



Committees Formed for Aging in Place Initiative

One woman said “I want to live in my apartment until I die.” A man said “I want to give something back to my community.” With similar statements of purpose, 24 local residents and two social services professionals opened a meeting on October 16 to consider the needs of the elderly among us and what a community organization might do to help them. By the end of the evening, two committees had been assembled to assess neighborhood support for an Aging in Place initiative.

Gathered in the community room of the Marseilles Residence were members of the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association and the West 104th Street Block Association. Following brief introductory remarks by David Reich and Hanna Rubin, heads of the two block associations, the attendees introduced themselves and described the joys and problems they encounter while living in our neighborhood. Some have been here for decades and have seen significant improvements, especially in safety on the streets. Others have lost friends as strangers have moved in.

The general theme was of love for the neighborhood tempered by concern for loss of social contact and more mundane problems such as getting around for food shopping, doctor’s visits and the like. Reich reminded the attendees that, while organizing the meeting, he had heard from neighbors who would not be able to attend because they were homebound by physical limitations.

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The West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association

NEWSLETTER

Innovative Halloween Parade and Party Delight a Festive Neighborhood Crowd

For many years, we’ve taken the “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” approach to the annual Halloween parade and party. Every year a huge crowd of costumed kids (and some adults and dogs) stroll around the block, receiving goody bags, enjoying refreshments, and listening rapt as Halloween stories are read. Why change?

Fortunately, our organizers saw a chance to enhance the event by closing off W. 102nd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. for the duration of the parade. With the street closed to traffic, super heroes and princesses, animals (including a moose with Sarah Palin) and various storybook characters could all gawk at the decorated brownstones and safely snack on a vast supply of cookies and cider, while their parents renewed old acquaintances, met new neighbors, and caught up with their friends. Before our very eyes, W. 102nd St. became our town square.

We also made a point this year of taking photos of the event, especially costumed children, which you can see at flickr.com/photos/31917678@N06.

The congratulations for this year’s event deservedly go to the organizers: Stacey Lauren and Hedy Campbell. The timely cooperation of David Reich with Betsy Gonzalez, Community Affairs officer at the 24th precinct, produced the police barriers that allowed us to safely close the street. Thanks also to board members Alan Cary, Maura

Gouck, Marlene Lee, Terence Hanrahan, and Ginger Leif, who all helped to make the parade happen, and to Cherie Tredanari, who supplied the apples and helped to pack the trick-or-treat bags as she has for many years. Many thanks to youngsters Carly and Izzy, who helped Cherie pack the bags.

Janet Harvilchuck was the most engaging pirate/storyteller ever. Jill Chase, resplendent in sequins at the refreshment table, was over the top, as usual, with her makeup and had a large part in encouraging cash donations from the crowd to the Block Association. Dorothy O’Hanlon, adorable in Minnie Mouse garb, joined Laura Hanrahan distributing goody bags to over 200 kids. Andrew, working out of St. Luke’s House, provided the refreshments table and its decorations, and baked the scariest array of cookies we’ve ever had.

Thanks, too, to Seth Jucovy, building manager of 310 Riverside Dr., who

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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 Dec. 9, Jan. 13, and Feb. 10.

Sura: New Thai Worth a Try

By Hedy Campbell

Do we really need another Thai restaurant in the neighborhood? When the newcomer consistently offers top-quality food at reasonable prices amid dramatic décor and friendly service, the answer is an emphatic yes. **Sura Thai Urban Kitchen**, filling the long-vacant Ming's Wok space on the east side of Broadway south of W. 101st St. is a welcome addition. (As we noted a year ago in the "On Broadway" column, Thai is the new Chinese.)

Sura has found several ways to distinguish itself from its neighbors. Ecu ceramic figurines populate a charcoal niche. Venetian mirrors add sparkle to the smoke walls. A glittering chandelier lends elegance to otherwise simple furnishings. At night, the flicker of oil lamps creates drama. An oversize vase of flowers lends a welcome and welcoming flash of color and visually divides the gray and white bar up front from the dining area in the rear.

Food appears artfully plated on dishes of many shapes including a lovely oversize teardrop. Additionally, a bottle of icy tap water is placed on each table,

suggesting that diners refill their own glasses. As often as not, the eager staff is there before you think to do it. The eagerness sometimes extends to the arrival of the next course before the previous one is finished. That should be corrected as the wait staff gains experience. Background music, kept at a volume that allows conversation, is pleasant.

