



## Bloomington Aging In Place to Offer Book, Writing Groups

By David L. Reich

During the past three months, the new neighborhood organization, Bloomington Aging in Place (BAiP), has reached out to seniors with small get-togethers and a free public panel discussion on caregiving. Now, in response to suggestions from these meetings and from surveys, members of the Steering Committee are offering to host a book group and a writing group.

The coordinators of each will make presentations at the next BAiP meeting on September 24 at the Marseilles Community Room, 230 W. 103rd St., 7-9 pm. Signup sheets will be available. The meeting will also bring those interested in BAiP up to date on the group's progress this summer and will solicit input on a variety of upcoming plans.

The book group will be headed by David Greenberg. It will meet in members' apartments on a schedule to be determined. To indicate your interest in the group, please send an email to [books@bloominplace.org](mailto:books@bloominplace.org) or call David at (212) 663-3298 before October 15.

The writing group will be headed by Muriel Manings who, along with seven other authors, recently published *Nine Years of Thursdays* containing stories developed in their own writing group. If you are interested, please send an email to [writing@bloominplace.org](mailto:writing@bloominplace.org) or call Muriel at (212) 749-4138 before October 15.

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

## Expanded Halloween Parade Scheduled For Saturday, Oct. 31; Volunteers Needed

By Hedy Campbell

Last year we modified the traditional Halloween Parade and closed off W. 102nd St. between Riverside Dr. and West End Ave. for a few hours. We were delighted to find that it was a hugely popular innovation. Parents and children lingered after the parade was over admiring costumes, enjoying refreshments, chatting with friends and neighbors. This year, on Saturday, October 31, starting at 6 pm, we'll follow that format again.

For those new to the neighborhood, the event begins as folks old, young (more than 200 kids last year), and in between gather at 865 West End Ave., some costumed, some not. Houses on the side streets will have been decorated with pumpkins, ghosts, spider webs, and a few surprises. Just as the sun is setting, with music playing from boom boxes, the parade will commence down W. 103rd St. heading to Riverside Dr. and then to a traffic-free W. 102nd St. for goody bags and other delights.

Closing off the street presents us with a wonderful opportunity. There's space and time enough for activities in addition to the refreshments and story time we've traditionally provided. We've talked about setting up a photo station, perhaps with a festive background, a craft activity, and face painting. However, in order to implement any of these ideas, we need people to help organize

and staff them. In fact, I've been trying to step down from being the Halloween mastermind for years. Please consider whether you or someone you know might be willing to take on the magic wand.

In addition to running the party, there are many ways to help: contribute refreshments, host trick-or-treat bag packing, volunteer to carry a boom box and help chaperone the parade, be available for setup or cleanup, or station yourself along the parade route to clap and cheer for the kids as they pass by. We go counterclockwise around the block starting on the west side of West End Ave. between W. 102nd and W. 103rd Sts. and ending on W. 102nd St.

Contact me at (212) 865-8524 or [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org) if you can help organize the event or an activity. In mid-October, start watching for posters announcing the event so you can volunteer and donate. Let the 2009 Halloween Parade begin!

### **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 Sept. 8, Oct. 13, and Nov. 10.

# New Restaurants: A Is For Aangan, Angelina Pizzabar

By Hedy Campbell

It is usually my good fortune to spend much of the summer out of the city. This year I was dismayed to find that both Aangan and Angelina Pizzabar, two of our neighborhood's newest restaurants, would open while I was away. Then, in a bit of reverse good luck, I had to stay home for the first week of August and was able to try them both.

Let's start with **Aangan**. It's located on the northwest corner of W. 103rd St. and Broadway right by the entrance to the subway. Although its predecessor in the space was also an Indian restaurant, the new owner saw to the restaurant's complete transformation, inside and out. From the minute you walk in the door, it's apparent that you've entered a realm of high expectations. Wood, leather, white table linens, fresh flowers, and quiet background music

distinguish Aangan from its Lower East Side Curry Canyon brethren. We were not disappointed.

