were transported in time over four decades of Anna May's life from the 1920's to the 1950's, experiencing many of the tender and touching moments that molded her and her dreams, along with the obstacles that she overcame.

We saw the bond with her mother develop when, as a child, once her father was asleep, the two would sneak out to see silent films, especially "The Perils of Pauline." Many years later, her mother died in California in a car accident just as Anna May was opening on Broadway. Her father refused to move the date of the funeral so she could attend. He always wanted her, his third daughter, to marry

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# Sun Shines Brightly on New Broadway Restaurant

By Hedy Campbell

Blame it on Billy, as in "Billy-bi, an elegant French soup made with mussels, onions, wine, cream and seasonings," named for William B. Leeds, a tycoon in the American tin industry. When the waiter at **Café du Soleil** lifted the lid of the tiny tureen and a first whiff of the aroma reached my nose, I knew I was smitten. A single taste sealed the deal. Café du Soleil had won my affections.

Located on Broadway between W. 104th and 105th Streets, the restaurant upholds the bistro tradition in atmosphere and in cuisine. There are white subway tile walls, cane-backed chairs, and enormous gilt-framed mirrors encircling the room. Tables are cheek by jowl, perhaps in response to the crush

prompted by a favorable early notice in *The New York Times*. The clamor and bustle common to bistros abound.

The menu offers a wide selection of appetizers, some denoted especially for sharing, others as single portions; soups; three pasta choices, two of which are meatless; two main dish salads; five entrees each of meat or poultry and fish or other seafood.

In the first course department, besides my beloved billy-bi, I sampled a Provençal *soupe au pistou*, a basil-and-garlic infused mélange of vegetables, each of which retained its individual character, and a ragout of wild mushrooms, both of which were equally delectable. The reconstructed, sliced tomato filled with goat cheese will be my choice on my next visit.

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## The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association Newsletter

Published four times a year. **Hedy Campbell and David L. Reich**, co-editors. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Send US Mail to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025 or email to [dlreich@earthlink.net](mailto:dlreich@earthlink.net). Phone messages may be left at (212) 866-5769 or faxes may be directed to (212) 866-5916. Recent issues of the Newsletter may be seen at [//www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)

## ☆☆☆ Neighborhood Stars ☆☆☆

During the weeks following last December 26, the world was horrified at the growing reports of destruction and death in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Countries, organizations and individuals gave money, workers and supplies to the relief effort. On a different scale, small numbers of people stopped what they were doing and went to the area to help.

Two of these volunteers, Felicia Laird and Rose Podrasky, live on the same floor at 310 Riverside Dr. (the Master Apartments). They each came to the decision to volunteer independently but eventually both followed the same path to Sri Lanka.

As Felicia says, she, like many people, didn't know where Sri Lanka was. Her soft accent betrays her roots in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Twenty-five years ago she had visited New York City and vowed to live here some day. Ten years ago she made the move.

She had been a "first responder" when she worked for Exxon, trained to drive an ambulance. Over the years, she had volunteered with the Red Cross and other organizations including a stint in Florida following Hurricane Andrew in 1992. She also worked as a counselor in a family treatment center in Baton Rouge. "I know the importance of volunteering," Felicia says.

Rose started out as a teacher, then made a career change to nursing. She works part-time in the psychiatric department of a local hospital, a position that offered some preparation for the emotional devastation she would encounter.

Both women searched the Internet for ways to help. Felicia found Global Crossroad, a commercial organization that places people in volunteer situations for a fee. A short time later she would arrive in Colombo at 3:30 am with two overweight suitcases crammed with supplies and toys for kids. That no one was there to meet her "just made it more challenging," she says with a smile. Eventually, she joined groups of foreign volunteers who worked in both the north and south of the country clearing debris, dispensing aid and repairing buildings.

