



## State Senator to Be Block Association Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

By David L. Reich

The Block Association has scheduled its annual meeting for **Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m.** in the Community Room at the **Marseilles Residence (230 W. 103rd St.)**. You are invited to attend what is sure to be an informative and engaging program with keynote speaker State Senator Adriano Espaillat.

To start the evening, we will take a few minutes to present the 2010 financial report (see page 8), discuss what we have done in the past year, and conduct the annual election of the board of directors. The audience will be supplied with cards and pencils so you can jot down any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns about the Block Association for later discussion.

With business out of the way, we will introduce the keynote speaker, Adriano Espaillat, our newly elected State Senator (see article on page 7). Having been a State Representative for 14 years, Sen. Espaillat is quite familiar with the workings of Albany. His senatorial district is more than ten miles in length along the Hudson River from W. 70th St. almost to the city's border with Westchester County. It covers a very wide variety of neighborhoods and, with redistricting coming up, that should be an interesting subject for discussion. Come prepared with your questions for the senator. We

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

## Eighth Annual Yard Sale Set for May 21; Helping Hands Needed

By Bob Aaronson

For the eighth consecutive year, your Block Association will present the popular spring Yard Sale. The date is **Saturday, May 21** and this year the event will be on W. 103rd St. between West End Ave. and Riverside Dr. Browsers and buyers will be welcome from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, May 22.

Following the successes of last year, I'll be the coordinator once again. If you still have questions after reading this article and visiting our website, then call me at (212) 662-4046 or email me at [yardsale@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:yardsale@w102-103blockassn.org).

Now is the time to reserve a **vendor space** at the Sale. Anthony Bellov, our expert vendor coordinator, has already received reservations from veteran vendors who value this opportunity. Go to our website [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org) and click on "2011 Yard Sale" for detailed information and a link to the vendor agreement. Spaces cost \$40 for Block Association residents, \$55 for others. Each space is 10 feet wide by 8 feet deep. As this is a neighborhood event, noncommercial vendors are given priority. Tables are not provided, so if you need one, be sure to make your own arrangements in advance.

Deborah Lott, who so ably organized the **silent auction and raffle** last year, will do so again. If you have an item of value you would like to donate (a few days at your weekend house, tickets to

a sports event or a performance, or a gift certificate you're not likely to use, for example), please send email to her at [auction@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:auction@w102-103blockassn.org) or call her at (212) 749-1637.

We will again be hosting a **Community Sale table**, for the benefit of the Block Association, where we will sell donations of new or gently used toys, games, CDs/DVDs, art, crafts, or household items in good working order. In other words, things you would give or sell to a friend. Beginning Monday, May 9, you can drop items off with the doorman at 240 W. 102nd St. between the hours of 8 a.m. and midnight. For more information, please email us at [commtable@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:commtable@w102-103blockassn.org) or call (212) 316-0434.

Since clothing donations will not be accepted at the Community Sale table this year, we're planning to make arrangements for **textile recycling**. Bins would be provided to us in which do-

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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 Mar. 8, Apr. 12, and May 10.

## Zen Palate: a Tasty Way with Vegetables

By Hedy Campbell

The recent opening of Zen Palate, on W. 105th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave., presents vegetarians, vegans, and those observing Kosher laws with the opportunity to enjoy fine-quality, meat- and dairy-free, freshly prepared cuisine in a beautifully designed, spacious room. Although I adhere to none of those regimens, I rounded up my skeptical nephew and his girlfriend, who is well-versed in vegetarian cuisine, and gave it a try. At the end of our meal, we ventured back out into the sub-freezing evening well satisfied, each of us willing to return.

Walking down the few steps into the restaurant, it was apparent that the many months of renovation had been well spent. A large glass-enclosed vestibule keeps cold winter drafts from customers at the bar and seated at the adjacent tables in what was formerly the dining area of Métisse-Brasil. Much of the old rear garden has been enclosed to become the new main dining room. It's spacious and airy, with one glass wall and a ceiling that peaks into two sky-

lights. The yard beyond the glass wall has little in it save a massive tree that's been artfully lit to accentuate its gnarled bark. (In summer it will no doubt become an outdoor dining area.) Texture rules: attractive fretwork hides air-conditioning units, faux-reptile patterned upholstery cushions the seats, and painted wood slats accentuate the walls.