Sura's menu is divided into several categories with some unusual headings. There's a baker's dozen of *small dishes* (i.e. appetizers) that can be ordered individually (\$4 to \$6 each) or with your choice of three on a tasting platter of slightly smaller portions (\$12). All are served with a complementary relish, sauce, or dressing. Greaseless fried spring rolls, steamed or fried chicken and shrimp dumplings, satae chicken served with peanut sauce, semolina-crusted golden scallops with not particularly spicy wasabi mayonnaise, and large coconut-crusted prawns, all priced between \$4 and \$6, were delicious. Crispy chicken cake salad is one fine choice among eight salad offerings (\$6 and \$7). Think miniature crab cakes, except made with chicken and subtly flavored with mint, lime, dried chili, and

rice powder.

The *bowl dish* section of the menu is where you find well-prepared favorites such as sprightly pad thai, red, green (watch out for the kick!), or massamun curry with peanuts and potatoes, and fried rice as well as more unusual choices such as garlic black pepper with shrimp, in which perfectly cooked water chestnuts were the foil for tender seafood, piquant wok beef, and addictive drunken fried noodle with mixed meat (shrimp, calamari, and chicken). Most bowl dishes can be ordered with your choice of chicken, shrimp, beef, tofu, or vegetables and cost \$10. The *main dish* section, which ranges over poultry, fish, and meat options (\$10 to \$16) included, one evening, a particularly good special worth a detour from the regular menu: crispy pinot noir duck (\$13) served with scallion chips and a roasted egg.

A lunch menu is offered (\$10 for an appetizer and an entrée) with a couple of choices not available at dinnertime. My favorite is pad see ew, wide noodles

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Committees Formed For Aging In Place Initiative

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Following the October meeting, the two committees have been preparing a survey of older residents' needs and a list of services that might be provided or organized to meet those needs. On Nov. 20, the members of the initiative again met to hear and discuss progress reports from the two committees. It was agreed that since both block associations would be distributing their newsletters in the first week of December, the survey should be included with those publications. Please check your Newsletter for the survey, fill it out and return it as instructed on the form.

A version of the survey suitable for printing and, possibly, a version which can be filled out and sent online will be made available on both block association websites: bloomingdale.org and w102-103blockassn.org.

The next meeting of the initiative will be on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009 at the Marseilles Residence, 250 W. 103rd St., from 7 - 9 pm. It is expected that the results of the survey will be discussed and used to refine the options proposed by the Services committee. To contact the Aging in Place initiative email aginginplace@w102-103blockassn.org or call (212) 866-5769.

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. 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 <http://www.bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm>

Board Member Abets Bag Snatcher

Though no complaint was filed with the police, it has been reliably reported that a member of the Block Association board, John Hewitt, assisted the perpetrator of a bag snatching in front of a residence on W. 103rd St.

The incident occurred in early August, apparently after weeks of planning, but the facts have just now been made available for publication. Though Hewitt was in on the caper, the new owner of the building, Vladimir Parizhsky, had initiated the attack with an email to the Block Association. The bag, which has since disappeared, was not a Prada or Vuitton but rather one of the more sought-after Gristedes or Fairway models. It was originally spotted by Parizhsky in the branches of a tree outside his window.

Hewitt was enlisted because of his known penchant for rigging up gadgets from "stuff" lying around his house on West End Ave. In this case, he assembled an extensible pole normally used by painters to create temporary walls, some duct tape, and untwisted coat hangers to create his weapon.

The operation was carried out in broad daylight though no witnesses have come forward. With great precision, the high-tech probe was extended out a second-story window to successfully snag the bag. Inquiries from George Clooney and other Hollywood bigwigs are expected any day now.

Join the Joy at Our Solstice Songfest

There's no need to fear the darkest day of the year! The winter solstice, which marks the longest period of darkness of the entire year, needn't be a day of gloom and doom.