On March 5, Rose went to Sri Lanka for two weeks and found the relief effort somewhat better organized. She was placed in a refugee camp in Peraliya alongside a railroad line where a train had been hit killing 1500 people. As a triage nurse, she worked with volunteer doctors from Germany, Britain and Israel. She also worked in an orphanage and building houses. Children seemed to bounce back, she observed, but there were many very depressed adults trying to deal with huge losses of family, homes and property.

For Felicia, it is just the beginning. She has joined Global Crossroad as a volunteer coordinator and will go to Sri Lanka in July to continue the work. For both women, the results of their work and the gratitude of the Sri Lankans were worth all the effort.

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## Rosalyn Cherry Resigns from Board

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neighborhood outing to a Pan Asian Repertory Theater play. She arranged for Tisa Chang, a neighbor and the company's director/producer, to lead a post-performance discussion for the group. The theater party has now become a popular annual event. (See Rosalyn's review of this year's excursion on Page 2.)

For the Block Association's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration in 1996, a T-shirt was designed featuring our logo and, at Rosalyn's suggestion, "Where Community Spirit Thrives." The words live on, printed on our new mugs and baseball caps (see Page 4).

Whether organizing neighbors to plant flowers in tree wells, posting flyers, delivering newsletters, or taking the lead in organizing an event, Rosalyn infuses all she does with contagious enthusiasm and spirit. Rosalyn, we thank you for the sense of community you have nurtured among us all.

## Anthony Bellov

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# Theater Party at Pan Asian Rep's *China Doll*

*Continued from Page 2*

wealthy and have a traditional family life.

Rosanne Ma's performance as Anna May Wong was very powerful and gave us a strong sense of the pioneering actress's conflicts between her family and her acting career. It brought into sharp contrast her life as an often lonely person and the public world of famous stars and directors, many of whom were her friends and/or lovers. The play portrayed, in a most provocative manner, Wong's relationships with many stars including Marlene Dietrich with whom she starred in "Shanghai Express."

With Tisa Chang's insightful directing, the cast's superb acting, the minimal but evocative scenery, the effective lighting and clever choices of music and the use of mannequins to hold the costume changes, Pan Asian Rep delivered a thoroughly engrossing performance of Elizabeth Wong's powerful writing.

Once again, Ms. Chang made this a special event for us by gathering the actors for an informative post-performance discussion. We had an afternoon of great theater, right in our own neighborhood.

# Community Spirit Thrives; Gristedes Arrives

There's no better evidence for the Block Association motto "Where Community Spirit Thrives" than in the Gristedes supermarket that recently opened in the new Columbia building at the northeast corner of Broadway and W. 103rd St. That might be hard to believe, but it's true.

You might not know that on and off for at least the past twenty years, there was a grocery store on the east side of Broadway between W. 102nd and 103rd St., in what is now a Janovic Plaza paint store. In 2000, the most recent incarnation, an Associated Supermarket, sold its lease to CVS.

Members of the community were outraged that an essential service was on its way out, yet another drugstore on its way in. Although their protests didn't stop the deal from going through, CVS's presence was short-lived. It closed in January of 2002.

Meanwhile, local groups, the Westsiders for Viable Neighborhoods in particular, continued to work toward the return of a grocery store in the neighborhood. When news that Columbia would develop the W. 103rd St. site got out, they redoubled their efforts. With the support of the Block Association, letters were sent to elected officials, contacts were made with Columbia representatives, meetings

were scheduled. Coincidentally, John Catsimatidis, the major owner of the Gristedes chain, had begun plans for developing the site of its store on the west side of Broadway between W. 99th and 100th Sts. The closing of that location would only worsen the shopping situation for local residents.

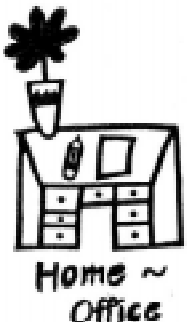
Fortunately for all of us, in January of this year, it all came together. Gristedes' needs, Columbia's needs, and the needs of community dwellers dovetailed perfectly and a deal was struck. Columbia has a tenant, Gristedes maintains its neighborhood outpost, and residents again have a conveniently located full-service grocery. It's a positive result of our thriving community spirit.

