



Bloomingtondale Aging in Place Reports Progress

Bloomingtondale Aging in Place, initiated by members of the W. 104th Street and W. 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Associations, has been meeting for the last year with the goal of organizing volunteers to help older neighbors remain comfortably, happily, and safely in their neighborhood homes.

Recent progress has been made on organizational issues: co-chairs Hanna Rubin and David Reich report that a steering committee was formed and has met twice and a Post Office box has been acquired, as has a website name of *bloominplace.org* and a checking account. A logo for the organization is being designed. A generous grant of seed money from a steering committee member has been received, which allowed us to purchase a sound system for our meetings. Legal assistance is being sought for non-profit incorporation with tax-exempt status as well as advice on privacy and liability issues.

Efforts continue on the dissemination of information to the area's seniors: a compilation of resources for seniors on the Upper West Side is in preparation and a well-attended free panel discussion on emergency safety was held on April 30. Audience members learned how to prepare for a medical or other emergency, what identification you should always have with you, and where to place a list of contacts in your home so that an emergency worker can find it easily. A one-sheet summary

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

Many Volunteers Contribute to a Great Sixth Annual Yard Sale

By Hedy Campbell

Organizing and running the Sixth Annual Block Association Yard Sale was a huge effort that required labor of all sorts beginning months in advance of the event.

This year, Anthony Bellov was the first to roll up his sleeves, proposing soon after the New Year that we schedule the event later in May for a chance of better weather. The gambit paid off. May 30th was a beautiful day for a street fair.

Anthony next got to work contacting vendors from previous years while board member David Reich updated the Yard Sale information on our website. Keeping track of vendor space sales, tracking payments, answering questions, getting up extra early on Saturday morning to mark off the spaces, and averting crises caused by cars left on the block filled any spare moments Anthony might have had until the event was over. Anthony, this event couldn't have happened without you.

Meanwhile, flyers were being printed and posted in local building lobbies and on bulletin boards far and wide as well as distributed via websites and email lists. Many thanks to the poster squad: Marlene Lee, Terence Hanrahan, Alan Cary, and Ginger Lief. A week before the event, every vendor space had been sold, though a few last-minute cancellations allowed waiting-list vendors a space on the block. Once we had the

sellers, we needed to encourage lots of buyers. Without even being asked, resident Matt Petosa stepped up and designed an eye-catching publicity flyer for us, which we posted throughout the neighborhood.

Obtaining the permit to close the street came next on Marlene Lee's to-do list. This year, the Mayor's Office insisted that we obtain a Public Solicitation License before the street closure would be allowed. Fortunately, we found a friendly bureaucrat who helped us complete the complicated form.

A big thank you goes to resident Deborah Lott, who had barely caught her breath after running a local school's auction when she agreed to take charge of ours. She got a crew of donation-seekers up and moving (thanks, board members and residents who helped with this), organized all the paperwork, and is still hard at work notifying people of their winning bids and collecting the

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BLOCK ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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

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

The next three meetings are scheduled for Jun. 10, Jul. 14, and Aug. 11.

La Rural: the Argentine Way with Beef, Just a Stroll Away

By Hedy Campbell

Imagine your favorite steakhouse. Now send the chef, the staff, and the menu on a semester abroad in Argentina. The result would be **La Rural**, the successor to Pampa, the former Argentine steakhouse, on Amsterdam Avenue.

Named for an annual livestock and agricultural fair, La Rural offers many forms of grilled meat (red-meat eschewers and vegetarians can find appealing choices as well). In keeping with the no-frills atmosphere of a cattle market, the décor is suitably, but comfortably, plain with lots of polished wood, a small bar area, and a lovely, simply-furnished garden under a retractable canopy out back. Rhythm and blues and jazz make for quiet background music.

We started our menu explorations with empanadas, tasting two of the five kinds available, enjoying both the flaky outer casings and toothsome fillings of chopped beef and fresh corn (two of each per \$7 order). We also sampled the spiced grilled eggplant in balsamic vinaigrette (\$8) as a side dish. Three baby eggplant halves served at room temperature successfully offset the richness of our steaks.