Instead, celebrate the beginning of lengthening days on Sunday, December 21st by joining your West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association neighbors, ably led by stalwart Anthony Belov, for an evening of caroling. We'll stroll the entirety of Block Association territory with our specially designed songbooks singing seasonal songs from "Frosty the Snowman" to "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Give Us Peace"), with which we seek blessings on each block. Perhaps we'll even get the chance to sing a dreidel song duet with the Mitzvah Tank, as we did a couple of years ago. Refreshments will follow. Children, pets, and non-singers who desire festive company are welcome. Meet in front of 865 West End Ave. at 7 pm. For details or to offer assistance, call Hedy Campbell at (212) 865-8524.

W. 102nd St. Break-in Remains Unsolved

At about 3:30 am on the morning of October 15, a ground-floor resident of 314 W. 102nd St. awoke to loud noises at the building's front door. It sounded, she said, as if someone was throwing a rock at the glass panel, then running away and then trying again.

On the third try the intruder succeeded in breaking the glass and getting in. He pushed open the inner door, which did not latch very well. After rummaging around, but not taking anything, he ran out and was seen by a couple of residents who had come out to investigate.

The police arrived a few minutes after a resident called 911. A witness went with the police to try to identify the intruder but they were unsuccessful. According to Betsy Gonzalez, 24th Precinct Community Affairs officer, the incident was declared to be malicious mischief rather than burglary since nothing was stolen. The next day a new white door that looked oddly like it belonged on a suburban house was installed. It has since been painted black.

Broadway Mall Association Brings Benches, Holiday Lighting to Our Neighborhood

Even in the middle of winter, and especially in the spring and fall, there are always people taking the sun or watching the scene from benches in the Broadway mall crosswalks. This is one of the amenities for which we

can thank the work and advocacy of the Broadway Mall Association. They raise funds for, and encourage people to sponsor, the benches that are placed in the mall by the NYC Department of Parks.

The festive lighting of trees and plantings starting Dec. 3 in the mall is another of BMA's noticeable contributions. Of course, the main BMA activity is the maintenance and renewal of plantings on Broadway. The funds for these activities come mainly from co-ops and condos near Broadway (including the two recent Extell buildings), individuals, institutions, and local businesses.

Your block association supports the work of the Broadway Mall Association with an annual contribution of about 1% of our yearly income. Neighbors can find out more about BMA or make a contribution through the BMA website, broadwaymall.org.



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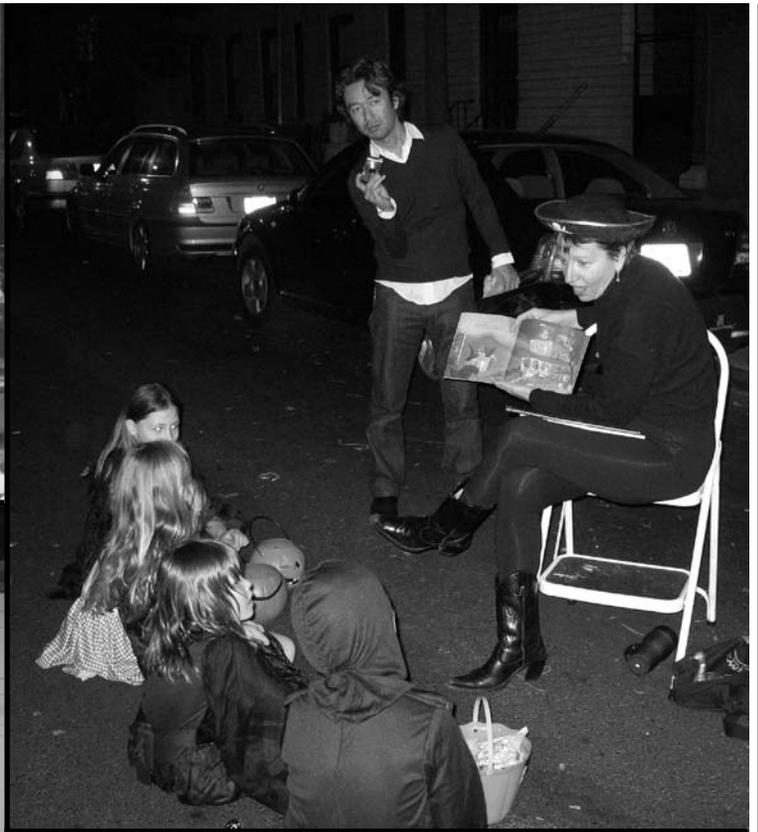
Office: 212-666-1600, ext. 10