## Support Your Block Association Mugs & Caps Available Now!

White porcelain **coffee mugs** (with green lettering) and two-tone **baseball caps** (off-white with black bills and lettering) each sporting the Block Association logo and motto "Where Community Spirit Thrives".

**Mugs: \$5, Caps: \$10.**

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# Summer Entertainment in Riverside Park

## Riverside Clay Tennis Association Free Concerts on the lawn at the 97th Street Tennis Courts

**Saturday, June 11, 7:00 pm** **Jazz**  
Bassist Ron McClure and his ensemble  
Rain date: Sunday, June 12, 7:00 pm

**Saturday, June 25, 5:00 pm** **Bluegrass**  
Citigrass - "high energy alternative bluegrass"  
Rain date: Sunday, June 26, 5:00 pm

**Saturday, July 2, 5:00 pm** **Blues**  
The Atwaters - Ed Baker, keyboards, Ron Spitzer, bass,  
Mark B. Lonergan, guitar and Joe Bonadio, drums.  
Rain date: Sunday, July 3, 7:00 pm

**Saturday, July 9, 5:00 pm** **Samba**  
Pe de Boi - Brazilian-born Marcio Sapel's samba band.  
Rain date: Sunday, July 10, 7:00 pm

**Saturday, July 16, 6:00 pm** **Classical**  
Gotham Winds Ensemble  
Rain date: Sunday, July 17, 6:00 pm

**Saturday, July 30, 6:00 pm** **Middle Eastern**  
Effendi with Scott Wilson playing his "Baglama Hydra," a  
combination oud, saz and bouzouki.  
Rain date: Sunday, July 31, 5:30 pm

## For Kids on the 70th Street Pier Plaza

**Sunday, June 16, 2:00 - 4:00 pm** **Kid Acts**  
Music, circus acts, wacky performers, balloon makers, and  
more! Weather permitting.

**Sunday, July 17, 2:00 - 4:00 pm** **Clowning Around**  
Two clowns meet one magic trunk for an afternoon of mys-  
terious fun! Weather permitting.

**Sunday, July 31, 2:00 - 4:00 pm** **Groove Hoops**  
Hula-hoop dance team. They will perform their incredible  
physical tricks and teach you how to hula-hoop like you  
never thought you could! Weather permitting.

## Riverside Park South Free Concerts at the 70th Street Pier Plaza

**Sunday, July 10, 6:00 - 8:30 pm** **Jazz**  
Roni Ben-Hur Jazz and Brazilian Quartet - an acoustic gui-  
tarist with a great feel for Jobim rhythms and jazz standards.

**Sunday, July 17, 6:00 - 8:30 pm** **Rhythm & Blues**  
Onliest R & B -

**Sunday, July 24, 6:00 - 8:30 pm** **TBA**  
To be announced.

**Sunday, July 31, 6:00 - 8:30 pm** **TBA**  
To be announced.

## Globesonic DJ Dance Party on the 70th Street Pier

**Friday, July 8 and Friday, August 12, 7:00 - 11:00 pm**  
Globesonic's legendary monthly world-music DJ and drum-  
ming dance parties will keep you dancing from dusk to dark!

## Let's Dance! on the 70th Street Pier Plaza

**Sundays, June 5, 12, 19, September 11, 18, 6:00 - 9:00 pm**  
Learn to dance to the beat of the Hustle, Salsa, Cha Cha and  
more, from top skilled instructors from Soho Dance Studio.  
With brief performances by artistic director Raul Santiago.

