



## Board Elected, Finances Reviewed, Tales Told at BA Annual Meeting

Long-time board member and emcee for the evening, Cynthia Doty, opened the Block Association's annual meeting on Jan. 15 with introductions and then turned to David Reich, the outgoing chair, who presented a brief summary of last year's activities and a recap of income and expenses. He reported enthusiastic community participation in the Yard Sale, Halloween Parade, and caroling. Fire hydrants and mail boxes were painted to cover graffiti, and tree wells were planted throughout the district. Contributions and other income was sufficient last year to produce a

*Continued on Page 8*



Photo: Anthony Bellov

Gary Dennis captivated the audience at the annual meeting with stories of show business celebrities, well-known criminals, and other notorious neighborhood residents of long ago.

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

## Yard Sale Set For Saturday, May 30; Volunteers Needed

By Hedy Campbell

The sixth Annual Block Association Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 30**, from 10 am to 5 pm on W. 103rd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. The rain date is Sunday, May 31. Admission to the Yard Sale is free for buyers and browsers; vendors pay a fee.

The big day is weeks away but we have an immediate need for two volunteers to organize the Silent Auction and the Raffle. You can help make this another great event. Eager helpers are ready to go, awaiting your leadership! Beyond these positions, here's how you can participate in the 2009 Yard Sale:

**Help publicize and run the sale:** this is an opportunity to spend several productive hours in service to your community. We need volunteers who can lend a hand in advance of the Yard Sale as well as help set up and clean up on the day of the event. There will be flyers to be made and posted, other publicity to be placed, silent auction and raffle prizes to be solicited, the refreshment and Block Association tables to staff, some setup work in the morning and dismantling and cleaning up in the late afternoon. You get the idea.

Teenagers are especially welcome as volunteers. We will provide certificates of community service to attest to their contributions.

To get involved, please contact Ter-

ence Hanrahan at (917) 825-9267. If you are a great baker or want to contribute other items for the refreshment table, please contact me, Hedy Campbell at (212) 865-8524.

**Be a vendor:** if you are a Block Association resident (that is, you live on W. 102nd or W. 103rd St. between Broadway and Riverside Dr. or on West End Ave. between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts.), you can rent one of the 66 spaces, measuring 10 feet wide by 8 feet deep, for \$35; nonresidents pay \$50. The Block Association won't be providing tables so you will have to bring your own if you need one. As this is a neighborhood event, local, noncommercial vendors will be given priority.

Each vendor will need to read the simple rules we have established for the Yard Sale and return a completed Vendor's Agreement. The rules and a link to the agreement can be found by visiting [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org). Then click

*Continued on Page 2*

### 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 Mar. 10, Apr. 14, and May 12.

## Group Developing Proposals to Make Our Streets Safer for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Several block association members are actively involved in making the Upper West Side more pedestrian-friendly. MaryBeth Kelley, Mark Seaman, KC Rice, and Peter Frishauf, are members of the Upper West Side Streets Renaissance (UWSSR), a group that recently published a *Blueprint for the Upper West Side*. The Blueprint contains ideas for making streets safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians, especially seniors and children, and cyclists. Peter presented many of these concepts, and a short video, to the annual meeting of the Block Association in January.

Some ideas under consideration are curb extensions that widen sidewalks at street crossings, sidewalk benches, plantings, and public artworks, bicycle parking areas, and protected bicycle lanes to enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Also proposed is the

swapping of a few parking spaces for loading zones to facilitate deliveries to buildings as well as to safely move people in and out of cars and school buses.

Currently, UWSSR is preparing a presentation for Community Board 7. The group is also working on a plan to create a network of bicycle lanes that extends from W. 97th St. to W. 106th St., and from park to park. In conjunction with the West End Avenue Preservation Society (see page 10), the group is also proposing a 2009 outdoor Summer Streets event on West End Avenue.

The Block Association board is in favor of many of the UWSSR's goals. As specific projects are proposed, the board will seek community input as it determines which of them to support. A copy of the *Blueprint* is at [uwssr.org](http://uwssr.org). The video, *A Walk around the Upper West Side* may be seen at [streetfilms.org](http://streetfilms.org).

## Yard Sale Set for May 30; Volunteers Needed

*Continued from Page 1*  
on "2009 Yard Sale." You can print a blank Vendor's Agreement from the website. If that doesn't work for you, call vendor organizer Anthony Bellov at (212) 663-6748 for assistance.

**Donate to the Community Sale table:** see the box below for details. Please, donate only nice items, nothing worn, torn or soiled. All proceeds will benefit the Block Association.