Aangan, I'm told, means "courtyard" in Urdu, or a courtyard style of dining in which many popular dishes are offered. The menu supports the latter definition with ease. There are pages and pages of appetizers, soups, and salads as well as main courses that include choices in the tandoori, curry, and biryani categories, breads, raitas, and desserts. Trying all of the various dishes will take many more visits. Knowing that I might only have time for one visit before writing my review, our strategy was to order our favorite dishes so we'd know how Aangan stacked up against its various competitors. And? High marks for every dish we tried. The pastry surrounding vegetable samosas was flaky and greaseless; the filling gently spiced. The lamb in our biryani was

tender and flavorful, the accompanying rice perfectly cooked and piquant. Shrimp curry was so delicious I found myself splitting the shells on the tails so I could extract every last bit of meat. We'd chosen plain naan for our bread, and used it to harvest the last drops of curry sauce.

Aangan is located at 2701 Broadway and is open every day for lunch and dinner. Lunch is served from noon until 3 pm and a special lunch menu is available. Platters known as *thali* cost from \$9.95 to \$11.95 and include small portions of an appetizer, a main course, rice, a vegetable, dal, raita, bread and condiments, and dessert. Dinner is from 5 until 10:30 pm. Appetizers range in price from \$6.95 to \$15.95 for a tasting platter featuring four menu items; entrees range from \$9.95 (three vegetarian choices) to \$23.95 for tandoori lobster. Beer and wine are available; credit cards are accepted. For information or reservations, call (212) 280-4100 or visit the website: [aangan.com](http://aangan.com).

**Angelina Pizzabar**, on the east side  
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## Bloomingtondale Aging In Place to Offer Book, Writing Groups

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The small gatherings, held during the summer, brought residents from a single apartment building or a few adjacent buildings to a comfortable setting in the home of a Steering Committee member to discuss the needs of older people in our community. More of these meetings are being planned for the fall in other buildings. They will be announced through postings on building bulletin boards and flyers delivered to apartments. Those interested in providing or receiving services (or both) through Bloomingtondale Aging in Place are invited to attend these meetings.

BAiP now has representatives in twelve buildings within the W. 102nd & 103rd Sts. and the W. 104th St. Block Associations. Anyone interested in be-

ing a building rep should send an email to [info@bloominplace.org](mailto:info@bloominplace.org).

The panel discussion on caregiving was focussed on knowing when it's time to seek caregiving help, where to find it, and what, in general, is covered by insurance. Steering Committee member Dorothy Crouch began the session by leading the audience in a self-assessment. Three panelists, Elder Care consultant Debra Drelich, neighbor Carol Ann Rabolt, RN, and Constance H. Gemson, LMSW, then addressed the main issues of the evening. A spirited question-and-answer period followed.

A handout summarizing the discussion, including a detailed list of helpful organizations, is being prepared for distribution at future BAiP meetings. **Reminder:** The next general meeting will be held on September 24 in the Community Room of the Marseilles at 230 W. 103rd St. from 7 to 9 pm. The next panel discussion, on **Social Security**, is set for October 29. Save the dates!

### 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.bloomingtondale.org/newsletter102-103.htm>

## Landmark West! to Honor “Unsung Heroes” of Historic Preservation

On Thursday, October 8, in the former ballroom of the Hotel des Artistes at 11 W. 67th St., Landmark West!, the non-profit community organization that works to preserve the best in Upper West Side architecture, will present its 2009 awards.

The honorees will be Public School 199; Albert K. Butzel, Esq.; First (formerly Second) Church of Christ, Scientist; 110 West 78th Street; Save the Beacon Theatre; and Seekircher Steel Window Repair.

The event will take place from 7 pm to 9 pm with food and drink generously provided by acclaimed Chef Michael Psilakis of Kefi Restaurant, whose accolades include that of Chef of the Year for 2008 by *Bon Appétit*, Best New Chef (*Food & Wine*, 2008), a prestigious James Beard Foundation nomination for Best New Restaurant in 2008 (Anthos Restaurant), and the honor of Best Chef of 2007 (*Esquire*).

Tickets are offered at \$50, \$75, \$250 and \$500 and must be purchased in advance. Call (212) 496-8110 or email [landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org](mailto:landmarkwest@landmarkwest.org) to purchase your tickets. To learn more about Landmark West! visit the organization's website at [landmarkwest.org](http://landmarkwest.org).