Fax: 212-662-5865

Cellular: 917-882-0815

Residence: 212-316-9128

e-mail: fpwohlfarth@wohlfarth.com



Scenes From the Halloween Parade

A huge turnout of neighborhood folks, young, old and four-legged, enjoyed a mild October evening on a street without traffic. Clockwise from the center: Sarah Palin and a moose got along just fine; three space warriors took a moment from their conquests; masterful makeup produced a very scary little girl; the crowded street in front of the Block Association's refreshments table bubbled with conviviality; Janet Harvilchuck captivated her audience. Photos by David Reich.



Park(ing) Day: on a beautiful Friday, Sept. 19, KC Rice and Peter Frishauf, with the help of Transportation Alternatives, turned a couple of parking spaces in front of their house on W. 103rd St. into a park complete with sod, lawn chairs, a kids' chalk area and a three-piece jazz band. Photos by Peter Frishauf.

Unusual Tree Well Planters Constructed By Multi-talented Neighbor

By Dorothy O'Hanlon

Have you noticed the wonderful wooden planters that have lately been installed in tree wells in our neighborhood? Although they are newcomers to our blocks, their architect certainly is not.

Precious Costello Caldwell, Jr., who many of us know simply as Costello, has lived at the Broadmoor (235 W. 102nd St.) for 33 years, somewhat more than half his life. (Yes, Precious is his first name as it was his father's.) He's a man of many careers whose planters are one of the more noticeable of his wide-ranging interests. Another is Royal Wolves, Inc., his dog walking service. In their signature uniforms, designed by Costello including the spats he sews himself, he and his staff of three currently take care of 25 Upper West Side canines. Costello attributes his love of construction, all things natural, and dogs in particular to his childhood.

He grew up in a rural area outside of Baltimore in a house his parents built themselves. Next door was a kennel, and Costello earned pocket money by tending to the dogs and caring for the extensive grounds. He was the rare teen who loved mowing the lawns, and to this day relishes the smell of new-mown grass in Riverside Park. His family owned a series of German shepherds, all of whom were named Sheba. In like fashion, Costello now owns his second rottweiler named Samson (the original Samson passed away in 2006) as well as a French bulldog named Oscar.

Between his kennel work and his new incarnation as designer of extraordinary tree-well planters, Costello worked as a model for a high-end men's clothier, and later became its sales representative. He briefly worked in New York City, then was transferred to Los Angeles. Another transfer landed him back in New York late in 1974. An

advertisement in the Village Voice for an apartment share led him to the Broadmoor, which was a residential hotel at the time. Within the year, while Costello was out of town one weekend, his roommate (who held the lease to the apartment) up and left. Costello had no lease and nothing but his personal belongings. Fortunately for him—and us—he was offered a lease on the apartment and has been here ever since.

Costello also has experience in restaurant work, having been maitre d' of the now-closed Jezebel in midtown. There he quickly mastered the inner workings of the restaurant business, moving from one position to another, including the kitchen—and to Paris, where he helped Jezebel's owner open a new restaurant. Alas, in order to keep his Broadmoor apartment, his stay in Paris had to be temporary. Upon his return, he established an art studio in Brooklyn, producing decorative doors, tabletops, and room dividers until a back injury required him to close the business. During his recovery, he devoted several years to planting foliage, building a dog spa, and in other ways beautifying the Riverside Park dog run at 105th Street as a volunteer. His handiwork stood until last year, when the NYC Parks Department removed his constructions.

In his characteristic way, Costello channeled adversity into opportunity and turned his talents to creating planters for our neighborhood. The first of them was built after he volunteered to join a landscaping committee formed by the Broadmoor co-op board to beautify the building and the tree wells. Costello designed raised boxes to be built around the trees but not touching them, allowing the trees to grow without taking sustenance from the flowers and vice versa. His plans were accepted and he went to work. Once the Broadmoor planters were installed, several other building owners commissioned their own. He's

currently working on designs for more in our neighborhood and as far away as Washington Heights. Buildings pay for the materials and plants. Costello either provides the labor or is paid a fee for his work.