**Come and shop:** it's fascinating to see what your neighbors bring to the table, so to speak. Last year there was an impressive array of items from gowns and jewelry to toys, books, CDs, games, small appliances, and artwork. No doubt you'll go home with some fabulous finds.

Don't forget the Block Association table for mugs and baseball caps sporting our logo and postcards of old Broadway. The Silent Auction will entice you with restaurant meals, member-

ships, services, art, and more. And you must try your luck on a raffle ticket! The refreshment table was a sellout last year with drinks, snacks, homemade cookies and cake, and other goodies so be sure to stop by early in the day.

Perhaps, after looking around, talking with the vendors, and encountering your neighbors, you'll unearth the most valuable treasure of all: a heightened sense of connecting with your community.

### Community Sale Table

**What to donate:** new or gently used, easily portable, clothing, toys, games, CDs/DVDs, art, crafts, or household items *in good working order*. In other words, things that you would give or sell to a friend.

**When:** May 20-May 29, 8 am - 11 pm

**Where:** Lobby of 240 W. 102nd St.

**Contact:** (212) 316-0434 or

[commtable@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:commtable@w102-103blockassn.org)

## Orfeo Duo Wins 2009 LMCC Grant

The Orfeo Duo, violinist Vita Wallace and her brother, pianist Ishmael Wallace, have been awarded a 2009 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council grant of \$4,975 to support their "What a Neighborhood!" program of performances. For several years, the Block Association has acted as their "fiscal conduit" in applying for these grants.

"What a Neighborhood!" presents music from local composers and performers both professional and those, such as young children, just learning that they, too, can write music. The Orfeo Duo and friends also perform out-of-neighborhood works such as the recent free "Beethoven and his Circle" concert at the Roerich Museum.

Upcoming events include a concert of love songs by local composers on Sunday, Mar. 22 at 1:30 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (521 W. 126th St.) and music and drama by local composers on Sunday, Mar. 29 at 4 pm at the Broadway Presbyterian Church Parish Hall (601 W. 114th St.). A donation of \$10 is suggested for each performance.

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

## Aging in Place Initiative Compiling Resource List

The Bloomingdale Aging in Place Initiative, a cooperative effort of the W. 104th St. Block Association and the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association, is preparing an organized list of services for seniors offered in our area. The Initiative was formed to seek ways in which volunteers can assist seniors who want to remain in their homes even as their abilities to handle their daily needs decrease.

The resource list was originally designed to help volunteers avoid duplication of services. It is being expanded and reorganized to be a useful guide for seniors, their families, and friends. A first draft, prepared by Phyllis Sperling with Herman Sands, Ruth-Ellen Simmonds, Gary Waskow, and David Greenberg, has been distributed to those who have attended Aging in Place meetings and those who filled out and returned the Initiative's survey. Information about omitted service providers and suggestions for changes in organization of the report have been requested from those receiving the early version.

At a Feb. 26 meeting, a panel discussion on preparing for emergencies was scheduled for late April. Further developments will be reported in the next Newsletter. To be notified of the Initiative's activities, send your name, phone number, email and regular address to [aginginplace@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:aginginplace@w102-103blockassn.org) or call (212) 866-5769.

## Carolers, With Cold Noses, Warm Hearts, Celebrate Season

Timing is everything, we've all been told. At the end of 2008, the first day of Chanukah and the winter solstice coincided, so we shifted the annual Block Association caroling a day later, wondering whether we'd get a decent turnout. Forecasts of below-freezing temperatures were of concern as well. Yet nearly 70 hardy residents of our neighborhood were undeterred from making their annual musical circuit around our blocks.

Ably led by stalwart choirmaster Anthony Bellov, and with large-type song sheets in hand, we serenaded our neighbors with songs of the season (more quickly than usual to keep us warm). Divided into groups under the direction of Dayle Vander Sande and Bill Repsher, we blessed each block with our signature version of "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Give Us Peace"), sung as a round. A stop for a cookie on W. 103rd St. (thank you to the Hasenpusch-Feldman family) helped fuel our group as it continued on its way. The acoustics seemed to be particularly good this year when we filled the courtyard of 300 Riverside Dr. with "The Twelve Days of Christmas." At this stop, and all along the route, neighbors were at their windows to sing along and applaud our efforts.

Thanks to building manager Seth Jucovy and the residents of 310 Riverside Dr., we enjoyed the hospitality of the Riverside lobby as our venue for

warm cider and a light bite. To those of you who brought something for the table, our thanks. We look forward to seeing you all, and newcomers too, when we make our musical rounds again in December.