The West 102nd and 103rd Streets Block Association worked closely with Landmark West! on the successful effort to landmark the former Horn & Hardart building on the southeast corner of Broadway and W. 104th St. Several of our members have participated in the LW! street survey, photographing and collecting data on buildings in our neighborhood. The Block Association is in favor of the current campaign to create a historic district covering West End Ave. from W. 70th St. to W. 107th St. We invite our residents to support the work of Landmark West!

## New Restaurants: Aangan, Angelina Pizzabar

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of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts., is the latest project of Matthew Tivy and his co-owners of Café du Soleil. Replacing Tokyo Pop, Angelina is much more than a pizza joint. There's a bar that seems like a convivial spot for a glass of wine (by the bottle or glass from Italy, France, Spain, or Portugal) and a selection or two from the antipasti bar. There's a brick oven visible from both the bar area and the main dining room. Soups, salads, and a variety of pasta dishes fill out the menu.

Tired and hungry from having explored the High Line, we sat at one of the tall tables opposite the bar. Then, the negotiating began. I felt obligated to try pizza (given the name of the restaurant!) but became aware, seeing other orders go by, that one would be plenty for us both. Should we try one of Angelina's custom pizzas or go with a basic pizza and add toppings of our choice? Traditional crust or super thin? The items on the antipasti bar were so inviting, that we couldn't neglect them, either. We finally agreed to share a small platter of antipasti and a personal size, thin-crust custom pizza. As it turned out, there were still leftovers to take home.

When the waitress brought the appetizers, we thought she'd made a mistake. There was more on the platter than the six items we'd chosen. "Oh," she explained, "those are just the garnishes." They were the most delectable garnishes we had ever been served! Each one—prosciutto, Parmesan, sopressata, smoked salmon, artichokes, Vidalia onions, roasted peppers, tomato salad, zucchini—was more delicious than the

last. A basket of toasted bread was the perfect complement. One could easily make a meal out of even the smallest of the four sizes of antipasti platter.

Our pizza arrived before we had finished the bounty. Not wanting to rush through such an excellent first course, we asked that it be held until we were ready. I crossed my fingers and hoped that it would still be in top form when it was again brought to us. It was! The crust was crisp, the provolone cheese was molten, the toppings (broccoli rabe, roasted garlic, and Luganega sausage) were so hot I had to patiently wait a bit to avoid the dreaded pizza burn.

On our way out, I ran into a neighbor and her son who were just sitting down to dinner. She later declared both her garden salad and penne primavera excellent. She was much pleased that when she asked her server for bread, a basket of toasted baguette slices that had been brushed with olive oil and chives was promptly provided at no extra charge.

Angelina Pizzabar is located at 2728 Broadway and is open weekdays from 4 pm until midnight. On weekends, brunch is served beginning at 11 am. Wines by the glass begin at \$6.50; cocktails cost \$8. Pizzas range from \$8 plus \$1 each for toppings to \$24 for the full-size Bella Angelina. Antipasti platters range from \$6 to \$14. Pasta entrees are \$12. For more information, phone (212) 932-1000 or visit the restaurant's website: [angelinapizzabar.com](http://angelinapizzabar.com).



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## PicNic to Host More “Cafés Columbia”

The successful collaboration, which started last year, between PicNic Market & Café, on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., and Columbia University professors, is continuing this fall through December. Four sets of talks will be given at PicNic on Monday evenings from 6-7 pm. The topic areas are **arts** (first Monday each month starting October 5), **science** (second Monday starting September 14), **humanities** (third Monday starting September 21) and **social science** (fourth Monday starting October 26).

Space is limited; there is a \$10 cover charge (cash only), which includes one drink. Attendance is on a first come, first served basis, no reservations taken or necessary. For more information visit the Columbia University website [alumni.columbia.edu/learn/s3\\_6.html](http://alumni.columbia.edu/learn/s3_6.html) or ask at the restaurant for postcards describing each of the series.

## Annual Theater Party Scheduled for Sept. 26 To See New Pan Asian Repertory Production

The Block Association is organizing a theater party for Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 pm to see *IMELDA: A New Musical*, a presentation of the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. The play, which is about the controversial former first lady who wanted to put her country as a major player on the world stage, is the first musical about the Philippines performed with an all-Filipino cast professionally produced in New York City. The show will be followed by a Q&A with the director and cast plus a photo op. The performance will take place at the Julia Miles Theater, 424 W. 55th St.