## Movies Under the Stars on the 70th Street Pier (all movies on Wednesdays at 8:30 pm)

**July 13** *Chicago* - Renee Zellweger, Catherine  
Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere  
**July 20** *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* - Steve Martin,  
Michael Caine  
**July 27** *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* - Richard  
Burton, Elizabeth Taylor  
**August 3** *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* - Dick Van Dyke  
**August 10** *Little Women* - Wynona Ryder, Susan  
Sarandon  
**August 17** *Sweet Charity* - Shirley MacLaine

For further information on events in Riverside Park see the Riverside Park Fund's website at [www.riversideparkfund.org](http://www.riversideparkfund.org) or  
call (212) 870-3070. For information on 70th St. pier events, call 311 for the NYC Dept. of Parks.

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## NEW YORK

**Mama's Boys**  
Juan Rojas Campos and his brother Bernabe grew up with six brothers in a tiny Mexican village, where their mother taught them to cook. Now, with their brother-in-law, the hermanos have opened Mama Mexico, a festive cantina with a roster of frozen margaritas, a feature of Mexican village life, and a stellar mariachi band. The extensive menu ranges from the traditional (nachos, burritos) to the less familiar (lighted marinated rack of lamb and red-snapper soup). (2672 Broadway, near 102nd Street.) Extract from New York magazine dated September 15, 1997.

**DAILY NEWS** NEW YORK POST  
**V.I.V.A.** Cheap Eats  
The Mama of All Fiestas  
Mariachis - Three Stars and More

**el diario LA PRENSA**  
El mas autentico sabor pobliano

**MANHATTAN Spirit**  
"Incredible Array of Yummy Dishes"  
Margarita Heaven

**CRAIN'S**  
NEW YORK BUSINESS  
Mexican network takes fresh root in northern climes

**ZAGAT SURVEY 2000**  
"Strong, hot margaritas" and huge samples fuel the "fiesta" feel of this winning Upper West Side Mexican that also showcases an "over-the-top" mariachi band on Fridays. compadres commend the "Top Star" and only "wish the place weren't so popular."  
**The New York Times**  
Friendly and Likable...  
Spicing is Tame but Drinks are Potent



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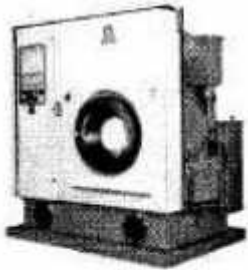
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## Sun Shines Brightly on New Broadway Restaurant

*Continued from Page 2*

In a carnivorous mood, I sampled one of the two steaks on the menu, a skirt steak served with a shallot and anchovy butter. It arrived cooked exactly to order, adorned with sauce, not overwhelmed. I had expected a side of *pomme frites* but instead found a portion of (delicious) roasted potatoes.

The substitution, as well as a \$54 pinot noir we were served instead of the \$28 bottle we had ordered are both understandable glitches of sudden success. (The wine upgrade was on the house.) Across the board, the staff was friendly and accommodating, eager to answer all of our questions.

Back to the food: one of my companions enjoyed an exceptionally moist codfish filet braised with tomatoes and mushrooms in a vermouth chive sauce and served on a bed of caramelized onions

and grilled squash. The other lost himself in delightfully tender seared sea scallops served over a black truffle vinaigrette. All three of us agreed that portions were neither too small nor of intimidating size, and declared them just right.

In the interest of journalism, we somehow found room for dessert and shared the strawberry apricot tart, which was enhanced by an undertone of almonds. Polite yet ardent negotiation for the last bite ensued. A single portion of *mousse au chocolat* was graciously packed to go, on behalf of the fourth member of our party, side-

lined by responsibilities less rewarding than restaurant reviewing. She pronounced it very fine.

Café du Soleil is located at 2723 Broadway and is currently open for dinner only. Prices range from \$6 to \$10 for appetizers, from \$13 to \$22 for entrees. The wine list is extensive, with selections available by the glass or the bottle. A sidewalk café operates in fine weather. There are plans to open for breakfast and lunch as well. Phone (212) 316-5000. Credit cards accepted.

