



# The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association

## NEWSLETTER

### Annual Tree Well Planting and Cleanup Rescheduled to June 7

The Block Association's sidewalk cleanup and tree well planting day will take place on Saturday, June 7 starting at 10 am.

Plants, potting soil and fertilizer will be distributed by the organizer, John Hewitt, in front of 862 West End Ave. To sign up, send an email to [planting@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:planting@w102-103blockassn.org) or call John at (212) 866-0229. If you would like to plant a particular tree well, perhaps one in front of your building, you should specify the location when you register with John.

This year we will be extending our neighborhood to include the new transitional housing for homeless families that just opened at 210 W. 102nd St. on the east side of Broadway. We will be cooperating with family members there to beautify the tree wells in front of their building.

Here's your chance to get down to earth while improving your block's appearance. Come join our growing team!

### Publicity and Weather Challenges Met, Yard Sale Goes On to Great Success

By Hedy Campbell

This was a tough year to prepare for the Yard Sale. The first hurdle appeared when the Sanitation Department started cracking down on anyone who put flyers on lamp posts, our primary method of publicizing the event to vendors as well as potential buyers. Large fines were being levied.

Our response was to go multi-media. Posters were hung in building lobbies and storefronts thanks to Marlene Lee, Alan Cary, Ginger Lief, and Terence and Laura Hanrahan. Messages were distributed through email groups far and wide. Notices were posted on websites and in local publications. Our efforts worked; the Block Association received more revenue from vendors than ever.

Then there was the weather. In the week leading up to the event, forecasts varied from thunderstorms to drizzle. The day before, the meteorologists found some optimism and so did we. The Yard Sale was on!

The weather wasn't great, but it drizzled for less than a minute, and the sun peeked out for about the same interval. Our poster people plus Cynthia Doty had done a great job during the previous week alerting parkers on the block about the Saturday event. The Community Affairs officers at the 24th Precinct gave us official signs and police barricades so that only three cars remained once the Yard Sale was underway. Although the crowd might have been less dense than in years past, there was no lack of visitors, and sales at vendor tables were steady.

This year's Yard Sale innovation was a Community Sale Table. Residents were invited to donate gently used items with the income going to the Block Association. Hats off to Marlene Lee for coming up with the idea and seeing it through, to her helpers, Mary Gorrill, Margot Jacqz, and Laurence Mitchell, and to Andy Logan from Broadway Community, Inc. (a service organization

*Continued on Page 2*

### *Aging in Place*

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 7 – 9 pm

Marseilles Community Room, 230 W. 103rd St.

Panel discussion with Visiting Nurse Services and other experts

*How to manage in your familiar neighborhood as you grow older.  
What do you need? How can we organize? What's available now?*

For further information or assistance getting to the meeting, call (212) 866-5769 or email [aginginplace@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:aginginplace@w102-103blockassn.org)

### 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 June 3, July 8, and August 12.

## Obstacles Overcome, Yard Sale a Big Success

*Continued from page 1*

associated with Broadway Presbyterian Church) that had a table of its own and who arranged to take away our leftover items at the end of the day.

A big thank you also goes to Maura Gouck, who interrupted her sabbatical from Block Association responsibilities to organize the silent auction and raffle, and her right-hand go-getter Camille Gubello. Cynthia Doty once again provided dozens of clipboards. St. Luke's House gave us some tables for the day and Cynthia did as well. Despite somewhat less active bidding (we blame the weather), the auction netted more than it had in previous years.

This year's raffle winners were Rita Miller ("never won anything before!") and Gabriel Keane. Each went away with a Block Association tote bag filled with more than \$100 worth of products

### Auction Extended

Four valuable items from the auction remain: one week of fencing camp at the New Amsterdam Fencing Academy, two art classes and an arresting photo collage of a West Side street by local photographer Matt Petosa. To bid for any of them online before June 20, please go to our website at [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org).

and gift certificates. See page 3 for the list of raffle and auction contributors.

Anthony Bellov once again was the mastermind behind the vendor arrangements. Bravo to him for keeping track of all the vendors and their paperwork, arranging the spaces, getting down on his hands and knees with sidewalk chalk to outline each spot, and ensuring that all went smoothly.