In the course of two visits, we sampled the rib eye, the shell steak, the skirt steak, and the sirloin (\$19 to \$25). Each was first-rate, generously propor-

tioned, and cooked exactly as ordered. The Jack Sprat at our table was just as content as his wife. For people who prefer to sample, there's *parillada* for two, a selection of two kinds of grilled steak, short ribs, two kinds of sausage, and sweetbreads, served with a mixed salad and a side dish of choice (\$48). A local salesman dining with associates gave it an enthusiastic thumbs up.

Fish and vegetable choices are plentiful among the appetizers, salads, and side dishes. For those who desire grilled flavor but not red meat, there's *pechuga de pollo*, chicken breast marinated in lime, rosemary and oregano (\$14), which was perfectly cooked and well flavored, and a vegetable platter available in two sizes. There's also breaded chicken (or beef) cutlet with or without tomato sauce, ham, and cheese (\$16-\$20), and pasta (\$12-\$14).

Entrees are served without accompaniment, dressed with a sizeable mound of halved cherry tomatoes, for example. If you want something green and/or starchy, you must order a side dish or two. Twice we tried to order *broccoli tierno*, broccoli rabe with slivered garlic, and twice we were told that it was only available with ordinary broccoli; we passed. Our family's side dish of choice is *papas provenzal*, hand-cut French fries tossed with minced garlic

and parsley. The standard French fries are equally addictive. Side dishes are large enough for two or three.

Although I always find myself too full from my main course to manage dessert, a service mishap on our first visit resulted in delivery of complimentary glasses of port and *panqueque de manzana*, a crepe filled with caramelized apples and topped with vanilla ice cream. After a heavy meal, it provided a perfectly light but sweet finish and more than made up for forgotten appetizers.

It pays to keep an eye on the blackboard in front of La Rural, located at 768 Amsterdam Ave. between W. 97th and 98th Sts. (212-749-2929). You may find a deal such as free sangria on a weekend evening or a \$25 weeknight special that includes a salad, a main course, and a glass of wine. La Rural is open from 5 to 11 pm Monday through Thursday, 4 to midnight on Saturdays, and on Sundays from noon to 10 pm for brunch and dinner. American Express is the only credit card accepted. A full list of wines by the glass or bottle is available, as are mixed drinks.

Bloomington Aging in Place Reports Progress

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from the panel is being posted and distributed in our buildings and is available in electronic or paper form (see below).

Our next free event, "Help! Do you need a caregiver?," will take place at the Marseilles Residence community room, 230 W. 103rd St. on Thursday evening, June 25, from 7 to 9 pm. Attendees will learn how to determine if they need a full or part-time caregiver, ways to find one, and some of the insurance options for coverage.

Pilot efforts are underway to match helpers with requesters based on the survey results from last fall. Building representatives at two locations have started informal gatherings to assess the needs of seniors in their buildings. More such "tea parties" are planned.

To receive a copy of the emergency safety review or to join the mailing list, contact Bloomington Aging in Place at P. O. Box 497, New York, NY 10025, email info@bloominplace.org, or call David Reich at (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.bloomington.org/newsletter102-103.htm>



On a beautiful day, browsers at the Yard Sale were busy trying on a bracelet, selecting a leather belt or buying **Buster's** wraps at the Bake Sale table (rear) while co-chair Terence Hanrahan (center) hawked **Make My Cake** cupcakes.



The variety of items offered at the Yard Sale satisfied even veteran bargain-hunters who examined and sometimes bought children's toys, golf clubs, jackets, lamps, an odd bit of Judaica found in Vermont and all sorts of knick-knacks. Photos by D. Reich

The Block Association Thanks the Generous Donors to the 2009 Yard Sale!