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Photos by Ozzie Alfonso

The Bake Sale table with (from left) Hedy Campbell (Bake Sale coordinator), Sasha Gibbel, David Reich and Mary Gorrill.

Anthony Bellov (Yard Sale coordinator, in apron) discusses the features of an item with a shopper.

## Double the Vendors, Double the Fun at Spring Yard Sale

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at our information table (see caps in photo above). To order yours, see the box on Page 4.

Those items and sheets of postcards brought in another \$120. Staffing the bake sale and information tables (tables generously supplied by St. Luke's House) during the day were Board members Hedy, Marlene, Maura, David, Paul, Jock and Kathy. Block resident Mary Gorrill was generous with her time and spent more than an hour helping at the tables along with the Board members. Much to our delight, Rosalyn, our recently retired Board co-chair, came by to help out and sup-

plied a couple of folding chairs for the weary as well.

In spite of predicted thunderstorms, the weather not only held, it was beautiful all day. When 5pm rolled around, the vendors started packing up and the final hard work of the day began. Trash had piled up at the corner of West End Ave. and W. 103rd Street. Hedy, Maura and Marlene along with Hedy's daughter Rosalie and BA member and vendor Jill Chase, put trash in bags supplied by Maura and flattened, folded and duct-taped (thanks to Ed Campbell for the duct tape) the empty cardboard boxes into neat piles. By 6pm, when the street was reopened to traffic, the block was cleaner than it

had been before we started at 8 am.

Vendors, visitors and BA members all commented on how great the spirit had been all day. There were requests for spaces next year and even an offer to provide a jazz combo next time. We learned a few lessons about the need for greater publicity, for an unending supply of baked goods and some sort of drinks and a better way to get people to move parked cars, which we will work on next year.

For now, we can bask in the memory of a wonderful day, an increase in the BA coffers of close to \$2000 and a great expression of our community spirit. To all who helped out: Thanks and well done!!

## Cary Delivers State of the Tree Wells Report

Board member Alan Cary recently conducted a survey of the district's street trees and submitted the following report:

- There are 90 street tree pits, one empty, housing 14 varieties of trees.
- The newest tree in the neighborhood is a Callery pear planted in front of 240 W. 102nd St. by New York City's Street Tree Program 18 months after the request was submitted.

- 82 of the pits are outfitted with a tree well guard of one sort or another.
- There are six varieties of tree well protection ranging in material from coated wire to masonry to iron.
- Two of the tree well guards are in need of major repair. 16 need minor repairs. All need some repainting. Eight tree pits have no guard at all.

The Block Association is willing to organize a coordinated effort to main-

tain the tree well guards, passing on the savings afforded by doing all the work at once to building owners and co-op owners, thus saving them the effort of contracting on an individual basis. All that's needed to get this underway is a volunteer willing to make available the limited time involved.

For more information about what this project entails, call Hedy Campbell at (212) 865-8524.



# On Broadway

**Openings and Closings:** ♦♦ On the east side of Broadway, a strictly kosher establishment, **La Crêperie**, has opened between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts. It features crêpes with various cheese or fish fillings as well as pasta dishes and salads. Dessert crepes are also on the menu. ♦♦ The Mediterranean/Provençal restaurant **Café du Soleil** has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. It had an unusual pre-opening mention in the NY Times along with a photo of the chef and co-owner, Matthew Tivy. Reservations are already hard to come by. (See review on Page 2) ♦♦ A new Italian restaurant, **Regional**, has opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts. where the Peruvian **Manu** used to be. Owner Dario Arenella will offer dishes and wines from many different regions of his homeland. Regional joins **Meridiana** (Broadway at W. 106th St.) as the only Italian restaurant for many blocks filling a culinary gap in the neighborhood left by the departure, two years ago, of **Presto's**, formerly next door to the departed Olympia Theater on the east side of Broadway at W. 107th St. and, more recently, **Caffe Taci**, on the west side of Broadway north of W. 110th St. which is now the Moroccan restaurant and hookah bar **Kasbah Rouge**. ♦♦ The **Blimpie's** fast food restaurant on the northeast corner of Broadway and 97th Street has been remodeled and reopened under new management. ♦♦ In other areas, rivers overflow their banks. In our neighborhood, it's the banks that are overflowing Broadway. The corner retail space in the new Columbia building at W. 103rd St. is about to be a **Independence Community Bank**. Six blocks north at W. 109th St.,