At the refreshments table, cupcakes from Make My Cake bakery (St. Nicholas Ave. and W. 116th St.) were once again The Hot Item. At about 11 am, we had seven dozen, donated by board

member Alan Leidner in support of the independently-owned bake shop; by 3 pm, every last one had been sold. Those in need of heartier sustenance owe their gratitude, as do we all, to Fidel and Glenn of Buster's (Amsterdam Ave. between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts.), home of the most delectable wraps, sandwiches, soups, salads and cookies in the immediate neighborhood. The Derby, a medley of chicken, avocado, lettuce, tomato, sold fast on Derby Day, as did wonderful, oversize chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies. Our thanks to all the bakers who contributed this year (see list on page 3).

Even clean-up was smoother this time, thanks in part to suggestions offered by Marv Schonberg and included by Anthony in the updated vendor agreement. Large trash bags donated by Camille Colon were also a big help. At our request, the Sanitation Department came by for Saturday night pick ups at the West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. corners, resulting in a street that was as clean as it could be. An optimistic spirit and a long list of cooperative volunteers had carried us through another great community event.

## Tons of Recycled Electronics Collected at Broadway Event

The three-day electronics recycling event sponsored by the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association and the W. 104th St. Block Association was an overwhelming success. A huge storage container, placed by the Lower East Side Ecology Center (LESEC) on the west side of Broadway between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. adjacent to the Duane Reade awning, was completely filled during the first two days. On the third day, a rented truck was brought in to accommodate the overflow.

People came from all over to drop off their unneeded electronics in spite of the sometimes inclement weather. Flyers had been distributed to email lists and posted on community websites and in neighborhood buildings. During the collection days, posters were taped to lamp posts up and down Broadway.

Computers, monitors and TVs were dropped off along with small items such as cell phones and disk drives. In addition to LESEC staff who took in the items and packed them in the container, Joe Rappaport, a member of our Green Team and a resident of W. 104th St., worked on-site throughout the event.

Christine Datz-Romero, executive director of LESEC, reported that more than 500 individuals had participated in the recycling drive and about 6.5 tons of electronic devices were collected. The material was trucked to a contracted recycling company that will "de-manufacture" the items into plastics, circuit boards, glass (especially the glass from computer monitors, which contains lead), and scrap metal, all of which will be safely recycled for reuse rather than just put in the trash.

### 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 [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org). Phone messages may be left at (212) 866-5769. Faxes may be sent to (212) 866-5916. Recent issues of the Newsletter may be viewed at [//www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)



Photos by O. Alfonso

A great crowd fills W. 103rd St. for the 2008 Yard Sale where a record number of vendors displayed their wares.

Mark Foley, from Volunteer Music, sings a duet with a future opera star oblivious to the chill off the Hudson.

## The Block Association Thanks the Generous Donors to the 2008 Yard Sale!

### Silent Auction

- \*Academy Liquor
- \*Arts in Action
- \*Bazaar de la Paz
- \*Ben & Jerry's
- \*Augustus Butera Photography
- \*Café du Soleil
- \*Chelsea Piers
- Hedy Campbell (festive cake)
- Camille Colon (baby blanket)
- \*Martha Cooper, photographer
- \*Lynn Cushman, piano teacher
- \*Fran Sperling, personal trainer -  
Diane LaBasse
- \*Edible Arrangements
- \*Indus Valley
- \*Make My Cake Bakery -  
Alan Leidner
- \*Mamá Mexico
- \*Métisse

### Silent Auction, con't

- \*Sara Myers, Structural Integration
- \*New Amsterdam Fencing
- \*Pan Asian Repertory Theatre
- Matt Petosa, photographer
- Lisa Rasmussen (crib quilt)
- \*Regional
- \*Festival Chamber Music Society -  
Ruth Sommers
- \*Symphony Space
- \*Isw chocolates - Linda Weinberger
- \*Yarntopia

### Raffle

- \*Ben & Jerry's
- \*Broadway Home Center
- \*Café Science at PicNic
- \*Festival Chamber Music
- \*Flor de Mayo
- \*H&H Broadway Wine Center