Silent Auction

- *Anthony Bello Video Productions
- *Café du Soleil
- Hedy Campbell (festive cake)
- Camille Colon (baby blanket)
- *Lynn Cushman, piano teacher
- *Edible Arrangements
- *Festival Chamber Music Society - Ruth Sommers
- *Indus Valley
- Deborah Lott (crystal candlestick)
- *Make My Cake Bakery - Alan Leidner
- *Métisse
- *Metro Diner

Silent Auction, con't

- *New Amsterdam Fencing Academy
- *Pan Asian Repertory Theatre
- *PicNic Market and Café
- *Regional
- *Symphony Space
- *Turquaz
- *Yarntopia

Raffle

- *Academy Floral
- Deborah Lott
- *H&H Broadway Wine Center
- *In & Out Nails
- *Silver Moon Bakery

Refreshments & Bake Sale

- *Buster's Restaurant & Catering
- *Make My Cake Bakery/Alan Leidner
- Hedy Campbell and the bakers:
Nancy Becker Cope, Susan Dessel,
Kyle Gallup, Ellen McGirt, Lisbeth
Mark Newman, Dorothy O'Hanlon,
Barbara Peck, David Reich, Patti
Wilson

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



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O'Reilly's Rules for Running the Precinct: Competence, Candor, and Concern

By Molly Sugarman

Deputy Inspector Kathleen O'Reilly solves problems, no matter their nature or complexity. As commander of the Police Department's 24th Precinct, covering W. 86th St. to W. 110th St., from Central Park West to Riverside Dr., she could be excused for brushing off situations that are not, strictly speaking, law enforcement problems.

But she doesn't do that.

She jumps right in, building coalitions, networking, and reaching out to anyone who might help. She has brought together the Sanitation Department, Human Resources Administration, the Parks Department, tenant associations, landlords, and business owners to resolve complaints ranging from undesirable tenants in an SRO to raucous all-night barbecues on public property.

"It's not like I am fixing everything, but I have the ability to get people to take care of problems," she said. "The issues will not go away unless we work together."

At monthly meetings of the precinct's Community Council (third Wednesday of the month), O'Reilly often faces a roomful of angry people, ready to denounce the police for their perceived failure to control crime, noise, or a plethora of other irritants. Her demeanor disarms them: ready to rage against the machine, the disgruntled are calmed by her lack of defensiveness and her willingness to get involved and follow up. She gives out her cell phone number and email address ((646) 739-0693, kathleen.oreilly@nypd.org) so people can let her know whether her solutions worked or not.

"I enjoy the meetings," she said. "I enjoy the challenge of having them yell at me. They have legitimate complaints. A lot of the concerns are not

police-related but I can facilitate and I will follow up. The mere presence of the police really helps."

A portion of her office is taken up by a bicycle on which she patrols the precinct. She knows her territory, from the panhandler who is a retired city worker just looking for friendly conversation and a little extra cash, to the streets and buildings that need extra patrols.

An 18-year-veteran of the New York Police Department, O'Reilly has been in charge of the 24th Precinct since late 2006. During her tenure, major crime has continued to drop; it's down about 20 percent overall from this time last year. She doesn't take all the credit for the decline. It's a different neighborhood; the demographics have changed, she said.

Although mindful of the possibility, she has not seen a spike in crime as a result of the current economic decline and she doesn't think there'll be one. "This is a different police department than it was 20 years ago," she said. "There's more accountability." And there's O'Reilly, stepping up to work on quality-of-life issues with the same zeal as she applies to rousting parolees in possession of drugs.

Her confidence is bolstered by the fact that the precinct just got 14 new officers and has the assistance of a cadre of police auxiliary officers, whom O'Reilly values highly. O'Reilly wants to use the additional staff for more foot patrols in trouble spots. "I am asking my cops to take action, to get out of their cars," she said. She gets out of her office, either on bicycle patrol or by attending as many community meetings as she can, to answer questions and find out what's bothering people.