Through the generosity of Tisa Chang, Pan Asian's founder and a neighborhood resident, tickets are being sold for \$40 each, a thirty percent discount off the regular ticket price of \$55. Our theater parties at Pan Asian Rep have always been a big hit, both for the superb professional production and for the fascinating look behind the scenes

in the discussion after the show.

For information about *IMELDA: A New Musical* or Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, go to [panasianrep.org](http://panasianrep.org). To join the Block Association theater party on September 26, contact Cynthia Doty at [cldoty@aol.com](mailto:cldoty@aol.com) or (212) 749-4085.

## Post Office Actions Raise Concerns over Closings, Hours

In response to annual losses in the billions of dollars, the United States Post Office this summer announced a list of 53 branches in New York City that might be closed. The situation became confused when the list was cut back to 14 with little explanation. The Cathedral Station branch on W. 104th St. was not on either list.

At the same time, the official website, [usps.com](http://usps.com), was reporting that the Cathedral branch and other branches in the area were closed on Friday after 1 pm and closed all day Saturday even while the branch was open to 7 pm on Friday and from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday. The website also listed the phone number of the branch as (212) 662-0355 but no one answered that number. Great persistence was required when calling the USPS toll-free number (800-275-8777) to finally reach a live person who provided the correct number for the branch: (212) 662-9192.

Ominously, the list of current hours, previously displayed on the doors of the W. 104th St. branch, was recently removed. Though the website has now been corrected, Ms. Sowell, the Finance Supervisor at the branch, would not say how long the current hours would remain in effect. “It’s all determined in Washington,” she said. The list of those hours has still not been put back up on the Post Office doors.

## Huge Storm Wreaks Havoc in Riverside Park

About 9:30 pm on the evening of Tuesday, August 18, a powerful thunderstorm roared across our neighborhood destroying or damaging hundreds of trees in Riverside Park. In just one block, between W. 101st and W. 102nd St. from Riverside Dr. east to the Riverside Dr. service road, six huge trees lost their crowns to the ferocious winds. Lightning may also have been involved since some trees had their trunks simply splintered about 20 to 30 feet above the ground.

Cars parked along the Drive were damaged by falling branches and the road had to be closed for several days while the cleanup effort went on. One car being driven on Riverside Dr. was hit by a falling tree but the driver escaped unhurt. Remarkably, no injuries from the storm have been reported.

Early Wednesday morning, the sounds of chain saws and chippers could be heard in Riverside Park. The work, by Parks Department crews from Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens as well as private forestry crews provided by the Riverside Park Fund, was continuing as the Newsletter went to print.

The *NY Times* reported that the storm was not a tornado, according to a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. Hail was reportedly heard by several local residents as it beat down on air conditioners though the sound could have been just the rain driven by the 70 mile per hour winds.

Ongoing maintenance and replanting, to keep out invasive species such as Norway and sycamore maples, will be expensive. Riverside Park Fund has issued an appeal for donations.

## W. 104th St. Block Association Celebrates With 20th Yard Sale, Saturday, Sept. 26

This year, the West 104th Street Block Association will be bringing its 20th annual Yard Sale to the neighborhood on Saturday, September 26, from 10 am to 5 pm, between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr.. There will be live music, more than 60 vendors selling their treasures, a bake table, a Silent Auction, a book table, hamburgers and hot dogs, and as the ads say, much, much more! This year, the Split the Pot raffle will include second-, third-, and fourth-place prizes as well as the grand prize. (Last year's winner received

\$350!) And don't miss the kids' bake table—a runaway hit when it debuted last year. The now-legendary What-a-Bargain tables, which have grown every year, will surely be strewn with amazing finds once again.

If you are interested in being a vendor, please visit [bloomingdale.org](http://bloomingdale.org) and click on Vendor Information and Agreement. You may also call (212) 932-9082 or email [yardsale.104@gmail.com](mailto:yardsale.104@gmail.com) with questions.

The rain date for the event is Sunday, September 27.