**Commerce Bank** has a large branch under construction. **Citibank** is at W. 111th St., across from **Banco Popular**, and half a block south of **Washington Mutual**. At W. 96th St., **Chase**, Citibank and Washington Mutual are a penny's throw from each other. Chase also has a branch at W. 109th St. Need a name for our neighborhood? How about "Willie Sutton Country?" ♦♦ The large retail space on the southwest corner of Broadway and W. 97th St. is still empty. Meanwhile, a sliver space has been carved out at 2571 Broadway, just south of the main area, and rented to a linens store, the **Cotton Shop**. A similar shop has opened on the northeast corner of Broadway at W. 106th St. ♦♦ The **Afghan Kebab** restaurant on the northeast corner of Broadway and W. 102nd St. has closed. ♦♦ **Sterling Optical**, on Broadway between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts. will be moving but not to W. 109th St. That deal fell through and a new one has not yet been completed.

**Going Down, Going Up:** ♦♦ **Mamá Mexico** on Broadway at W. 102nd St. is expanding its enclosed sidewalk café around the corner. ♦♦ In the middle of April, about two weeks after the new **Gristedes** opened on Broadway at W. 103rd St., the old Gristedes on Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. was closed. Demolition has begun in preparation for construction of a condominium tower said to be about thirty stories by Penny Ryan of Community Board 7 who had not yet seen the plans. The developer, Extell, is scheduled to present its plans for the property at the June 15 public meeting of CB7's Land Use Committee. The same developer will also be working across Broadway, demolishing the building just north of the **Metro Twin** movie theater and putting up another residential tower. According to Ryan, this development will not affect the movie theater. Since the building will be built "as of right," there is no requirement that the plans be presented to CB7 for approval.

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## Thank You, Members!

To all of our contributors, heartfelt thanks. Your donations keep the Block Association going and the guard on the street. Names of those who are “paid up” through the *previous* quarter (approximately) appear below; please let us know of errors. We ask that you

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St., 317 W. 103 St., 855 West End Ave., 875 West End Ave., 878 West End Ave., 885 West End Ave., 299 Riverside Dr., 300 Riverside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr. **Commercial:** Bellov, Kay French Cleaners, Klara Madlin Real Estate, Mamà Mexico, Pan Asian Rep, Perez, Sorkin, Stahl, Wohlfarth & Associates

## Young Neighbor Finds Time for Animals

Rosalie Campbell, an 8-year-old resident of our district, recently began volunteering once a week at Petqua, the pet store on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Streets. The Block Association talked with her about what she’s been up to.

**BA:** What is it you find appealing about working at Petqua?

**RC:** It’s fun and challenging for me. Working there gives me the chance to learn more about the different animals, and the people are really nice. Iggy and Clinton give me lots of different jobs to do so I’m never bored; sometimes, Sam and Ed, the owners, let me operate the cash register.

**BA:** What sort of jobs do you do?

**RC:** I clean the outsides of fish tanks, I fill the animals’ water bottles, I organize the cat food and sweep the stairs. One time, when I was cleaning out a gerbil tank, the gerbils were all jumping around trying to nibble my fingers. Since then, I don’t go inside the tanks.

**BA:** Do you have a favorite animal?

**RC:** I really like George the tortoise who walks around downstairs. One time, I picked him up to feel his weight. He stuck his head out really fast. He’s really heavy!

**BA:** Do you think you might like to work with animals someday?

**RC:** I think it would be really cool to have a combined animal shelter and pet store.