"I work for the community," she said. "They pay my salary. I tell my cops not

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O'Reilly's Tips For a Safer Neighborhood

Get involved. The police can't help if they don't know something is wrong. Her example: A woman was killed in her apartment on W. 93rd St. this year. A neighbor heard the shot but did not call police. Instead, the neighbor called the building super. He didn't call 911 either.

Document everything. If there's a problem, report it every time. The first instance, such as a threat, may not rise to the level of a crime, but a stack of reports can add up to a crime, such as harassment.

Help panhandlers and homeless people the right way. Don't give hand-outs of money, food, or items to sell. Instead, call 311. Hand-outs enable people to stay on the street. O'Reilly is working with Goddard-Riverside Community Center to get homeless people into housing and connected to the services they need, whether vocational training or health care.

Stay around. Crimes can't be solved if the police don't get evidence. When you discover that your car was broken into, stay with it or leave someone else there, preserve the crime scene, and give the police time to process the car.

Make crime more difficult. Lock or bar all your windows. Maintain the lighting around your building. Install cameras. Get your building to join the Trespass Affidavit Program, which allows the police to patrol inside a building and arrest those who are not tenants or guests of tenants. To enroll, contact the District Attorney's office at (212) 335-9082 or O'Reilly or her community affairs officer, Vincent Durante, at (212) 678-1803.

Most important, keep in touch. Call 311 or 911, as appropriate. Go to Community Council meetings or give O'Reilly a call to complain or to invite her to your tenant association meeting.

Summer Entertainment in Riverside Park

Riverside Clay Tennis Association on the Lawn at the 97th Street Tennis Courts (Rain date: following Sunday. Check rcta.info)	
Saturday, June 6, 7 pm Musica Bella Orchestra of New York	Classical
Saturday, June 13, 7 pm Citigrass with a kid-friendly evening of bluegrass	Blue-grass
Saturday, June 20, 7 pm Gotham Winds Ensemble	Blue-grass
Saturday, June 28, 7 pm Bob Kindred Ensemble	Classical
Saturday, July 4, 7 pm Bassist Ron McClure and his ensemble	Jazz
Saturday, July 11, 7 pm Hope Nunner & Steve Tarshis	Folk, Blues
Saturday, July 18, 7 pm Efendi - music of Turkey, Armenia, Israel, Greece	Middle Eastern
Saturday, July 25, 7 pm Bob Kindred	Jazz
Saturday, Aug. 1, 7 pm The Maestrosities	Clown band
Saturday, Aug. 8, 7 pm Pe de Boi	Samba

4th Annual NYC Main Squeeze Accordion Festival
Saturday, July 11, 3 – 10 pm
Pier 1 at 70th Street

7th Annual West Side County Fair
Sunday, Sept. 13, 1 – 6 pm in the park below 72nd St.

For Kids
Pier 1 at 70th Street

Sundays: June 8, July 20, and August 10, 2 – 4 pm
Music, wacky performers, hula-hoop antics, and more!
Check 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 9 The Bossy Frog Band - Interactive music show
July 16 Hayes Greenfield's Jazz-A-Ma-Tazz Goes Green
July 23 Buckeroo Bindlestiff's Wild West Jamboree
July 30 Robbi K and Friends! - Music and theater
Aug. 6 The Family Jam with Tony Corsano - Rock & roll, comedy
Aug. 13 Marionette Theater - *Sleeping Beauty*

Riverside Park South Free Concerts Pier 1 at 70th Street Sundays, 7 - 9 pm	
July 12	La Cumbiamba NY - Colombian woodwinds, brass and drums; traditional and tropical
July 19	Frank London's Klezmer Brass All-Stars
July 26	WAAW Band - M'balax music from Senegal, West Africa
Aug. 2	Jazz at Lincoln Center presents pianist Jonathan Batiste
Aug. 9	Romashka - Gypsy Dance Party
Aug. 16	Los Soneros de Oriente - Traditional Cuban Son, music of the countryside and mountains

Globesonic DJ Dance Party
Pier 1 at 70th Street
Fridays: July 17, Aug. 14, and Sept. 11, 7 – 11 pm
Globesonic's modern world-music DJ will keep you dancing from dusk to dark!