Texture is also an important consideration in the kitchen. To balance the absence of meat of any sort on the menu, many dishes feature soy protein and seitan, made from wheat gluten, and a variety of cooking methods (steaming, frying, stir-frying, etc.) are used. Among the many soups, salads and other starters available, we chose the peanut-basil moo-shu roll (\$3.50 for 2), enlivened by its accompanying dipping sauce, the somewhat bland vegetable dumplings (\$6.25 for six), and scallion pancakes (\$6.25) in an unusual preparation: two pancakes were sandwiched around a layer of seitan and a smear of Asian barbecue sauce. A reliable friend reports that the hot and sour soup (\$4.25) tasted just like the fa-

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## Newsletter Helps Long Island Woman Find State Trooper Who Saved Her Life Twenty Years Ago

It sounds like a tabloid headline but it's true. Last December, a woman was searching the Internet trying to find information about a New York State trooper who had saved her life following an automobile accident that occurred two decades ago. She came upon an article in the March 2003 issue of this Newsletter about toy distribution at a homeless shelter just before Christmas 2002. The article, by board member Camille Colon, mentioned that "New York State Police trooper Perry Tyner and elves" had handed out the toys.

The woman called the Newsletter editor who asked Camille if she knew how to locate Tyner. She did and when he

was contacted, he said he remembered the case. He supplied his email address, which was passed on to the grateful woman.

A similar situation happened in 2006 when a man in Ireland, John O'Mahony, found a reference to an old friend, composer Frank Latner, in the June 2003 issue of the Newsletter. Unfortunately, Latner had died but, through Vita and Ishmael Wallace (the Orfeo Duo), we were able to put O'Mahony in touch with Latner's family.

The Block Association exists, in part, to bring neighbors together. It's an unexpected bonus to do that for people so far apart in place or time.

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

### Newsletter

Published four times each year. **Hedy Campbell** and **David L. Reich**, co-editors. Comments and questions related to the Association or Newsletter are welcomed. Letters should be addressed to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1940, New York, NY 10025. Send email to [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org). Phone messages may be left at (212) 866-5769. Recent issues of the Newsletter are available online at [bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm](http://bloomingdale.org/newsletter102-103.htm)

### Email List

The Block Association maintains an email list to notify residents about important matters that arise between issues of the Newsletter. You can join the list by sending your email address, full name, home address (with apartment number) and phone number to [email@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:email@w102-103blockassn.org).

### Street Guard

Your contributions to the Block Association provide funding for our street guard, Rafael Hernandez, who makes rounds from 5 p.m. to midnight, Sunday – Thursday and from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Friday and Saturday. He can be reached, while on duty, at (646) 772-2240 to report security issues or to request his assistance on the street.

# Speaking of Art with Peter Kuper, Graphic Novelist

By Marlene Lee

Peter Kuper's studio in the Broadway (northwest corner of Broadway and W. 102nd) is filled with masks he's carved, masks he's collected, graphic novels he's written, books he's illustrated, 'zines he's collaborated on, and a barking poodle named Lila who likes to sleep on Peter's artwork.

Almost the moment he opened the door I confessed that I'd been frightened of interviewing him ever since I learned about his graphic-literary achievements and their inherent political content. "I'm not very political," I said, "and I'm used to reading traditional literature. Words. I don't know a thing about graphic novels." (It turns out I do. They're what we used to call comic books.)

"I did a children's book, so how frightening can I be?" Peter said. I knew that his magazine, *World War 3 Illustrated*, has a long history as a platform for radical thought, starting in 1980 on the Lower East Side. I associated him with the good old days of protest politics at Tompkins Park.

I looked closely. There is no gray pony tail. Born in 1958, he left Cleveland at 18 and, as far as is known, never spoke from a soap-box. No guitar. He has friends and collaborators on the Lower East Side, but "I live on West 99th and work at 102nd. In my spare time I jump between the Villages, but you don't need to be frightened of me at all."

Lila stops barking and curls up on a drawing while Peter begins to talk about the work he's doing this week: wrapping up the new edition of his book, *Diario de Oaxaca*, a diary and scrapbook of drawings he created while living in Mexico with his family for two years. He needed a sabbatical. In addition, he and his wife wanted their daughter to experience life outside the U.S. and become fluent in a second language.

Escape from Bush-era politics was part of the motivation.