## Treewells Planted Three Months Ago Have Grown More Beautiful

The Block Association's annual treewell planting event took place on June 6. Now, the results of that work are evident throughout our blocks.

Headed up by board member John Hewitt, a crew of 19 adults, six children and two teenagers from the neighborhood improved 17 treewells and five flower boxes with peat moss, potting soil, flowering plants, and ivy. John had brought the materials from D'Angelo Farms in Dumont, NJ, where Frank D'Angelo had given us a good discount on the cost, to his home on West End Ave., where they were distributed to the eager volunteers. Those workers included Aleena, Juliana, Marina, Aliyah, Danly, Shellsea, Isaiah, Yalysa, Derrick, Nancy and Tim, Jerry and Eva, Elisa and Victor, Laura and Terence, José and Ottmar, Tia, Kathy and Steve, David, Anna, Marlene, Ron, and John.

Special thanks to Costello Caldwell, our neighborhood treewell artist-in-residence, and Harvey Douglas for their help in making this a wonderful event.

## Childcare Volunteers Needed at Semiperm

Semiperm, the housing program for single-parent families with young children, on W. 102nd St. east of Broadway, is looking for volunteers to assist in its childcare program.

The program provides childcare for the children of residents who are attending workshops in the building. Volunteers lead groups of children in structured activities and monitor free play time in Semiperm's community room. The volunteers do not need to

have formal childcare experience, but enthusiasm and patience are required! Volunteers should also be 18 years old or older.

The program meets once or twice a month, typically on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:15 pm. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tricia Blanchard, Semiperm's Community Program Coordinator at (212) 222.3673, ext. 12 or [tblanchard@shfinc.org](mailto:tblanchard@shfinc.org).

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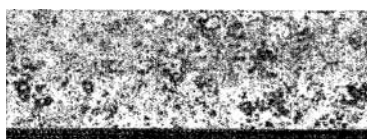
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# Proposals to Improve Street and Sidewalk Design Advanced by UWS Group

Since the fall of 2008, the Block Association has been working with the Upper West Side Streets Renaissance (UWSSR), a group dedicated to making our neighborhood streets safer and friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as greener and more beautiful. UWSSR's publication, the *Blueprint for the Upper West Side*, was released last fall. The group was represented at and participated in the Block Association's annual meeting last January.

Last spring, the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) released a *Street Design Manual* that "provides policies and design guidelines ... for the improvement of streets and sidewalks ...." The manual embraces

many of the elements of the *Blueprint* except one – angle parking. DOT officials are also looking to create model "livable streets corridors," in which some of the design elements could be constructed. The remodeling of Broadway, south of Columbus Circle, is one example of this commitment.

At the Block Association Yard Sale last May, UWSSR displayed drawings of a redesigned W. 103rd St. from Broadway to Riverside Dr. In a survey of passersby, more than 70 people responded and a large majority approved the proposed changes.

Meanwhile, several DOT officials, including the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, have agreed to consider the

W. 103rd St. corridor, from Riverside Park to Central Park (including the walkway through Douglass Houses) for installation of "livable streets" designs.

In general, the Block Association's board supports UWSSR's efforts. However, before we endorse any particular changes, we want to hear from our residents on each of five proposals. You'll find them described in the survey below. Photos of examples can be seen at our website [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org) (click on "Livable Streets Proposal"). Note that while the proposals currently under review are specific to W. 103rd St., your input will guide our decision-making should we later consider supporting similar changes on W. 102nd St.

## "Livable Streets" Survey

**Curb Extensions:**  For  Against  Abstain  
 These constructions shorten the distance of street crossings, which benefit those with reduced mobility or with small children and/or strollers. Street corners are extended into the roadway, about the width of a car, either with concrete or with granulated epoxy paint and plantings or bollards. An extension, which would remove about a half of a parking space, might include a Block Association bulletin board, a bench, a tree, or bicycle parking.

**Loading/Service Zones:**  For  Against  Abstain  
 An area of several parking spaces would be set aside for commercial use only during business hours on W. 103rd Street between Riverside Dr. and West End Ave. so that school buses and service vehicles (UPS, Time Warner, contractors, etc) could gain access to the curb (generally for a Muni-Metered fee) and not be forced to double park and block the street.