### Raffle, con't

- \*In & Out Nails
- \*Metro Diner
- \*Silver Moon Bakery
- \*Starbucks

### Refreshments & Bake Sale

- \*Buster's Restaurant & Catering
- \*Make My Cake Bakery/A. Leidner
- Hedy Campbell and the bakers:  
Alison Aguilar, Nancy Becker  
Cope, Patti Davis, Elizabeth Del  
Alamo, Susan Dessel, Kyle Gallup,  
Kerstin Hasenpusch, Chris Kronish,  
Deborah Lott, Barbara Peck, Joan  
Sandlow, Catherine Scott, Nancy  
Wight

***\*When you patronize these neighborhood businesses, please thank them for supporting the Block Association!***



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## What's That on My Shoe? Oh, No!

It's happened to all of us, stepping in the mess some dog walker didn't clean up, but Kayla Taus, a Block Association member and a 4th-grader at the Manhattan School for Children, decided to do something about it.

She had a class assignment to write a compelling letter about something that really bothered her and needed to be changed. While many of her classmates wrote to Washington, DC or City Hall, Kayla aimed locally, addressing her letter to the Block Association.

"On the corner of 102nd and West End (on the North side)," she wrote, "some people think they can leave their dog doo doo on the street. They shouldn't! People step in it!" Kayla interviewed her mom and reported her response to the careless behavior: "It's rude, inconsiderate and disgusting."

What's to be done? Kayla suggested more and perhaps larger signs should be put up in the neighborhood encouraging dog walkers to pick up after their pets. She thought that beautifying the tree wells, in all seasons, would attract attention to them and thus to the signs, which are typically attached to tree well guards. In an even greater flight of imagination, Kayla surmised that a sky-writer operating over Manhattan would really bring attention to the problem and its simple solution of individual responsibility.

Down to earth, the Block Association will be having its annual tree well planting event on Saturday, June 7. During that activity we will replace the signs that have gone missing from the tree well guards in our neighborhood.

Kayla has offered to be the Block Association liaison with kids in her building. We welcome her participation, thank her for her letter, and invite the comments of all others interested in improving our community.

## Restaurant Workers Settle With Flor de Mayo, Continue Boycott of Ollie's, Saigon Grill

For several weeks through the end of April, the sidewalk outside Flor de Mayo, the Peruvian-Chinese restaurant, resounded to the call and response of picketing delivery workers and their supporters. They were protesting "72 hour workweeks at wages less than \$2.00 an hour" according to NMASS, the National Mobilization Against Sweatshops, with the support of Manhattan Borough President Stringer and other officials and political leaders.

Then, on May 2, NMASS announced a settlement and the end of the picketing. The details have not been made public but NMASS states on its website that the workers "are very happy."

The situation is far different at two other Upper West Side restaurants, Saigon Grill and Ollie's. The Saigon Grill dispute has been going on for more than

a year. Delivery workers were fired, an NLRB complaint was adjudicated against the restaurant, which said it would appeal, but only a few workers were rehired. The workers are demanding that all those fired be rehired and receive the back wages granted to them by the judge in the NLRB ruling. Picketing and a boycott continues at Saigon Grill on Amsterdam Ave. at W. 90th St.

At Ollie's, which has a branch on Broadway at W. 116th St., the complaints of the delivery workers are similar: wages below \$2 an hour and 12-hour workdays with no breaks. There has been no picketing but the Justice Will Be Served campaign, led by a coalition of the 318 Restaurant Workers Union, the Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, and NMASS is urging a boycott of the restaurant.

## Good News: Calls to 311 Produce Results

One can be forgiven a cynical bias when dealing with the City's bureaucracy. Too often, a complaint drops into that deep well and never makes a splash. That's why successes need to be reported: it is important for all of us to keep trying to make things better in our neighborhood.

In two recent examples, calls to 311 about problems with catch basins (also called storm drains) were promptly answered and repaired. The first involved the intersection of W. 102nd St. and the Riverside Dr. service road. Last fall, concrete from nearby construction had been washed down the street clogging the catch basin on the southeast corner. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at first refused to come out because scaffolding in front of the adjacent building was blocking access to the drain. Once DEP was told that the scaffolding was gone, they responded

ed within a day and promptly cleaned out the drain.