Let's Dance!
on the 70th Street Pier Plaza
Sundays: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 6 – 9 pm
Learn to dance to the salsa, cha-cha and bachata led by teachers from the Piel Canela Latin Dance & Music School.

Symphony Space - Selected Shorts
Pier 1 at 70th Street
Sunday, July 17, 4 pm (Rain Date: Aug. 2)

Movies Under the Stars Pier 1 at 70th Street Wednesdays at 8:30 pm	
July 8	<i>The Age of Innocence</i> , Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder
July 15	<i>Wall Street</i> , Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen, Daryl Hannah
July 22	<i>Dinner at Eight</i> , Marie Dressler, John Barrymore, Jean Harlow, Wallace Beery, Lionel Barrymore, Billie Burke
July 29	<i>The Out-of-Towners</i> , Jack Lemmon, Sandy Dennis
Aug. 5	<i>Drums Along the Mohawk</i> , Henry Fonda, Claudette Colbert, Edna May Oliver
Aug. 12	<i>Sweet Smell of Success</i> , Burt Lancaster, Tony Curtis, Susan Harrison

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

New Trees Are Planted On Our Blocks While Others Falter

May is the month when the good news and the bad news about neighborhood trees begins to show. This year the bad news has a lead over the good news.

At the southeast corner of W. 103rd St. and West End Ave. one can see four trees that appear dead or dying: a kwanzan cherry on West End Ave., two zelkovas around the corner on W. 103rd St. and a European linden further down that block. Residents of the building on that corner, 878 West End Ave., have called the Community Board and the Manhattan Forestry division of the Parks Department. They were promised an inspection but it has been delayed until after this issue's publication date.

Along the service road of Riverside Dr. just north of W. 102nd St., the cop on that corner, 300 Riverside Dr., had planted two willow oaks at their own expense last fall. This spring, one produced no leaf buds and the other just a few. At the end of May, these trees were replaced by two pin oaks. They are the only pin oaks on our blocks. Workers putting them in said that the willow oaks had probably been damaged when extra soil was put into the tree wells after the tree well guards were installed. Another tree expert attributed the loss to road salt.

On the south side of W. 102nd St., going west from West End Ave., the second tree is an established red oak. The top two thirds of the crown is dead while the lower third has leaves. The Forestry Division plans to remove it.

In two other locations, just west of the northwest corner of West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. and just east of the southeast corner of Riverside Dr. and W. 103rd St., the city has planted a "scholar's tree" or *sephora japonica*, a tree that is common in our neighbor-

Activist Raises Stink Over Substandard Meals for Seniors

Budget Cuts Spoil Kosher Meals for Elderly was the front-page headline in the May 15th issue of the *Forward*. The impetus for exposing this hidden problem affecting homebound seniors on the West Side was an email from local resident Mildred Speiser to Bloomingdale Aging in Place, the senior-service organization set up by members of the West 104th Street Block Association and the West 102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association.

Co-chair David Reich, responded to Speiser's report of a precipitous decline in the quality and quantity of the food from the new kosher sub-contractor by passing it on to a contact at the *Forward*, a major Jewish newspaper. A reporter at the *Forward* investigated the situation and produced a lengthy article describing the situation in detail. At the same time, Councilwoman Gale Brewer also looked into it and found the food horrible.

Sister Lillian McNamara of Encore Community Services, the contractor for the West Side who hired the kosher caterer, was shocked and angry at the inferior quality of the kosher meals. She fought to bring them up to a higher standard and was very appreciative of the activist's raising this issue. McNamara recently announced the good news that, with this support, there should be a dramatic improvement when a new caterer takes over next month.

hood. These trees are part of the "One in a Million" tree-planting program in operation throughout New York City, which aims to plant a million new trees in the city's parks and streets by 2017. For more information about this program visit milliontreesnyc.org.