## Trash Issue Addressed With No Wasted Effort

Earlier this winter, Block Association board member Terence Hanrahan noticed that city trash cans on the east side corners of West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. were often filled to the brim again shortly after they had been emptied into a garbage truck. Further, he observed that the trash seemed to be someone's household garbage.

He contacted board member Hedy Campbell who visited the Department of Sanitation website (accessible from [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov)) and found a complaint form by clicking "Contact DSNY" and "send an email to the Commissioner," which seemed like a direct way of reporting the issue. Terence then used the form to submit his concern on November 12, 2008. The very next day he received an emailed response from Mercedes Callender, Assistant to the Commissioner, acknowledging his message and promising "investigation and resolution."

Two weeks later, Terence received an additional email from the Department of Sanitation reporting that two agents from "the Enforcement Division surveilled this location and issued two Notices of Violation for the improper disposal of household refuse into a Department of Sanitation litter basket." The message went on to say that "Department of Sanitation Enforcement personnel will continue to monitor this location and Notices of Violation will be issued if violations are observed."

Your Block Association is pleased to have been involved, through a couple of board members, in addressing a neighborhood issue. Terence and Hedy, through their initiative and persistence, exemplified an important part of our mission. If you encounter problems of this sort and are not finding a resolution, please don't hesitate to contact us through the addresses that are listed in the box on Page 2.



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# Neighborhood Economics: Four Stores, Four Stories

By Molly Sugarman

The stories of four women who own nearby businesses bring into focus the importance of each buying decision we make and the effect those decisions may have on our own long-term quality of life.

"I've been chased around New York because of rent," says Karin Alexis, designer and owner of Karin Alexis Children's Clothes (2587 Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts.). "Leases come up and they double the rent," she says. Now, rent has won out. After a 22-year career as a business owner, moving from one location to the next as the rent went up, she is finally closing her doors.

Sales have been going down for the last three years, she says, and the landlord will not negotiate a reduction in rent. In her experience, landlords aren't thinking about the economy or the neighborhood. The import store next door went out of business a few months ago because it couldn't pay rent of \$10,000 per month; now the space is being offered for \$8,000, she says.

What the landlord doesn't realize, she says, is that now she has an option she didn't have before: online sales. She will continue to design and produce gift items, offering them for sale at her website, [karinalexis.com](http://karinalexis.com).

What residents don't realize, she says, is the impact the loss of yet another small business will have on the neighborhood and the quality of their lives.

"Empty stores impact the neighborhood," Alexis says, in ways that people don't notice until it is too late. It is her neighborhood, too, and she notices. It is owners of small businesses, she says, who sweep the sidewalk, salt the ice, and keep the area clear of garbage.

If you want the convenience of going down the block to buy a gift or a bottle of wine or a salad—or a safe,

clean neighborhood—patronize local stores, she says. "If you don't have a lot, buy something, even a \$5 barrette, if you want the option to be there in the future."

That sentiment is echoed by Carol Puzone of Bazaar de la Paz (Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts.). Her shop is brimful of recycled-wood furniture, metal sculptures, baskets, jewelry, coffee, light fixtures, and pottery, all from third-world countries. All are fair-trade items and all sales, large or small, are important, Puzone says. If a teenager buys a 10-cent bead, that's as important to the producer of that bead as the purchase of a \$200-table is to the maker of the table.

Hers is a business built on passion as well as a business plan. In her more than 20 years with international non-profits, she realized that "all problems stem from poverty. If you didn't go to school, you can't get a job; if you can't get a job, you can't send your kids to school so they can't get a job. Everyone wants the same things: to work, to have a dignified life, food on the table, and kids doing their homework."

She noticed that millions of dollars were put into production, from micro-loans for artisans to co-op farms, but money was not put into getting the goods to market. "They need to get out of the country, to the global market," Puzone says. "My role is getting goods into the global marketplace, one family, one workplace at a time . . . . I can't do everything but I can do my part."

For three years, she searched for a lease, finally, unbelievably, finding one on the Upper West Side that she could afford, with a landlord who was willing to take a risk. "This is a huge walking neighborhood, it's largely residential," Puzone says. "My neighbors are good and we have a good [police] precinct. It's all good."

But it isn't easy. "The funding for West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association NEWSLETTER ● MARCH 2009

small businesses is horrific," she says. Financing is difficult to obtain and generally insufficient. The analogy she uses comes from her years fighting poverty: if a child is born of a malnourished mother, the child starts off behind and spends years catching up. So, too, with business. A well-capitalized business can survive a few months of lower sales but an under-capitalized one will always be playing catch-up and may not survive a downturn.