The second issue was the catch basin on the northeast corner of W. 103rd St. and the Riverside Dr. service road. Here, the winter weather had caused the pavement around the catch basin to break up leaving deep potholes and the grating detached from its moorings. Two days after the call to 311, a crew of two DEP workers had blocked off the street while they mixed concrete, filled the holes and installed a new grating. In a few hours the job was done.

If you observe a problem in our neighborhood that the City should fix, call 311 to report it. Let the Block Association know about your report including the incident number. If you encounter difficulties making the complaint, let us know that as well. You can find the Block Association contact information on page 2 of this Newsletter.

# Summer Entertainment in Riverside Park

**Riverside Clay Tennis Association  
Free Concerts  
on the lawn at the 97th Street Tennis Courts  
(Rain date: following day at the same time)**

<b>Saturday, June 7, 7 pm</b> Musica Bella Orchestra of New York	Classical
<b>Saturday, June 14, 7 pm</b> Saxophonist Dave Glasser and his ensemble	Jazz
<b>Saturday, June 21, 7 pm</b> Citigrass with a kid-friendly evening of bluegrass	Blue-grass
<b>Saturday, June 28, 7 pm</b> Bob Kindred Ensemble	Jazz
<b>Saturday, July 5, 7 pm</b> Bassist Ron McClure and his ensemble	Jazz
<b>Saturday, July 12, 7 pm</b> The Atwaters/Ed Baker	Blues, Rock
<b>Saturday, July 19, 7 pm</b> Gotham Winds Ensemble	Classical
<b>Saturday, July 26, 7 pm</b> Pe de Boi	Samba
<b>Saturday, Aug. 9, 7 pm</b> Efendi - music of Turkey, Armenia, Israel, Greece	Middle Eastern

**3rd Annual NYC Main Squeeze Accordion Festival  
Saturday, July 12, 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Pier 1 at 70th Street**

**6th Annual West Side County Fair  
Sunday, Sept. 14, 1:00 – 6:00 pm in the park below 72nd St.**

**For Kids  
Pier 1 at 70th Street**

**Sundays: June 8, July 20 and August 10, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**  
Music, wacky performers, hula-hoop antics and more!  
Check [www.nyc.gov/parks/soh](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/soh) for details of performers, etc.

**Children's Performance Series for kids up to age 7  
Thursdays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am**

- July 10 Tee Jay Tales & Banjo Larry** - Sing-along stories
- July 17 Patricia Shih** - Big Ideas for Little Ears
- July 24 April Armstrong with Ayodele Maakheru** -  
Stories and Songs from Around the World
- July 31 Thaddeus Rex / Read Like a Rock Star!**
- Aug. 7 Billy B. The Natural Science Song & Dance Man**
- Aug. 14 Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater - Cinderella**  
*Samba*

**Riverside Park South Free Concerts  
Pier 1 at 70th Street  
Sundays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

- July 13** Ernestidio Rodriguez y su conjunto tipico -  
Dominican merengue tipico
- July 20** Nation Beat - Brazilian rhythms with classic  
American roots music
- July 27** Pharoah's Daughter - Swirling Hasidic chants,  
Sephardi folk-rock, and spiritual stylings
- Aug. 3** Howard Fishman's Biting Fish Brass Band - New  
Orleans-style brass band
- Aug. 10** Kate McGarry Quartet - Jazz vocalist and  
ensemble
- Aug. 17** KJ Denhart and the NY Unit - Guitarist/vocalist  
plays urban folk, jazz, funk, R&B
- Aug. 24** Los Soneros de Oriente - Traditional Cuban Son,  
music of the countryside and mountains

**Globesonic DJ Dance Party  
Pier 1 at 70th Street  
Fridays: July 18, Aug. 15 and Sept. 12, 7:00 – 11:00 pm**  
Globesonic's modern world-music DJ and Body Temple  
Drummers will keep you dancing from dusk to dark!

**Let's Dance!  
on the 70th Street Pier Plaza  
Sundays: June 3, 10, 17, Aug. 26, Sept. 9 and 23, 6 – 9 pm**  
Learn to dance to the beat of the salsa, swing, hustle and  
more, with top skilled instructors from Soho Dance Studio.