But wouldn't you know: he found in Oaxaca a teachers' strike that went beyond the annual ritual. This particular year the Governor's forces attacked the strikers. An American journalist was killed. Federal troops were called in. He had not left politics after all. The book serves not only as a scrapbook of his family's time in Mexico (where they occasionally felt endangered), but of the local politics. His Mexican publisher translated the book. (Other books in Spanish are his illustrated *Through the Looking Glass* and *Alice in Wonderland*, ripe material for making political points.)



Peter Kuper's "Self Portrait as Bug" (2011)

I remembered that the noted illustrator and comic book writer Harvey Pekar had lived in Cleveland; did Peter know him? "When I was 11, a paperboy told me there was this guy (Harvey) who

had 'some comics.' So I walked up to his door and rang the doorbell. I admired his comic collection. He didn't create *American Splendor* until after I'd left for New York. We got to know each other in

subsequent years. I worked with him on a book about the Beats. If you're in comics a long time, you cross paths with everyone. It's a very small field."

I asked Peter to list for me the terms he uses to describe himself professionally. "Graphic novelist," he begins without hesitation. "Political cartoonist. Illustrator. Teacher." (He's taught at Parsons and Fashion Institute of Technology. Presently he teaches at the School of Visual Arts.)

As a boy he loved reading comics. "As I got older I asked myself what I wanted to do with the medium. Without realizing it or putting it into words, I always considered comics to be an important art form." There was widespread contempt for that view, but he always knew comics were much more than merely comic. He grew evangelical, he says, about the form, and ignored prevailing opinion. "Very early in life I discovered the majority can be wrong."

I was holding one of his books in my hand, an adaptation of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. Clearly, it justifies his faith in the comic book medium. In one of Kuper's panels, the most famous dung beetle in literature (Gregor Samsa) is not only crawling about the upstairs room of his house where he has been exiled, but literally crawls about the illustrated panels, along the top margin, down the side, and along the bottom. I turned the book this way and that, following the bug's progress. It's easy

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**W.**

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# Eighth Annual Yard Sale Set for May 21st; Helping Hands Needed

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nors could place used clothes, linens, curtains and drapes, throw rugs, and other types of textiles. Usable items would be recycled via shelters and similar organizations. Items that have given up the ghost would be sent for processing into new material. For more information please contact Margot Jacqz at [margot@jacqz.com](mailto:margot@jacqz.com).

To keep our visitors and vendors well

fed we will be offering a tasty variety of **refreshments**, mostly homemade. To contribute baked goods (cookies, cakes, or cupcakes, for example) or if you have resources or ideas for this aspect of the Yard Sale, contact Hedy Campbell at [food@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:food@w102-103blockassn.org) or call (212) 865-8524. Sandwiches, fresh fruit, yogurt, and cold beverages, as well as baked goods, are welcome.

Most of all, **please volunteer**. We

need help to set up, staff the Block Association tables, and clean up. Give us an hour or two of your time and we'll give you all the appreciation you could want as well as the well-being that comes from contributing to one's community. This is a great way for teenagers to help out and get community service hours for school. To sign up, contact me at (212) 662-4046 or at [yardsale@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:yardsale@w102-103blockassn.org).

## Speaking of Art with Peter Kuper, Graphic Novelist

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to view Kafka's words and Kuper's artwork as a critique of modern life, capitalism, the family—you name it. Without preaching, it's wide open for political interpretation.

"I don't know why some adults think kids aren't really reading if they're reading comic books," Peter says. His adaptation of Kafka's famous story has been translated into nine languages, most recently Hebrew, and occupies a place in many high school and college classes. Readers learn to be alert to visual features as well as the more traditional written elements of a story. Drawing style affects the impact of the words. Lettering becomes a tone of voice. Fonts help define characters. In "reading" Peter's black-and-white panels, I develop a strong sense of the fictional Samsa house and its sad, restrictive rooms; its wallpaper, overstuffed 19th-century furniture, floorboards, and ceilings. The father is terrifying in his rendered menace.

Two blurbs on the back of the book catch my eye: "The raw look of Kuper's scratchboard technique sharpens the starkness and terror of the tale. . . ." (Harvey Pekar). "Superbly rendered in claustrophobic panels that manage to reveal the story's dark logic." (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Peter Kuper is always working on his writing. Drawing well, producing witty

and pointed illustrations, is not enough to make a graphic novel commercially or artistically successful. To produce good comics, good sequential pictures, "you have to be an accomplished artist, writer, letterer, designer," he says. The publisher does not expect to edit a book. It must be ready to print.