The alleged financing for women- and minority-owned businesses doesn't exist, Alexis and Puzone say, although Puzone found—and used—technical support, such as legal services. It took weeks of full-time legal work to finalize her lease, an impossible cost had she not found free legal aid.

While no advantages accrued from being a woman opening a business, some frustrating moments did. When she first opened, she repeatedly heard comments such as, "It must have been one hell of a divorce settlement," or people assumed that any man working was the owner, not her. It was as if no one believed that a woman could come up with a business plan and get financing.

Dona Flam of Yartopia (Amsterdam Ave. at W. 108th St.) moved her aspirations off Broadway in order to find rent she could afford, but the search took two years and cost her the walk-by traffic so dear to retail. A former psychiatric social worker, she is a designer of both hand-knits and dresses, bags, and hats made from upholstery fabrics.

"This is my neighborhood," she says of her choice of location. "It's extremely under-served for any artistic endeavors. It is important for the character of the neighborhood to have more independently-owned businesses. I really love that I am helping to have more opportunities available in the neighborhood."

*Continued on Page 6*

# Green Team Getting Ready to Blossom Again

By Alan Leidner

After a highly active and successful first year, the Block Association's Green Team has been inactive since the summer mainly due to my own fixation on the presidential election and a tough work schedule. Now, with our new president in place, and with his clear commitment to improving the environment, the time has come to start to build on our past record.

Our history to date: the Green Team got started in the fall of 2007, launching a number of initiatives. Research was done into alternatives to the conventional Con Edison electric energy supply, and a recommendation was made to switch to the Con Edison wind power solution, reducing the carbon footprint by tons per year of all who converted their accounts. An investigation into compact fluorescent bulbs, which consume less than one-fourth the power required by conventional filament lights of similar strength, was also completed. The Green Team recommended low-cost, long-lasting and low-mercury options. Our research results are posted on the Block Association's web site at [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org).

The Green Team also held a highly successful electronics recycling event with the Lower East Side Ecology Center that lasted for three days and collected tons of equipment for recycling that

otherwise would have entered the waste stream. Green Team members are now hard at work organizing a Transportation Alternatives day.

For the future, we would like to keep track of new developments in the green-energy and alternative-lighting areas so we can continue to communicate them to Block Association residents. For example, light bulbs based on light emitting diode (LED) technology are becoming available at cheaper prices although they are still quite expensive. LEDs use a fraction of the energy of CFLs while lasting many times longer without the risk of mercury release into the environment. We will explore holding another electronics recycling day especially with the coming switchover to digital TVs, when many of our residents will have old analog sets to discard.

We also hope to get into greater depth on options for new and retrofitted boiler systems. Steam and hot-water-generating boilers, to be found in almost all of our buildings, are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our neighborhood and old systems are highly inefficient by modern standards. Additionally, we will be looking at a variety of roof solutions from painting with sun-reflective paint to solar paneling and green plantings. Better strategies for our roofs can reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce our need

for air conditioning, generate electric power, and reduce storm water runoff.

If you are interested in learning more about your Block Association's Green Team or want to join our efforts, please call Alan Leidner at (212) 551-6416. Other members of the team include Avery Hudson, Amy Cherry, Joseph Rappaport, Jon Reiner, Patricia Lewis, Mark Seaman, and Jim Jubak.

## Deli with Unusual Name Opens on Broadway

Raise your hands: how many of you knew the meaning and pronunciation of **Tar Isteach** when the deli with that name opened on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts. in late January?

Those familiar with Irish Gaelic would say *tar ishTYAHK* to a friend at the door since it means "come in." The owner of this welcoming eatery is Mohamed. He's originally from Egypt but his wife, Lily, is Irish, whence the name. You may already know the owner from the food truck he used to park on W. 104th St. east of Broadway next to RiteAid. He makes all the baked items (except the H&H bagels) and all the prepared foods that he sells. With St. Patrick's Day coming up, stop by and say dia duit *JEE-ah gwit* (hello).

(ANNOUNCEMENT)

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## Block Association Tutors Working With Semiperm Residents

Ever since the new, 11-story building for previously homeless, single-parent families at 210 W. 102nd St. began taking residents in May 2008, the Block Association has worked with Program Coordinator Tricia Blanchard to help in various ways.