**Movies Under the Stars  
Pier 1 at 70th Street  
Wednesdays at 8:30 pm**

- July 9** *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, Jean Arthur,  
James Stewart, Claude Rains
- July 16** *Wag the Dog*, Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro
- July 23** *Election*, Matthew Broderick, Reese Witherspoon
- July 30** *The Candidate*, Robert Redford
- Aug. 6** *The Manchurian Candidate*, Frank Sinatra,  
Janet Leigh, Angela Lansbury
- Aug. 13** *Primary Colors*, John Travolta, Kathy Bates
- Aug. 20** *All the President's Men*, Dustin Hoffman,  
Robert Redford,

For further information on events in Riverside Park, see the Riverside Park Fund's website at [riversideparkfund.org](http://riversideparkfund.org) or call (212) 870-3070. For information on 70th St. Pier events, call 311 or go to [www.nyc.gov/parks/soh](http://www.nyc.gov/parks/soh).

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**Mamá's Boys**  
Juan Rojas Campos and his brother Bernabe grow 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 Mamá Mexico, a festive cantina with a roster of frozen margaritas, a festive of Mexican village life, and a strolling mariachi singer. The extensive menu ranges from the traditional (nachos, burritos) to the less familiar (grilled marinated rack of lamb and red-spagher soup). (2672 Broadway, near 102nd Street.) Excerpt from New York magazine dated September 15, 1997.

el diario  
**LA PRENSA**  
El más auténtico  
sabor pobliano

**CRAIN'S**  
NEW YORK BUSINESS  
Mexican network  
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**DAILY NEWS**  
**VIVA**  
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**MANHATTAN**  
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## Updates>>>News Updates>>>News Updates>>>News

### Crime and Safety Issues

In May, at the 24th Precinct Council, residents of 300 W. 106th St. complained about a tenant said to be endangering other tenants and involved with drugs. Deputy Inspector O'Reilly promised increased precinct surveillance, investigation by narcotics officers, and cooperation with the DA.

An incident between students from different schools in early May escalated to a fight involving an estimated 70 children, mostly as onlookers. The Schools United Network, providing liaison between schools and the police, advised that children coming home from school between W. 106th and W. 110th Sts. and between Central Park West and Broadway not loiter in that area. As interscholastic sports events are over for the school year, this source of conflict is expected to recede.

In late April and early May, there were four assaults and robberies in the vicinity of West End Ave. and W. 92nd St. that were seen as a pattern by the NYPD. No arrests have yet been made.

### Potholes and Street Repaving

Several major potholes developed in the late spring on W. 102nd & 103rd Sts. near Riverside Dr. and on the Riverside Dr. service road. They were reported to DOT through the 311 system but have not yet been repaired.

Manhattan DOT Commissioner Margaret Forgiione has recently written that W. 102nd St. between Riverside Dr. and Central Park West will be repaved this summer, probably in July. The block has been repeatedly torn up as major renovations were done to brownstones in mid-block, as part of their conversions back to single family use, necessitating street cuts for water, sewer, gas, or electrical connections. Even though W. 103rd St. has also been repeatedly opened up and patched, it is not scheduled for a repaving job this year.

### Housing Opens on W. 102nd

The Settlement Housing Fund's Semiperm residence at 210 W. 102nd St., east of Broadway, began to receive single-parent families with young children in early May. When arrangements for childcare during an orientation meeting for residents fell through, a member of the Block Association, Jill Chase, volunteered to help. She and the kids had a great time.

As other opportunities for cooperation between the Block Association and Semiperm residents develop, members who have expressed an interest in becoming involved will be notified.

### James Perez

Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

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# A Taste of Bangkok's Chinatown Comes to Broadway

By Hedy Campbell

The minute you walk in the door, you know that **Sookk** (on the east side of Broadway between W. 102nd and 103rd Sts.) is no ordinary Thai restaurant. A display of gleaming brass prayer bells dominates the vestibule. Inside, the full exotic glamour of the décor is revealed: glowing wire mesh lanterns, dark polished wood furnishings, lustrous gold walls, a multitude of brilliantly hued cylinders of fabric along one long wall. Revered deities watch over all from within glass bell jars.