With the arrival of fall, Costello has been replacing summer's annuals with bulbs to bloom in the spring, ivy, and small evergreens. He is also fashioning stone sculptures, which he calls "Hold My Space" pieces. Made from Hudson River rocks held together with a bit of cement, they will inhabit empty spaces in the planters until it's time to plant annuals again in the spring.

Costello plans to create a plaque for each planter design named for the person who commissioned it. "Lady Lauren," in front of the Broadmoor, will honor co-op board president Lauren Koffler who initiated the project. Super Rafael Herrera commissioned the box in front of 315 W. 102nd Street; his will be called "Castle de Rafael." Ultimately, the designs will be displayed on a website so other interested building owners can use them as references.

As evident in his labors at the dog run, community-mindedness is part of Costello's nature. He'd like to see tree wells all over the city become as beautifully protected from dogs as are ours. Engaging others to help maintain the planters is also on his mind. And, in response to queries about the planters from passersby, Costello has offered to host a demonstration and workshop. If you're interested, please let him know at costello@peacecitygardens.org or (212) 865-0021.

When you think about it, Costello's finest craftsmanship is visible in his own life. He's masterfully merged his interests in woodworking, dogs, fashion, and gardening. And he's successfully transplanted the results from their rural roots to an urban setting, much to our community's benefit.

Alternate Side Parking Suspensions for 2009

In past December issues we have printed a map of our area showing where the various Alternate Side Parking rules applied. That map, with the exception list, is now available on our website w102-103blockassn.org.

- Jan. 1, Thu: New Year's Day
- Jan. 19, Mon: Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Jan. 26, Mon: Asian Lunar New Year
- Feb. 12, Thu: Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 16, Mon: Washington's Birthday/ Presidents' Day
- Feb. 25, Thu: Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 10, Tue: Purim
- Apr. 9, Thu: Holy Thursday
- Apr. 10, Fri: Good Friday
- Apr. 9-10, Thu-Fri: Passover, 1st, 2nd days
- Apr. 15-16, Wed-Thu: Passover, 7th, 8th days
- Apr. 16, Thu: Holy Thursday (Orthodox)
- Apr. 17, Fri: Good Friday (Orthodox)
- May 21, Thu: Solemnity of the Ascension
- May 25, Mon: Memorial Day
- May 29-30, Fri-Sat: Shavuot (2 days)
- July 3, Fri: Independence Day (observed)
- July 4, Sat: Independence Day
- Aug. 15, Sat: Feast of the Assumption
- Sep. 7, Mon: Labor Day
- Sep. 19-20, Sat-Sun: Rosh Hashanah
- Sep. 19-21, Sat-Mon: Idul-Fitr
- Sep. 28, Mon: Yom Kippur
- Oct. 3-4, Sat-Sun: Succoth (2 days)
- Oct. 10, Sat: Shemini Atzereth
- Oct. 11, Sun: Simchas Torah
- Oct. 12, Mon: Columbus Day
- Oct. 17, Sat: Diwali
- Nov. 1, Sun: All Saints' Day
- Nov. 3, Tue: Election Day
- Nov. 11, Wed: Veterans' Day
- Nov. 26, Thu: Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 26-28, Thu-Sat: Idul-Adha
- Dec. 8, Tue: Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 25, Fri: Christmas Day

Annual Meeting Rescheduled to January; Fiscal Year Reset to Calendar Year

The Block Association annual meeting, which usually takes place in November, has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 15. The location and time of the meeting will be announced just after the first of the year. Current board of directors members have agreed to extend their terms by the additional two months. Election of a new board of directors will take place at the annual meeting, as usual. The organization will also use this opportunity to shift its fiscal year, currently November 1 through October 31, to follow the calendar year.

In addition to Block Association business, an annual recap of our activities, and plans for the coming year, a program of public interest is always on the agenda. This year our featured guest

will be the charismatic Gary Dennis, a longtime resident of the neighborhood, cinema expert, and former owner of The Movie Place, the recently closed DVD and video rental store on W. 105th St. Gary will narrate a presentation of facts and trivia, stories and images, about our neighborhood in movies, popular songs and other forms of entertainment. "I never knew that!" is surely going to be the most often heard remark at this meeting.

Watch for posters, which will go up just after the New Year, announcing the event. If you would like to be notified about Block Association activities and neighborhood alerts via email, please send a message with your email address to info@w102-103blockassn.org or, for more information, call (212) 866-5769.