The adult residents at Semiperm are required to either have a job or be working on their education. As a result, several opportunities for tutoring, especially in math and writing, aimed at GED exams or college placement, have arisen. Here's a recent report from one of the tutors, Leilani Straw:

"It did take a while to get something going on a regular basis. The first student I tried to work with on Monday mornings did not continue after the first session. In November, Tricia paired me with another young mother who is much more motivated; we have had seven weekly sessions so far. We have just decided to meet twice a week so she can move ahead faster. I am really enjoying the experience as it is always satisfying to work with someone who is also working hard and showing progress. My student has a full-time job and three young children, yet she still finds the time and energy for our sessions and the homework I assign.

The Semiperm program is impressive. I have had the opportunity to observe Tricia and other staff as they relate to the residents and help them to find and use resources in the community and within themselves. Semiperm is really making a difference for these young families. Any help that the Block Association can give to this program is well worth the effort."

If you think you might be able to assist as a tutor, please contact Tricia Blanchard at (212) 222-3673, ext. 12.

## Four Stores, Four Stories

*Continued from Page 4*

"Knitters and crocheters talk," she says, so her business is thriving by word-of-mouth. While experiencing no advantages or disadvantages as a woman business owner, she has encountered a bit of reverse ageism. Long-time knitters visiting her shop can't believe she is the owner of the store because she is so young.

Flam's lease isn't up for a few years so she feels no rent pressure but she hopes all landlords get the message that empty storefronts are bad for the neighborhood. Every business that closes impacts the quality of life.

Moving off the beaten path has hurt, rather than helped, Awilda Sosa, optician and owner of Angel Eyes (244 West 99th St.). She, too, has also been chased from one storefront to another by rising costs. A rent increase forced her move to her current, less expensive side-street location and now rent is pushing her out again.

Despite cost-cutting – she once had a staff of four and now works alone – this single mother of two has had to work a second job to keep afloat. Even so,

she's had trouble making the rent consistently.

The building was sold and the new owner didn't renew the lease; he wants her to leave. She has two months to pack up and relocate but her customer base, after 27 years as an optician on the Upper West Side, is here. "I don't live here but from here is how I live, how I put food on my table," Sosa says.

She believes she might have a better chance to negotiate if she were a man. "Some men find it difficult to take a woman seriously," she says. An old-fashioned mind-set sees her not as a bread-winner for a family but merely as a cute, Hispanic woman, Sosa believes.

But she's ready to fight. "The mom-and-pop stores, we're all getting pushed out for big picture, high, expensive apartments," Sosa says. A fixture in the neighborhood, she returns the waves of passers-by as she waits on a customer. "This place is like Cheers," she says. "It's like a social place. Everyone stops in to have a conversation."

That conversation may end to accommodate a possible hostel/hotel for which her shop would be the lobby.

## Can You Help Improve Our Website or Database?

The Block Association could use some help with an Internet and a computer-based application.

First, our rather rudimentary website is at [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org). At present, it lists a few links to information about our activities, documents prepared by our Green Team, a detailed description of our Yard Sale rules for vendors, and the application form they would use to apply for a space. We would like to expand the content and improve the website's appearance and ease of use. Do you have some ideas about how this could be accomplished? Do you have the necessary skills and some free time to volunteer to work on

this project?

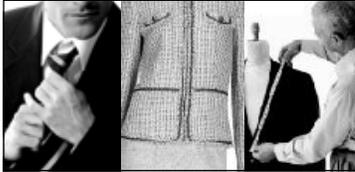
Second, one of our board members currently maintains a Microsoft Access database of contributors, Yard Sale vendors, and others from which reports and email lists are produced. We would like to have a volunteer from the community who understands this (or equivalent) software to act as backup for this important service and to advise us on how to best use this resource. Do you have expertise in this area and would you be available to step in and help from time to time as needed?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, please use the information on page 2 to contact the Block Association.

# 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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## Updates>>>News Updates>>>News Updates>>>News

### 96th St. Subway Renovation

After more than a year of site preparation and much underground work in the W. 96th St. subway station below Broadway, the outlines of the new "head house" above ground are beginning to show. Street-level beams above the northbound platform were being installed at the end of February. Construction of new ventilators for the station are scheduled for the first week in March. They should be visible to passersby on the east side of Broadway.

Downstairs, in the station, cleaning of tile continues as well as removal of the terra cotta and mosaic band on the walls for cleaning, repair and eventual restoration.

Street work around the Mall in the middle of Broadway from W. 95th to W. 96th St. continues to snarl trucks and automobiles, especially at rush hours. Traffic control personnel attempt to keep things moving but the din of impatient drivers leaning on their horns must have nearby residents wondering when that work will be completed.