The menu helps diners understand what distinguishes Sookk from other Thai restaurants. In addition to listing an extensive selection of appetizers, soups, noodle and rice dishes, curries, entrees, soft drinks, and desserts, it explains that the cuisine is drawn from Yaowarat, the winding road that snakes through Bangkok's Chinatown, known for sprouting food carts after dark and inspiring chefs the world over. Developed over the past 100 years, Yaowarat cooking is a blend of Szechuan, Canton-

ese, and Thai styles. An illustrated glossary of ingredients that characterize the fare enhances Sookk's menu.

But what about the food? Neighbors who have eaten at Sookk declare it delicious. Appetizers they have sampled include flaky-crustured curry puffs, steamed, lightly filled jeeb dumplings; denser green leaf dumplings, which get their color from spinach in the wrapper, and crispy coconut calamari—beware the dipping sauce, it has a residual kick!

An enormous portion of pad Thai arrived at our table steaming and enticingly aromatic, as did spicy sautéed Thai basil noodles; fresh chilis gave the latter dish satisfying, but not overpowering, heat. The chicken in our red curry swam in its silken creamy broth. Had we been at home, we would have succumbed to the urge to slurp the remains of the sauce straight from the bowl. One of our party ate every last bite of his "sidewalk beef noodle," fragrant with the aroma of cinnamon and filled with chunks of tender braised beef. However, another described herbal cin-

namon duck as "daring, but maybe we just like our cinnamon on toast and not duck breast." He preferred his tilapia in lemon ginger sauce and noted that the fish filets (choice of tilapia, salmon, striped bass, or red snapper) seemed very popular, appearing on plates at many tables the night he visited.

The Bangkok soft shell crab with shrimp scampi was pronounced tasty enough to order again, although an Italian would expect more garlic with "scampi" as a descriptor. Lemongrass chicken was crispy on the outside, moist within, but the bones made it a bit difficult to navigate; the accompanying black sticky rice was almost impossible to separate into manageable pieces with chopsticks alone. A note about the chopsticks, unusual in a Thai restaurant where fork and spoon would be expected: the pair at each place setting includes one black, one white, a lovely way to further demonstrate the yin/yang principle that defines the cuisine.

Of the four desserts, I've only heard  
*Continued on Page 10*

## Mailbox Grafitti Gone for a While

With paint from the US Postal Service and brushes accumulated by Block Association board member John Hewitt, two teams of neighbors set out on Saturday morning, April 26, to clean up some eyesores on our sidewalks. We had seen good results when we repainted the fire hydrants last fall and now we were working on the mailboxes. Postal regulations decreed a bright blue for the collection boxes, where you deposit letters, and a muddy brown-green for the relay boxes, which the delivery people use for temporary storage.

The Hanrahans, Laura and Terence, their son, Stephen, on the left in the photo, and friends Jake Rappaport, center and Aaron Kaufmann, right, spruced up the relay boxes on West End Ave. at

W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. as well as the one at Riverside Dr. near W. 103rd St. First, a lot of peeling paint and rust had to be scraped off with wire brushes. Then layers of paint had to be applied to cover up the grafitti and other marks that had marred the boxes.

John Hewitt and David Reich painted



Photo by J. Hewitt

the relay box at W. 102nd St. and Riverside Dr. as well as two collection boxes on W. 102nd St. at West End Ave. and on Broadway. Wet paint signs were put around each box noting the Block Association as the source of the good work.

Throughout the morning, passersby stopped to thank the painters. Even a couple of mail delivery people paused on their rounds to praise the efforts. One of them, Hector Vega, noticed that the decals on the collection boxes were in rather bad shape. A few days later he acquired and attached new decals completing the renovation work.

The guard service that patrols our blocks has been asked to immediately report any grafitti or other markings on the boxes. We intend to use the remaining paint to quickly cover up such defacing, if it occurs.