**Marseilles Improvements:**  For  Against  Abstain  
 Residents of the Marseilles (230 W. 103 St.) currently congregate on the narrow sidewalk outside the entrance. A mini-park could provide seating and more room for wheelchairs. It would use up five parking spaces in front of the Marseilles plus another three across the street to allow for vehicle passage.

**Mid-block Mini-Park:**  For  Against  Abstain  
 A planted swale would beautify the block and also capture storm water from the gutter, lessening the load on sewers during rain storms. Each swale occupies the space of two cars, less if it is incorporated into space adjacent to existing fire hydrants. Swales could be built on either of the W. 103rd St. blocks. An example of a city-maintained mini-park can be seen on the southwest corner of W. 110th St. and Amsterdam Ave.

**Residential Parking Permits:**  For  Against  Abstain  
 The BA board recognizes that although the number of BA residents who park their cars on our streets is a

small fraction of our entire membership, we think that residents should have priority access to the available spaces. Residential parking requires car owners to purchase an annual permit from the city (guest passes may be purchased for visitors), but makes it much easier for residents to park on their own streets.

(Identification optional)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**To register your opinion:**  
 Mail the survey to: West 102nd and 103rd Streets Block Assn., P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025 or leave it for Hedy Campbell (240 W. 102nd St.) or Terence Hanrahan (865 West End Ave.). The survey can also be completed online at [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org). Please submit it by September 26.

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### Zoning Agreement Revisited

In 2007, as part of the rezoning of the Community Board 7 district, an exception was made to allow the Jewish Home and Hospital to rebuild its W. 106th St. property higher than the new regulations would allow. Now JHH has announced a land swap with the Chetrit Group, the recent purchaser of Park West Village that is building several large high-rises on that property. Chetrit would take ownership of the JHH property and, in exchange, JHH would build a new nursing home on a W. 100th St. parking lot now owned by Chetrit.

Politicians and JHH's current neighbors are concerned that Chetrit would build a luxury high-rise using JHH's exemption. City Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito, referring to the Chetrit group as a "for-profit bad actor," is calling for removal of the zoning exemption as is State Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell. JHH says the deal "will have a net positive impact on Jewish Home's Upper West Side clients, family members, employees and neighbors."

### Street Trees Removed, Revived

Of the four street trees in bad shape three months ago near the southeast corner of West End Ave. and W. 103rd St. (around 878 West End Ave), one seems to have revived while the other three have almost no leaves and will probably be removed. On W. 104th St. east of Broadway, near the Post Office, three trees have been removed after showing no signs of revival this spring. The stump of one of them is about 16" in diameter and appears to have been at least 25 years old when it was cut down.

The recent storm on August 18, which destroyed so many trees in Riverside Park and Central Park, did relatively little damage to street trees in our neighborhood. Some branches were blown down but no trees suffered enough to make their removal necessary.

### 96th St. Subway Renovation

The curved roof on the station house in the Broadway Mall at W. 95th St. is starting to come into place with the installation of the arches, crossbeams, and waterproofing. Light poles are being placed on the malls from W. 94th to W. 97th Sts. during the first two weeks of September. Concrete barrier walls and curbs are being installed on the two malls between W. 95th and W. 97th Sts. The walls of the south mezzanine are being refurbished with new tiles.

The project is currently on schedule and is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2010.

**James Perez**  
 Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

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# You May Not See It, But There *Is* Crime in Our Neighborhood

By Molly Sugarman

*Editor's note: The crimes reported below occurred in the area bounded by W. 96th to W. 110th St., Riverside Dr. to Broadway. The article is based on the 24th Precinct's crime reports covering June 8 to August 2, 2009.*

The most serious crime in our area during June and July took place at the grocery store near the northwest corner of W. 103rd St. and Broadway, where a clerk was slashed in the face with a box-cutter when he tried to stop a shoplifter.

[Adjacent to the Block Association's area, on Amsterdam Ave. near W. 101st St., just around the corner from the 24th Precinct, another serious crime occurred: a shoot-out between known gang members. The gunman fled the scene, throwing away the gun as he ran. He was quickly caught and the gun recovered.]

Overall, "our" sectors had 24 major crimes in June and July.