### Panhandling and Homelessness

At a recent meeting of the 24th Precinct Community Council, Deputy Inspector Kathleen O'Reilly reported increased attention to quality-of-life issues associated with people living on the street and panhandlers.

In one case, she reported success in convincing the man who has long camped in front of the Duane Reade drugstore on the west side of Broadway between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. to move into supported housing. In another situation, DI O'Reilly was personally involved in arresting a woman who has long panhandled in the streets around

Amsterdam Ave. and W. 96th St. O'Reilly reported that the woman is an acknowledged drug user with many previous arrests and was endangering herself and others by her activities.

### Anti-Idling Law Strengthened

Some residents of W. 103rd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. were particularly pleased that a new law, passed by the City Council and signed by the mayor, will further limit the amount of time buses and trucks may stand with their engines idling and emitting exhaust fumes to one minute.

For years, buses delivering or picking up children from the mid-block school have presented a health hazard to neighbors. Negotiations with the bus company produced some relief. Now, the new law should solidify those gains. If you spot a violator, please call 311.

### James Perez

Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

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# Block Association Reserves Dropping, Contributions Down

The financial statement in the box to the right of this article shows a small net increase in cash on hand at the end of last year compared to the beginning of 2008 but in just the past two months our cash position has dropped by over \$2,000 as expenses, mainly for the guard, continue at a steady pace while contributions have slowed.

In these difficult economic times, the board of the Block Association realizes that the sturdy band of regular contributors, about 15% of our residents, should not be asked for more. Rather, we will be reaching out, with lobby tables staffed by board members and building residents, to those who have not contributed recently.

## Board Members, Officers Elected

At the Block Association's annual meeting on Jan. 15, eleven members were elected for one-year terms on the Board of Directors.

The slate, approved by acclamation, included one first-time member, Dorothy O'Hanlon, who lives at the Broadmoor (235 W. 102nd St.). Welcome, Dorothy!

The officers were elected at the regular meeting of the board on Feb. 10.

Board members and officers for 2009 are:

Hedy Campbell, co-chair  
 Alan Cary,  
 Camille Colon  
 Terence Hanrahan, co-chair  
 John Hewitt  
 Marlene Lee, secretary/co-treasurer  
 Alan Leidner,  
 Ginger Lief  
 Dorothy O'Hanlon,  
 David Reich

In addition, Molly Sugarman was elected co-treasurer to serve with Marlene Lee.

You can help by checking page 10 of this Newsletter to see which of your neighbors are current contributors and then asking the others to join you in supporting this worthy project. One way to do this would be by circulating a letter in your building describing the activities of the Block Association and asking your neighbors to become active members. A sample letter is posted on our website, [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org).

We have asked for contributions of \$25 per quarter or \$100 per family per year but it is important to emphasize that we receive and greatly appreciate amounts as low as \$5 from people unable to contribute more. Our ambitious goal is to double the number of contributors during the coming year.

The whole point of the Block Association is to improve the neighborhood for the common good. We hope that those who benefit from these efforts will also be moved to contribute to their support.

## BA Board Elected, Finances Reviewed, Tales Told

*Continued from Page 1*  
 slight surplus but the loss of a major Newsletter ad and signs of slowing in membership renewals are cause for concern, which the new board plans to address in the coming year (see other articles on this page for details).

The tone of the evening brightened considerably when Gary Dennis began his illustrated talk on show business and other celebrities who used to live in our neighborhood. Hedy Campbell had worked many weeks with Gary and with Ginger Lief to collect the photos that were shown using a video projector donated for the evening by Laura Jervis, executive director of the organization

1/1/2008 balance	<b>\$25,485.99</b>
12/31/2008 balance	<b>26,106.95</b>
Net increase	<b>620.96</b>

### INCOME

Building contributions	\$13,973.00
Individual contributions	20,722.00
Newsletter ads	2,350.00
Yard Sale	5,224.90
Logo items	30.00
Interest	64.86
Other income	<u>114.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$42,478.76</b>

### EXPENSES

Contributions, dues	\$1,407.51
Event expenses	614.92
Logo items (green bags)	358.48
Post office, bank charges	232.83
Web hosting	9.95
Contribution envelopes	565.45
Newsletter production	2,950.24
Security guard (51 wks)	<u>35,718.42</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$41,857.80</b>

that runs the Marseilles. Gary used to own Movie Place on W. 105th St. and now continues his addiction to the movies on his website [nycmovieplace.com](http://nycmovieplace.com).