Interim Financial Report in the Black; Ideas for New Projects Solicited

As mentioned in the article above, our fiscal year is changing to coincide with the calendar year. For comparison with previously published treasurer's reports we are providing an interim financial statement below for the period of Nov. 1, 2007 through Oct. 31, 2008. Similar details for the newly adopted fiscal year of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2008 will be published in the March, 2009 issue of the Newsletter.

We are fortunate to have generous

neighbors who support the Block Association's activities. With the advent of difficult economic times, we may need to make use of our reserves. However, we also have an opportunity to engage in new activities to benefit our district through the use of some of these funds. Your Block Association would like to receive your suggestions for new projects or the expansion of existing ones. Please contact us through the addresses listed in the box on Page 2.

Opening Balance (11/1/2007)	\$24,715.39
Closing Balance (10/31/2008)	27,919.33
Net increase	3,203.94
<u>INCOME</u>	
Building contributions	\$14,693.00
Individual contributions	21,077.50
Newsletter ads	3,700.00
Yard Sale	5,224.90
Logo items	30.00
Interest	54.59
Other income	<u>614.00</u>
Total Income	\$45,393.99

EXPENSES

Contributions, dues	\$1,332.51
Beautification	489.05
Yard Sale	66.05
Other event expenses	176.52
Logo items (green bags)	358.48
Post office box and postage	148.35
Web hosting	9.95
Contribution envelopes	565.45
Newsletter production	2,894.73
Security guard (53 wks)	<u>36148.96</u>
Total Expenses	\$42,190.05

We consider things that are not even visible

As a professional dry-cleaner, we never cease to improve every aspect of our business and strive to be at the forefront in the field of dry cleaning. We introduced "Organic Dry-Cleaning Service" for the first time in town. And now, we are proud to announce that we are dry cleaning with a new cleaning solution.

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- Reduce Static Electricity



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Business hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Sat. 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Updates>>>News Updates>>>News Updates>>>News

96th St. Subway Renovation

The work on the W. 96th St. subway at Broadway has begun to show the outlines of the new station house that will be built in the mall between W. 95th and W. 96th Sts. The concrete floor of the building and the ramp leading up to it have been poured and some beams can be seen from the station platform. In work below ground, track wall tiles have been installed and the upgrade of the station's electrical and plumbing systems is underway.

According to Adrienne Taub-Kane, NYC Transit spokesperson, the project is on schedule for completion in 2010. For all city agencies, street construction is suspended from the week before Thanksgiving through New Year's to reduce interference with holiday traffic.

As might be expected, there is considerable community interest in the renovation and how it is affecting the neighborhood. Bi-weekly construction update reports on the Community Board 7 website can be seen through a link on our website w102-103blockassn.org.

Saigon Grill Workers' Award

On October 21, a judge awarded \$4.6 million in back pay and damages to 36 delivery workers at Saigon Grill restaurants on the Upper West Side and in the Washington Square area. The awards were to compensate for lost wages and illegal fines going back to 1999. According to a spokesperson for NMASS, National Mobilization Against Sweatshops, picketing of Saigon Grill will continue until the award is paid.

Similar complaints of unfair treatment against Flor de Mayo on Broadway near W. 101st St. were settled in May of this year, without the parties going to court.

The pact ended a boycott and picketing of the popular restaurant.

Lawsuits and a boycott are continuing against Ollie's Noodle Shops. Picketing may resume, according to NMASS.

Mailboxes Remain Unsullied

The mailboxes in our block association neighborhood continue to look fresh since the last overpainting of graffiti several months ago. We don't know why they have not been defaced, as have so many others outside our area, but perhaps our rapid response has something to do with it. The repainted fire hydrants look good as well. The block association will run a touchup project in the spring as needed.

If you have suggestions about other cosmetic improvements that the block association might make in our district, please contact us (see box on Page 2)

James Perez

Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

Brown Harris Stevens Residential Sales, LLC

1926 Broadway, New York, NY 10023
www.brownharrisstevens.com

Tel 212.588.5656 Cell 917.902.7193 Fax 212.418.9763
Email jperez@bhsusa.com

Innovative Halloween Parade and Party Delight a Huge Neighborhood Crowd

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magnanimously invited the attendees of our parade to visit the Haunted House he had installed in his building.