# On Broadway

**Openings and Closings:** ♦♦After years of standing empty and several false starts under other drugstore names, the former **Wiz** electronics store on the southwest corner of Broadway and W. 97th St. has finally come to life as a huge **Walgreens Drug Store**. Prior to the opening in mid-May, **Rite Aid**, a close competitor with stores at W. 96th and W. 104th Sts., papered the neighborhood with flyers in an attempt to keep its customers. Oddly, Rite Aid had access to that property when it acquired the Canadian chain of Eckerd Drugs more than a year ago but it chose not to develop it. ♦♦From the gigantic to the tiny: the deli that was remodeled and renamed **Bistro 2 Go** on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts. has closed. The 720 square feet of space (plus basement) is available at \$14,000 per month. ♦♦The storefront just south of the **Alouette** restaurant on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. is now occupied by **The Jewel Boutique**. It sells moderately-priced jewelry, repairs jewelry and watches and creates custom-designed jewelry as well. The owner, Harmeeet, has had jewelry stores on the Upper West Side for twenty years. This new store fills a gap left by the closure of Gerard Zierler's jewelry repair shop (on the south side of W. 96th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.) following the death of Mr. Zierler about seven months ago. He had owned the tiny place for well over 50 years. ♦♦Three years ago, the small Mexican restaurant, **La Cocina**, at 2608 Broadway on the east side between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts. closed to make way for **La Crêperie**, a glatt kosher dairy restaurant. The new place seemed to be doing well, catering to its niche market, when suddenly this April it closed and was quickly replaced by **Uva 99**, a wine bar and restaurant run

by the owners of the three other La Cocina restaurants including one on W. 85th St. Now, in less than a month, the name has been changed to **Vinacciolo**.

**In Limbo:** ♦♦After construction began a couple of years ago on Ariel East, on Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts., the owners of the landmarked Metro Theatre next door gutted the interior and tried to rent it for retail or a restaurant at a reported \$1.5 million per year. With no takers, the building is now for sale in the "low \$20 million range" according to the website *therealdeal.com*. The property, which has been approved for conversion into a multi-level store plus mezzanine, could contain 15,000 sq. ft. of floor space.

**Going Down, Going Up:** ♦♦The former **Ming's Wok** on the east side of Broadway between W. 100th and W. 101st Sts., is being renovated for a new life as **Sura**, which means "liquor" in Thai. "It will be a Thai-Thai restaurant, as compared to **Sookk**, which is Chinese-Thai," says Sura's owner, Mr. So. Sura is expected to open in August.

## Cynthia Doty Honored by Goddard Riverside Community Center

By Jock Davenport

We've always thought of stalwart board member Cynthia Doty as an exceptionally good neighbor. Now our opinion has been validated by the Goddard Riverside Community Center.

On Saturday, May 10, at the organization's annual banquet, Cynthia was presented with a Good Neighbor Award by State Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell who commended her "for leadership and advocacy in preserving affordable housing and protecting the Upper West Side from out-of-scale development; for helping to found Westsiders for Responsible Development, which was the originating force behind the rezoning of 97th to 110th Streets; for her advocacy for the rights of tenants and workers of the Stern Residence; and for her commitment to social justice for the community's most vulnerable residents for over 15 years." Congratulations, Cynthia, and thanks for all you do.

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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 please fill out the envelope stub

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completely (including your apartment number) and legibly when making your contribution (the stubs are the basis of our record-keeping) and indicate if you prefer anonymity.