We closed the evening with a presentation by neighbor Peter Frishauf on the Upper West Side Streets Renaissance proposals to improve safety and access for pedestrians and bicyclists. Peter showed a video describing the problems and offering solutions, which UWSSR will be promoting in the coming weeks.

### Anthony Berti

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# On Broadway

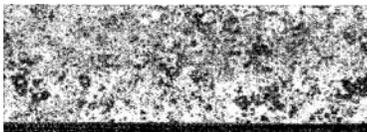
**O**penings and Closings: ♦♦The landmarked **Metro Theater** on the east side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. will take on a new life as an **Urban Outfitters** store. ♦♦The Japanese restaurant **Tokyo Pop**, on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. has closed. The owners, who also run **Café du Soleil**, across from it on Broadway, are re-opening the space as **Angelina's Pizzeria**, perhaps with a wood-burning oven. ♦♦After the closing of the produce store next to **Silver Moon Bakery** on the east side of Broadway north of W. 105th St., the retail space remained empty until it took on a temporary life as Obama headquarters for the neighborhood last fall. After the election, it went back to commercial use as the hair salon **Blondi's III**. The other two shops in the small chain are on E. 86th St. ♦♦As announced in the last issue, **Royal Kabab and Curry** on the northwest corner of Broadway and W. 103rd St. has closed its doors. A new version of the restaurant has opened at 931 Am-

sterdam Ave. between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts. under the name **Curry and Kabab**. ♦♦After two and a half years on the west side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts., the **Karin Alexis** children's clothing store is closing. The original store, which was on Amsterdam Ave. in the west 80's, closed some time ago. The business will continue on the website *karinalexis.com*. ♦♦What was formerly a deli called **Bistro To Go** on the west side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts., is now a deli called **Tar Isteach**. For more on the origin of this name, how to pronounce it, and the background of the owner (and his wife), see the article on page 5. ♦♦The name on the awning says **Alpine Sound Electronics** above the shuttered storefront on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. but only the echo remains. A hand-lettered "out of business" sign indicates its demise. ♦♦Look for a new salon on the west side of Broadway between W. 108th and W. 109th Sts where the restaurant **La**

**Rosita** used to occupy the space of three small stores. The middle space will become the **Carnegie Nails and Spa** salon, a sister to an east-side version on Madison Ave. near E. 93rd St.

**I**n Limbo: ♦♦With three new closings adding to the stock of empty retail space and three somewhat smaller openings on the plus side of the ledger, the net amount of empty retail space in our area has increased again. Nonetheless, it is certainly a positive sign that some small businesses have both the capital and the courage to begin a new venture in this economic climate. If you like what you see, stop in and welcome them to the neighborhood.

**G**oing Down, Going Up: ♦♦This section usually describes buildings going down or up. There's not much construction activity to report but, on the retail front, prices are going down at the Italian restaurant **Meridiana** on the east side of Broadway between W. 105th and W. 106th Sts. For the month of March, the food portion of any bill will be discounted by 20 percent.



**Lauren S. Stahl**

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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 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.

**New and continuing donors:  
please use the enclosed envelope  
to send your contribution to:  
W. 102-103 Streets Block Assn.  
P. O. Box 1940  
New York, NY 10025**

**235 W. 102 St.:** Cox, Fair/Guide, Hanley, Kapp, Knight, Lyman, Mallow, Meese, Mitchell, O’Hanlon, Page, Spital, Stevenson, Timperley, Vargas/Weiner, Zinsser  
**240 W. 102 St.:** Eisenstadt, Kalish, McGirt, Workman/Miller, Worman/Chun  
**247 W. 102 St.:** Dunn  
**251 W. 102 St.:** Mirsky/Bommarito  
**307 W. 102 St.:** Zakaria/Throckmorton  
**308 W. 102 St.:** Hilary  
**310 W. 102 St.:** Albert  
**311 W. 102 St.:** Doyle/Lauren  
**312 W. 102 St.:** Plutzik/Goldwasser  
**313 W. 102 St.:** Betts  
**315 W. 102 St.:** Bassios, Buckley, Hansen, Knox, Sparks, Weil  
**318 W. 102 St.:** Erselcuk  
**320 W. 102 St.:** Brail  
**244 W. 103 St.:** Smith/de Souza  
**250 W. 103 St.:** Agathocleous, Brookbanks, Falk, Horwitz/Bolotin, Katzer, Lee/Payez, Rahmani, Soskin, Sugarman, Winick  
**303 W. 103 St.:** Berger, Frishauf/Rice  
**305 W. 103 St.:** Bertin  
**308 W. 103 St.:** Ian  
**312 W. 103 St.:** Aaronson  
**314 W. 103 St.:** Parizhsky  
**316 W. 103 St.:** Kleidon/Ahmed  
**855 West End Ave.:** Coffiman, Henwood  
**858 West End Ave.:** Regensburg  
**862 West End Ave.:** Hewitt  
**865 West End Ave.:** Beels, Chase, Coulter/Knowlton, Currin/Lepore, Cushman/Sorkin, Davidge/Lott, Eisenstein, Hanrahan, Leshen/Mota, Nye, Perchanok/Krasner, Sands, Zakrzewski  
**875 West End Ave.:** Appelbaum, Babush, Baney/Bentley, Barbor, Batterman, Borinstein/Vartanian, Canin, Canin/Sauer, DeCurtis/MacDowell, Eisen/Dworkin, Felton, Fricke/Klimley,