A tree map of the Block Association's streets is available. See the box on page 2 for contact information to request one.

O'Reilly's Rules for Running the Precinct

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to be defensive. We are here to serve. If you don't like serving the public, you need to get another job." She also tells her officers to treat people "as if they were your Mom or Dad. How would you like them to be treated? It is important to treat people with respect."

O'Reilly listens and brings people together to talk. What could be more respectful?

Neighbors Gather for 10th Annual Poetry in the Park

By Mildred Speiser

It was on April 26th, a steamy Sunday, that we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Poetry in the Park at Franklin's Bench at the 103rd St. island on Riverside Dr. with the support of the NYC Parks Department and the Riverside Park Fund. This annual event not only remembered Franklin Latner, poet, composer, and neighbor, but also our neighborhood writers who joined us to share their written words.

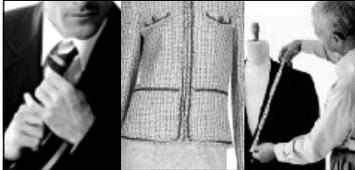
In honor of this milestone, audience members participated in reading Latner's seven-verse poem *Le Jardin Féérique*. Velma Jean Reeb and Caroline Husted read poems previously written about him. Ishmael Wallace, cataloguer of Franklin's compositions, also spoke. Our friendly gathering was treated to works written and read by new participants Kapoor Bhagwan, Christine DeBano, David Goldberg, and Nadia Tesich.

It has been heartwarming for me to see the increase, year by year, of new participants as readers or listeners along with our regulars such as Chuck Stuckney and Marlene Lee. We look forward to having you join us next year to read, listen, and enjoy Poetry in the Park.

We consider things that are not even visible

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

W. 96th St. Subway Progress

With the sudden rise of the steel framework in the Broadway Mall just north of W. 95th St., the new station house is taking shape. In addition to the interlocking arches of the roof, the most notable features are the rectangular frames of the two boxes, one above the uptown platform and the other above the downtown platform, that will eventually hold the elevators.

Traffic continues to be snarled in the W. 96th St./Broadway intersection as trenches are opened and closed to place the conduits holding wires for relocated traffic lights. Fortunately, officers from the Traffic Division are frequently on duty to expedite the flow of cars, trucks and buses trying to get through.

Forms are being built and concrete poured into them to make the foundations and walls of the new station house.

Work schedules are posted on the Community Board 7 website, CB7.org. Enter "96th Street" in the search box to find a link to the information.

Crime Statistics for May, 2009

In addition to helping with the Block Association's Yard Sale, officers of the 24th Precinct were making arrests. In the 28 days prior to June 1, they made 102 arrests in the Block Association's "sectors," which encompass the area bounded by W. 96th St. on the south and W. 125th St. on the north between Riverside Dr. and Broadway. Crimes reported within those boundaries during that period included two assaults, three burglaries, five grand larcenies, and two auto thefts.

The Block Association website at w102-103blockassn.org has a link to the weekly statistics for the entire 24th Precinct. More information about crime trends is provided at meetings of the Community Council at the precinct on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.

Con Ed Replaces Feeders

In the past few weeks, Con Ed personnel have been working in the neighborhood replacing old or, in some cases, burned out, feeder lines in advance of the summer cooling season with its high demand for electricity. Customers have not experienced outages because there are multiple feeders available to carry current on any block.

Steel pipes carrying the old lines are cut open, the old lines are removed and then another crew comes in to install the new feeders. Some work is done through manholes and some requires opening and closing new street cuts.

James Perez

Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

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Many Volunteers Contribute to a Great Yard Sale

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proceeds. Please see page 3 for a list of local businesses that participated in the Silent Auction and make sure to let the owners and managers know that you appreciate their generosity. Thanks, Cynthia Doty, for securing the essential clipboards we used to display the auction items. And, (drum roll!) congratulations to Meredith Millich, the lucky raffle winner of a basket filled with indulgences such as Godiva truffles, Korbel Champagne, Silver Moon pastry, and a gift certificate for a foot massage.