Saxton Freymann, author of *Play with Your Food, How Are You Peeling?*, and several other imaginative titles, generously provided us with a grinning, signature pumpkin. Rafael Herrera, the super of 315 W. 102nd St., lent labor, equipment, and materials to get our banner properly suspended over the refreshments table. Hanna Rubin and Jeff Howitt, from the W. 104th Street Block Association, donated candy and provided extra hands during the parade. We welcome their members' participation. The Fishman family stepped in as boom

box carriers extraordinaire during the parade. Many families donated candy and baked goods: the Becker-Copes, the Danehys, the DeCurtises, the Falcones, the Fishmans, the Keusch-Lees, the Lott-Davidges, the Oakeses, the Ruden-Leidners, the Titowskys, the Vignoleses and the Whites. Thanks to you all, and our added appreciation to those who contributed but didn't leave their names.

The Block Association board was delighted with the results of this year's innovations. We've glimpsed the future through our Halloween masks, and see that next year, Halloween falls on a Saturday. See the article below to learn more about our plans and find out how you can pitch in to make them happen.

Planning for Halloween 2009 Begins; We Need Your Suggestions and Assistance

It was a classic *aha!* moment that led to a *what if?* that in turn is full of exciting potential. We realized that in 2009, Halloween falls on a Saturday. Then we saw how successful closing W. 102nd St. for this year's annual Halloween Parade turned out to be. Now, the Block Association is considering broadening the traditional format and turning the event into more of a festival. It would run for several hours in the afternoon and could include a broad array of activities such as story time, pumpkin carving and/or decoration, an art or craft activity, an exhibition of children's artwork, a bouncer or other such amusement, a costume shop at which kids embellish their costumes by making hats, capes, or other accessories, refreshments, a photo booth, and, topping off the evening, the parade. There are lots of possibilities.

If you have ideas you'd like to contribute during the planning stages, please get in touch with Stacey Lauren

at (212) 678-1987. (You can also email your ideas or comments to halloween@w102-103blockassn.org.) Stacey has co-chaired the event the past several years. If you're the kind of person who'd rather be a worker bee (bumblebee costume to be provided!) and will lend a hand with some of the extra tasks that come along with a bigger and better event, please contact Stacey as well. We'll need a number of people who are willing to procure donations, buy supplies, decorate the block, staff activities, assist with publicity, etc.

This is a wonderful chance for us to help the ghosts of Halloweens past cross paths with those of Halloweens future. Enabling opportunities for positive interaction among our neighborhood's residents is one of the fundamental goals of the Block Association. Please help us capitalize on this year's success by growing this much beloved tradition into an even more rewarding community event.

Sura: New Thai Worth a Try

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with bok choy, black pepper, egg, and black bean sauce. There's also a brunch menu (\$9 or \$10 depending on entrée choice and including one alcoholic beverage and coffee or tea) featuring familiar breakfast dishes with a Thai twist. American fried rice, described as an egg sunnyside up, bacon, golden raisins and a fried chicken leg, is one example.

Sura is located at 2656 Broadway, on the east side between W. 100th and 101st Sts. It is open on Sunday through Thursday from 11:30 am to 11:00 pm and on Friday and Saturday from 11:30 am to 11:30 pm. The phone number is (212) 665-8888. The website is surathaikitchen.com. Delivery is available. Credit cards are accepted. Until a liquor license is secured, diners may bring their own wine or beer.

New DVD: Navigating New York for Toddlers

Anthony Bellov is best known in the Block Association district as a long-time resident and the leader of the popular annual caroling that serenades our streets at the winter solstice. In his professional life, he is a videographer who has just completed a 39-minute DVD for preschoolers called "Metrobaby Manhattan: City Sights, Street Safety". It explores important topics such as crossing the street, managing escalators and elevators, riding the subway, and negotiating construction sites. It was filmed largely in our neighborhood and the Block Association assisted in arranging for some of the indoor scenes at the Master Apartments.

Information about the wide-ranging services of Anthony Bellov Video Productions is available at anthonybellov.com. The new DVD is available from metrobabymanhattan.com.