Fuerstein, Garbers/Belth, Gillman, Gordon, Grosz/Fisch, Hausman, Hochman/Reid, Humphreys, Hyatt, Keane, Lasher, Leiman, Levin, Levine, Levine, Lohr/Trucco, Malatzky, Manley, March/Laferrère, McDermott, Pommer, Rogers, Rosenfeld/Stein, Rubel, Smith/Chibnik, Stein, Straw/Gubitosa, Williamson, Yahr  
**878 West End Ave.:** Adams, Feinberg, Foreman, Gross/Ochshorn, Skomorowsky/Marratto, Stearns  
**884 West End Ave.:** Aronow/Adler, Cary, Cockey/Strohm, Cutler/Young, Davis, Finch/Fitzgibbon, Korman/Sher, Pines, Yin  
**885 West End Ave.:** Bernstein/Bowen, Brown/Gruber, Einhorn/Futterman, Friedman, Sanders, Spring/Miller, Tolkow/Woodbury, Tympanick/Gilman, Weiss  
**299 Riverside Dr.:** Dane, Fell, Field/Seidel, Flateman/Goldstein, Goldstein, Guarino/Arlotta, Healy/Emery, Holtz/Horowitz, Kaplan, Kastanis, Leidner/Ruden, Reich/Dessel, Soltz, Tedoff, Titowsky, Wagner/Cecil, Wakabayashi, Wang/Sedlis, Wollos/Best, Wong  
**300 Riverside Dr.:** Abramski, Alfonso/Gouck, Chevray, Cummins, Davenport, Edelman/Gold, Eisler, Flint/McLeod, Forbes/De Prenger, Fox, Frizell, Goldwasser, Greenwald/Struhl, Halberstam/Cohen, Hinzman, Hudson/Cherry, Krassner, Larned, Lerse, Maderer, Maeda, Mills, Plum/Rocks, Rack, Rapp/Zyberman, Rasmussen, Rehberg/Greenman, Reich/Greenberg, Reiner/Lally, Ross/Myers, Schiff, Seget/LaBasse, Serra, Simon, Smith/Silverman, Taus, Themm/Clevenger, van Schaardenburg, Vaz/Moebius, Weissberg, Wimpfheimer  
**305 Riverside Dr.:** Avidon, Colon, Gold, Hoffman, Juviler/Stephens, Woodruff  
**310 Riverside Dr.:** Acero/Dyer, Balter/Mandel, Barter, Benson, Deming, Freeman, Hagiwara, Huber, Hugus, Kelly, Maffei, Mahoney, McKinney/Chin, Piper, Podrasky, Sandberg, 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., 309 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 Riverside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr.  
**Commercial:** 235 W. 102 St.: Berti, Better

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## Survey Completed for West End Preservation Society

The organization formed recently to pursue historic-district designation for West End Avenue from W. 70th St. to W. 107th St. has received a detailed report of the 218 buildings along that stretch of “one of the premier residential boulevards of New York City.”

That quote is from the survey prepared by Andrew Dolkart, Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University. Also included are photographs of all the buildings taken in the summer or fall of 2008, date of construction, architect, original owner, and legal designation. This data is preceded by a 32-page introduction by Dolkart, in which he lays out the case for historic district designation by the City’s Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The West End Preservation Society is now exploring the best way to bring the issue to the Commission, according to Erika Peterson, vice-president and secretary. There is an online petition to be signed via a link from the website, [westendpreservation.org](http://westendpreservation.org), and a page on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

WEPS is seeking funds to support their work. Contributions, currently not tax deductible due to the group’s lobbying efforts, can be sent to 514 West End Ave., 15B, New York, NY 10024.

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**See page 2 for contact information.**