- 3 robberies
- 5 burglaries
- 14 grand larcenies
- 2 grand larceny auto

As Deputy Inspector Kathleen O'Reilly points out, most of the grand larcenies involved unattended property (leaving a purse on the floor while sipping your coffee, leaving a backpack on a bike while popping into a store), but a rising number involved identity theft of one form or another, such as using stolen credit card information to purchase airline tickets. And several incidents involved cell phones grabbed from the hand of a person chatting while walking. This is the most serious form of grand larceny, O'Reilly says, because it is person-to-person, just a step away from robbery.

At the end of July, year-to-date crime in the whole precinct was down about 14 percent compared to last year. The

crimes that did occur provide cautionary tales: do not leave your purse under your seat or hanging on the back of your chair; do not display your cell phone or iPod while walking down the street (a benefit to fellow pedestrians as well as to your property); be careful with whom you share your headphones and apartment; and be alert when waiting for the train.

**Subways:** our local subway stations were the scene of several crimes or discoveries of crimes. While walking down the steps at the W. 96th St. station, a man had his pocket picked. At the same location, a woman entering the train was bumped by a man who was exiting. When she sat down on the train, she realized that her wallet had been removed from her purse.

A man reported that while he was on the subway, three young men snatched his bag out of his hands and fled. When exiting the train at W. 103rd St. and Broadway, a woman discovered that someone had removed her wallet from her handbag.

**Robbery:** in addition to the robbery at the grocery, two robberies occurred on Riverside Dr. In one, a teenager was leaving the park around 11 pm when several men punched him and took his cellphone and backpack. In the other incident, two teenagers were parked in a car on Riverside Dr. when a man opened the car door, pointed a revolver at them, and took their cellphones and debit card.

**Burglaries:** burglars in the 24th Precinct appear to have a variety of interests, depriving their victims of everything from power tools to cigarettes, from scissors to souvenirs, from postage stamps to carpets as well as the ever-popular cash, jewelry, and electronics. Access to these items was gained by breaking locks on back doors and storage lockers or by taking advantage of unattended items.

**Grand Larceny:** the 14 grand larcenies included fraud (unauthorized checks cashed); scam ("wire me money and I'll send you more"); a cellphone held for ransom after being snatched at a fast-food emporium; the loss of debit card, cellphone, ID, and Metrocard by a woman who discovered the loss after a night on the town; and the removal of computer, camera, passport, and Social Security card from a car left unattended on Broadway with the trunk open.

Two of those "most serious" grand larcenies took place at Riverside Drive and W. 103rd St. when a teenager was accosted by four young men who took his phone and fled. Further up the Drive, at W. 107th St., a man was running when a teenager unsuccessfully attempted to grab his cellphone before fleeing into Riverside Park.

**Cars:** Two cars were stolen from Riverside Dr. and four cars were victims of "criminal mischief" on Riverside Dr., three of them at W. 102nd St. on June 26. The GPS device was removed from two cars on or near W. 101st St.

The New York Police Department offers crime prevention advice on its website. Go to [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov), select Police from the City Agencies list and then select Crime Prevention under Be Alert on the left side of the page to see the tips.

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**See page 2 for contact information.**



# On Broadway

**O**penings and Closings: ♦♦Over the summer there was a spate of new shops, mostly food-related, that opened on or near Broadway in our neighborhood. Does this herald a revival of the local economy? Here's the lineup from north to south. ♦♦We begin on W. 106th St., just east of Broadway, where the **East Dumpling House**, a small Chinese takeout shop, has opened in the space formerly occupied by **Riverside Copy**. ♦♦One block south, **Angelina's Pizza Bar**, in the former **Tokyo Pop** space on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts, is now open, including several tables out front on the sidewalk and a large brick pizza oven in the back. ♦♦Crossing over to the west side of Broadway at W. 103rd St., a new Indian restaurant, **Aangan**, has replaced the previous one (**Royal Kebab**). ♦♦Back on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., **Angel Eyes Opticians** has moved into the shop that was previously **Bazaar de la Paz**. Angel Eyes was once on Broadway at W. 95th St., then on W. 98th St., west of Broadway and now, as their flyers proclaim, "back on Broadway" where the optician is sharing the space with a tax preparer. ♦♦Further south, on the east side of Broadway between W. 98th and W. 99th Sts., the space that previously held the wine bar **Vinacciolo** has now reopened as the **Hummus Place**, the fourth shop in a New York City chain. ♦♦Also the fourth in a New York City chain, **Green Café** has opened on the west side of Broadway in the completely refurbished former **Aromatherapy** space between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. ♦♦Finally, at the southern edge of our neighborhood, just a block from the new station house for the W. 96th St. subway station, **Tasti D-Lite** is coming back after an absence of a year or so. The new shop will be between