Margot Jacqz earned kudos by consenting to organize and run the rummage sale. She was ably assisted by Marlene Lee, Barbara Applebaum, and Laurence Mitchell, who commuted all the way from W. 104th St. to help out. Thanks to the many of you who donated items, and those of you who gave them good homes.

One of the big uncertainties on the morning of the Yard Sale is how many cars will remain to block the vendor spaces. We thank all the board mem-

bers and residents who parked their cars on W. 103rd St. in advance of the event and moved them away on Saturday morning to assure open spaces.

At the refreshments table, this year's popular items were the wraps donated by Fidel and Glenn of Buster's (Amsterdam Ave. between 103rd and 104th), home of the most delectable wraps, sandwiches, soups, salads, and cookies in the immediate neighborhood. Within an hour of their arrival, every roasted vegetable, tuna, and "Derby" wrap had been bought. Cupcakes from Make My Cake (St. Nicholas Ave. and W. 116th St.), were a hit once again. Thanks to board member Alan Leidner for providing them. By the end of the day, they and all the home baked cookies (see the list of bakers on page 3) were gone.

Invaluable help was also provided by Officer Vincent Durante, head of Community Affairs at the 24th Precinct, who personally put up No Parking signs, arranged delivery of police barricades, helped with the removal of wayward cars, and convinced one of the contrac-

tors working on the block to remove his dumpster early Saturday morning. Seth Jucovy, building manager of 875 West End Ave. and 310 Riverside Dr., helped arrange for recycling of unsold clothing and disposal of end-of-day trash. The staff and residents of St. Luke's Addiction Institute cheerfully provided tables for the Block Association to use and much additional help, including hanging our banner. Bobby Schraud, super of 308 W. 103rd Street, and a vendor, provided a trash can for us as we set up our tables in front of his building. Thanks, too, to Ed Campbell, for good cheer while completing all manner of tasks.

We were extremely fortunate this year to find so many willing hands, including several from unexpected sources. Yet as I stood at the refreshments table, I was asked several times whether there would be hot dogs or hamburgers. My answer was the same: we'd love to. But we need additional volunteers in order to tackle a project like that. The more hands we have, the bigger and better the Block Association's events can be.

Semiperm's Residents: Stepping Into a Better Future

By Juliana Matos

The residents at 210 W. 102nd Street are cultivating their own utopian community. Semiperm, the newest addition to our neighborhood, opened its doors last May to twenty-three self-sufficient single-parent families. These families benefit from individual, goal-oriented counseling and informative workshops that supply the foundation for a better future after Semiperm. The workshops focus on topics that include health, exercise, safety, money management, and education. Residents also receive a great deal of support from the staff, which organizes all the activities. The staff recruits neighborhood volunteers to tutor residents who are attending school and may have difficulty with

a specific subject. Mentoring programs are also arranged by Semiperm's staff to provide positive role models for the children living in this small community.

The children at Semiperm are exposed to different activities that allow them to find their hidden talents and enrich their expanding minds. Volunteers and staff members join these kids each week in activities such as the book club, where they work one-on-one with each child to enhance his or her reading abilities. Celebrating the World is another activity that enables volunteers to introduce different cultures from around the world through craft ideas, foods, and storytelling. They also engage in activities such as planting flowers in front of the building to make their environment a

more pleasant place in which to live. Their young minds are constantly being stimulated through cultural programs and educational assistance. All these structured programs create stepping stones into a better future.

The Semiperm staff and residents extend their appreciation to all volunteers who have so generously contributed their time and services to the residents at Semiperm. The staff should also be commended for providing individual assistance, cultural enrichment, and educational opportunities to all the residents. Building one step at a time leads to success.

Juliana Matos, a student at Hostos Community College, is raising her two children at Semiperm.