On Broadway

Openings and Closings: ♦♦The wine bar, **Vinacciolo**, which opened in April of this year as **Uva 99** and then changed its name, has now closed. A nearby merchant reported that an official-looking notice briefly appeared on the window indicating a legal procedure was underway because of unpaid utility bills. Requests for comments from the owners of **La Cocina** on W. 85th St., who also owned **Vinacciolo**, have not been answered. ♦♦The entrance to a haven of southern cooking on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 109th St. has moved further east. **Rack and Soul**, the BBQ joint, has “right-sized” according to its owner, giving up the corner location and consolidating into about one-third the original space. The doorway is down the block from Broadway but the food is still down home. The emptied corner space will be joined with the vacant store just to the south, which was formerly a housewares shop. The combination will open in two to three months as a **Verizon Wireless** store according

to a contractor working on the project. Verizon declined to confirm the new store or its opening date. ♦♦The eclectic sandwich shop **Subconscious** on the east side of Broadway between W. 108th and W. 109th Sts. has closed after only two years in operation. The original store on Amsterdam Ave. near W. 120th St. continues in operation.

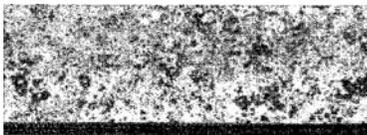
♦♦An endearing bit of North Africa that had been in our midst for almost ten years has closed. **Aromatherapy**, on the west side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts., is gone because the landlord refused to make repairs to leaking pipes above the shop, according to the owner, Abdul Khatib. He is looking to set up on the Internet with free delivery for local customers.

♦♦**Royal Kabob & Curry** on the northwest corner of W. 103rd St. and Broadway will close in a few months. Fleeing the demand for a large rent increase, the restaurant is moving to 931 Amsterdam Ave. near W. 105th St.

In Limbo: ♦♦There is now more empty retail space in our neighbor-

hood than there was three months ago. None of the large vacancies has been filled and the **Vinacciolo**, **Aromatherapy**, and **Subconscious** (see above) spaces have been added to the list. Richard Gelber of RKF, a real estate company specializing in retail leasing that has “For Rent” signs everywhere, sees a “more level playing field” with landlords now willing to consider offers that they previously ignored.

Going Down, Going Up: ♦♦Half the enclosed sidewalk dining area at **Indus Valley** on the east side of Broadway at W. 100th St. was demolished on Oct. 26th when an SUV plowed into it after a collision with a cab outside the restaurant. Fortunately, according to a restaurant manager, diners had just left the area moments before the crash. Had they still been there, he said, they would have been severely injured. The main room of the restaurant was not damaged. A day after the accident, it was back in business. The enclosed area has now been repaired and is again in use.



Lauren S. Stahl

Reiki Master
Feng Shui Consultant

235 West 102nd Street
New York, New York 10025
Tel: 917-670-1327
lauren@laurenstahl.com

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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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Group Organizes to Protect West End Ave.

The West End Preservation Society is seeking historic district status for the length of West End Ave. from W. 70th St. to W. 107th St.

Originally formed to block development of a sliver building between W. 84th and W. 85th Sts., the organization has now broadened its scope and hired Prof. Andrew Dolkart of Columbia Univ. to help them bring the issue before the Landmarks Preservation Commission. WEPS is soliciting members to support their work as well as signers of an online petition at petitiononline.com/WEPSHD. With almost 1000 signatures so far, the petition seeks to rally support for designation of West End Ave. as a historic district.

In June, the full board of Community Board 7 voted 33-1 to urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to take up the issue.

Bicycle Lane Opens on W. 106th St.

On Nov. 13th, the new bike lane on W. 106th St. from Central Park West to the Riverside Dr. service road was dedicated. It connects the bike paths in Central Park to the Riverside Park paths by converting the formerly two lanes of auto traffic in the east and west directions to one traffic lane and one bike lane each way.

To improve safety for bicyclists, the parking lane on each side of the street was widened to 9' to include the width of an opening car door, one of the more dangerous hazards for a bike rider. There is also a 3' buffer between east and west auto traffic to provide car drivers with a calmer environment in which to operate their vehicles.

At the Riverside Dr. service road the bike lane briefly merges with the one-way auto lane before reaching Riverside Park. Large signs announce this arrangement.