W. 94th and W. 95th Sts. on the east side of Broadway. ♦♦With all those openings, there have been closings as well. In our immediate neighborhood, the sliver of a linens shop, **Linen Depot**, on the west side of Broadway between W. 96th and W. 97th Sts. has finally closed after many weeks of "50% Off Sale" signs. ♦♦Further south, on the east side of Broadway, between W. 92nd and W. 93rd Sts., **Vintage NY**, a wine shop that sold only New York State wines is gone. ♦♦The "For Rent" sign is up on the west side of Broadway just north of W. 110th St., where there used to be a Japanese food store called **JAS Mart**. Another of the stores in that small chain has also closed. ♦♦The former **Picture This 1-hour Photo** shop on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. is now (not another!) **T-Mobile** cell phone store. ♦♦In response to the influx of young tourists in our neighborhood, the sliver of a shop just south of **Dunkin' Donuts** on the west side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. has become an Internet café with nine computer stations and some commercial ties to Carmel Limo, the Gray Line tourist buses and, naturally, Dunkin' Donuts. ♦♦After a major renovation, the restaurant **107 West** on the west side of Broadway between W. 107th and W. 108th Sts. has reopened. The new menu contains most of the former entries (pasta, fish, etc.) but now includes a separate section for, surprisingly, sushi. ♦♦**Metisse**, the French bistro on W. 105th St, just east of Broadway, is now **Metisse Brasil**. The menu includes *feijoada* and the restaurant's website offers a \$10-off coupon valid until the end of September.

**I**n Limbo: ♦♦How is it that owners of retail properties on Broadway find it more profitable to keep the spaces empty, in some cases for years, than to

get tenants by lowering their rents? A Letter to the Editor in the Aug. 9 *New York Times* from actress and UWS resident Lee Grant asked if there was a tax break that supported this warehousing.

We asked Borough President Stringer's office that question. The reply was that an unnamed person in the NYC Department of Small Business Services had never heard of such a tax benefit and "agreed with you that warehousing retail space would not make economic sense neither for the property owner, nor for the economy at large." That doesn't explain why it is happening in, for example, the two Ariel buildings on Broadway, so we will continue to seek a better answer. If you have an insight into the retail real estate market in our neighborhood, please contact us at [editor@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:editor@w102-103blockassn.org).

**G**oing Down, Going Up: ♦♦**Shoe Club**, the shoe store on the southeast corner of W. 99th St. and Broadway is moving half a block south into the space formerly occupied by **Oppenheimer's Prime Meats**.

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Block Association Member

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## Primary Choices for Democrats on Sept. 15

Six contests are on the ballot in this year's Democratic Party primary. There are no Republican primaries in our districts this year. Note: north and east of the northeast corner of West End Ave. and W. 102nd St. is the City Council's 8th District. The rest of the Block Association is in the City Council's 9th District.

The candidates for the Democratic Party nomination in each race are listed below. The primary election is on September 15. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

**Mayor:** Tony Avella, Roland Rogers, William C. Thompson, Jr.

**Comptroller:** Melinda Katz, John Liu, David Weprin, David Yassky

**Public Advocate:** Bill De Blasio, Eric Gioia, Mark Green, Norman Siegel, Imtiaz Syed

**Manhattan District Attorney:** Richard Aborn, Leslie Crocker Snyder, Cyrus Vance, Jr.

**City Council 8th District:** Gwen Goodwin, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Robert Rodriguez, Thomas Santiago, Calvin Solomon,

**City Council 9th District:** Carlton Berkley, Landon Dais, Inez Dickens

**District Leader 69AD Part A:** Cynthia Doty, Carmen Quinones