On Broadway

Openings and Closings: ♦♦The unusual furniture and crafts shop **Bazaar de la Paz** on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and 102nd Sts. has closed. The owner, Carol Puzone, said business had been going well at the end of last year but then she hit a slow patch and no bank would give her a loan to allow her to pay her artists and her rent. ♦♦The new **Verizon Wireless** store on the southeast corner of W. 109th St. and Broadway has opened. ♦♦After only three months in business on the east side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts., the deli with the unusual name, **Tar Isteach**, (“Come In” in Gaelic) has closed. According to the building owner, the deli just didn’t do enough business to pay the rent. ♦♦**Westside Floral**, a florist previously on Broadway near W. 86th St. for 25 years, has moved to 233 W. 98th St., two doors east of Broadway. Anthony, the owner, is offering a 10% discount on walk-in orders.

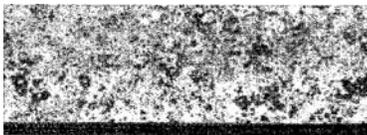
In Limbo: ♦♦Major renovations were supposed to be underway by

now for the **Urban Outfitters** store in the former **Metro Theater** on the east side of Broadway between W. 99th and W. 100th Sts. According to Peter Carillo, who was marketing the property, there were problems with the NYC Buildings Dept. that “take forever” to resolve. The project, he said, “is still moving forward.”

Going Down, Going Up: ♦♦At the northwest corner of W. 103rd St. and Broadway, extensive renovations are underway in the space formerly occupied by **Royal Kabab and Curry**. A new Indian restaurant whose owner, Mr. Singh, has several others in the **Baluchi’s** chain is expected to open by July 1. The restaurant will be called **Aangan**, a name meaning “inner courtyard.” ♦♦**Angelina’s Pizza Bar** is scheduled to open by July 1 on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. ♦♦Renovation is underway at two vacated retail spaces on the west side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. The smaller space, previously occupied by the **Karin Alex-**

is children’s clothing store, will become a unisex barber shop. The larger space to the south, formerly the **Aromatherapy** store, which included an eclectic mix of items from North Africa, is being completely redone as a delicatessen. Neither the name nor ownership of either store was available at press time.

Salvatore Malanga, 76, co-owner, with his brother Carmine, of **Sal and Carmine’s Pizzeria**, on Broadway near W. 102nd St., for over fifty years, died suddenly on May 27, 2009. He had been suffering from back pain, which was found to be the result of a kidney ailment. Sal was a fixture in our neighborhood since 1987 when the pizzeria moved uptown from its original location at W. 95th St. and Broadway. Sal is survived by his wife Mellie, a daughter, Toni, and a son Joe, a familiar face at the shop and now a NYPD detective, as well as his brother, five sisters, and many nieces and nephews, including Lou, who also works at the shop. He will be sorely missed by many of our residents.



Lauren S. Stahl

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Riverside Dr. Crossing Safer for Pedestrians

By Peter Frishauf

Daylighting is the term livable streets advocates and traffic planners use for the practice of increasing visibility at street crossings. Recently, the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) “daylighted” the west side of the intersection of Riverside Dr. at W. 103rd St., by prohibiting parking between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts. Five parking spaces were removed.

The safety of pedestrians improves when they can see oncoming traffic and vice-versa. Data show that most city accidents occur at intersections, frequently because the people involved can’t see each other in time. The most common cause of obstructed views at intersections is parked cars. Around the city, people can be seen edging strollers out into an intersection, peering around a parked car to see if the coast is clear.

Previously, street-crossers (many of them children) coming out of Riverside Park had a hard time spotting southbound traffic on Riverside Dr. as they waited to cross at W. 103rd St. In February, DOT was informed of the problem. After engineers inspected the area, they implemented the remedy we have today. Special thanks go to DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiore for her responsiveness. More information about daylighting can be found at livablestreets.com/streetswiki/daylighting.