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man, Borinstein/Vartanian, Canin, Canin/ Sauer, DeCurtis/MacDowell, Felton, Fricke/ Klimley, Garbers/Belth, Gorelick, Grosof/ Fisch, Humphreys, Hyatt, Keane, Lasher, Leiman, Levin, Levine, Levine, Lohr/ Trucco, Malatzky, Manley, March/Lafer- rère, McDermott, Pommer, Reilly, Rogers, Rubel, Smith/Chibnik, Stein, Straw/Gubi- tosa, Williamson, Yahr **878 West End Ave.:** Adams, Foreman, Gross/Ochshorn, Hotch- kiss, Stearns **884 West End Ave.:** Booth/ Newman, Cockey/Strohm, Cutler/Young, Davis, Finch/Fitzgibbon, Pines, Yin **885 West End Ave.:** Bernstein/Bowen, Brown/ Gruber, Cryer, Friedman, Goldberg, Sand- ers, Servin, Spring/Miller, Stokinger/Maas, Talkow/Woodbury, Talkow/Woodbury, Tympanick/Gilman, Weiss **299 Riverside Dr.:** Bauchner/Weil, Dane, Fell, Field/Se- idel, Flateman/Goldstein, Guarino/Arlotta, Healy/Emery, Holtz/Horowitz, Kaplan, Kas- tanis, Kaufman, Leidner/Ruden, Reich/Des- sel, Soltz, Tedoff, Toub/Pagano, Wagner/Ce- cil, Wakabayshi, Wang/Sedlis, Wollos/Best, Wong **300 Riverside Dr.:** Abramski, Cag- giano, Clarke, Eisler, Flint/McLeod, Fox, Frizell, Goldwasser, Greenwald/Struhl, Hal- berstam/Cohen, Hinzman, Hudson/Cherry, Krassner, Larned, Lerse, Livingstone, Ma- derer, Mills, Mojarro/Greiper, Paul, Plum/ Rocks, Rack, Rehberg/Greenman, Reich/ Greenberg, Reiner/Lally, Ross/Myers, Sato, Schiff, Simon, Taus, Themm/Clevenger, van Schaardenburg, Vaz/Moebius, Vinicor, Weissberg **305 Riverside Dr.:** Avidon, Colon, Hoffman, Jurmain, Liebowitz, Mc- Ginn, Minerva/Danzig, Roy, Sandlow **310 Riverside Dr.:** Acero/Dyer, Barter, Deming, Hagiwara, Hagiwara, Huber, Hugus, Maffei, Mahoney, McKinney/Chin, Philip, Piper, PM Group, Inc., Ralph, Solomon, Tambini/ Miller, Woodward **Landlords/Co-ops:** 235 W. 102 St., 240 W. 102 St., 247 W. 102 St., 248 W. 102 St., 249 W. 102 St., 250 W. 102 St., 252 W. 102 St., 254 W. 102 St., 302 W. 102 St., 304 W. 102 St., 315 W. 102 St., 316 W. 102 St., 250 W. 103 St., 308 W. 103 St., 319 W. 103 St., 854 West End Ave., 855 West End Ave., 856 West End Ave., 858 West End Ave., 864 West End Ave., 866 West End Ave., 868 West End Ave., 872 West End Ave., 875 West End Ave., 878 West End Ave., 885 West End Ave., 299 Riverside Dr., 300 Riv- erside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr. **Commercial:** Stahl, Sorkin, Kay French Cleaners, Mamá Mexico, New Amsterdam/

Regency TV, Perez, Regional, Wohlfarth & Associates

## A Taste of Bangkok’s Chinatown Comes to Broadway

*Continued from page 8*  
comments on the ice cream. Green tea, coconut, or red bean are the choices, and all three were uniformly rated good.

Caveat diner: one neighbor reported dissatisfaction with the background music. Several people have noted some difficulty with the seating arrangements in the long narrow space of the dining area. One recommended only going in pairs; another complained that their threesome was stuck in the back by the (gorgeous, single, unisex) bathroom; long lines were mentioned by all.

My experience was quite satisfactory. One rainy Friday, I stopped by at 6:30 pm to make a reservation for five at 7:15 pm. “Be on time,” I was warned. We were, and were seated on arrival in the middle of the room. Despite the crowd and the steady traffic of delivery orders from the kitchen, all of our food was served promptly, professionally, and at the proper temperature. I found the music to be unobtrusive. Perhaps Sookk needs a bit more time to handle its early success. For now, as they say: Kin-Hai-Ar-Royh-Na (bon appétit)!

Sookk is located at 2686 Broadway, in the space formerly inhabited by Ana’s. It is open for lunch and dinner daily. Prices for many dishes are determined according to your choice of protein. Generally, appetizers range in price from \$4 to \$8, entrees from \$9 to \$18; desserts are \$5 or \$6. There’s a lunch special that includes an appetizer and rice for \$7 or \$8 and a weekend brunch for \$9 or \$10. Phone: (212) 870-0253 or (212) 870-0273. The web address is [sookkrestaurant.com](http://sookkrestaurant.com). MasterCard and Visa are accepted. In the absence of a liquor license, diners may bring their own alcoholic beverages.