This sounded to me like a daunting standard. When I asked him how he learned to produce a "ready-to-print" book, he said he threw himself into studying samples. "And trial and error," he adds. "You learn from your mistakes."

Many people will know Peter Kuper best from his series "Spy v. Spy" in *Mad Magazine*. He has produced many books, among them *Sticks and Stones* and *The System*, two graphic novels without words. Sinclair Lewis's *The Jungle* is a graphic novel adaptation by Peter using distilled quotations.

"You have the Lascaux cave paintings," Peter says, "that tell the story of a hunt. You have stained-glass windows in churches that recount Bible stories. And of course Egyptian hieroglyphics. These are all wordless sequences that tell a story. I've been drawn to the possibility of telling stories with only pictures, creating a universal language. You have picture writing, image alone as text. For instance, *Sticks and Stones* is a wordless allegory about hubris, war, and gluttony that anyone around the

world could understand without translation."

I admitted to Peter that I grew up reading *Brenda Starr*, *Mary Worth*, *Gasoline Alley*, *Bringing Up Father*. Later, it was Charles Schulz's *Peanuts*. Peter took my early reading seriously. "Yes, yes," he said. "And by the way, *Peanuts* still has an important influence on many serious comic artists today."

"Graphic Radicals: 30 Years of *World War 3 Illustrated*," a recent exhibit at Exit Art gallery, was summed up by Holland Cotter in *The New York Times* as "a fully fleshed-out picture," of the magazine itself. "The first issue was devoted to the linked subjects of the Iran hostage crisis and the election of Ronald Reagan as president. Most issues since have been similarly issue-oriented. And although many of the themes are wide-reaching—racism, prison, AIDs, religion, sex, war—specific events often inspire the best work. The 9/11 issue is still a heart-stopper, with its diary-like narratives in cartoon form and its evocation of the grief and paranoia that gripped the city."

I buy one of Peter Kuper's books and borrow others, some with words, some without. All have pictures. Intense, lively pictures. On the way home I stop in front of a store window. "You don't always need words," I say to my reflection. Mentally I draw the window. It is the exact shape of a panel.

## Singers Stroll Our Streets between Snowfalls

By Hedy Campbell

Since the Block Association's annual Caroling event is almost always on the winter solstice, we can't take any particular credit for savvy scheduling. But the luck of the calendar was with us and December 21st happened to fall well after our first snowfall and not quite a week before the Boxing Day Blizzard. The temperature was low enough to feel cold in a festive wintery way, but not enough to deter some 50 residents—and their house guests who traveled from as far away as Michigan—determined to celebrate the shortest day of the year.

Thanks yet again to natty-in-tweed-and-fur Anthony Bellov. He led our group around the neighborhood with the able assistance of Dayle Vander Sande and Roberta Belulovich. With song sheets in hand, we blessed each block with our version of "Dona Nobis Pacem" ("Give Us Peace"), sung as a round, and regaled the residents of 300 Riverside Dr. with our spirited "Twelve Days of Christmas." Thanks to 310 Riverside Dr. building manager Mitchell Steiner and the Master Apartments residents for making the hospitality of the Riverside lobby available to us for refreshments and conversation. And thanks to Mildred Speiser for donations and for watching the pot full of mulled cider to make sure it didn't boil. Without board member Ginger Lief's help, word of the event wouldn't have gotten around our neighborhood.

Make a mental note to join us on December 21st, 2011. Keep an eye out in December for an announcement in the newsletter and a flyer in your lobby confirming date, time, and place. If all goes well, we're going to have new and improved song sheets. Wait till you see!

## Drive to Recycle E-Waste Attracts Many Donors

If only New York's sanitation workers were thanked as lavishly for hauling away trash as we were in the course of January's e-waste recycling drive! In mid-December, by flyer and email, we had made it known that we would collect cast-off electronics and see to their delivery to the W. 63rd St. site where the Lower East Side Ecology Center would be holding its recycling event.

In response, on Sunday, Jan. 23rd, some 40 neighborhood residents donated dozens of desktop and laptop computers, printers, fax machines, telephones, keyboards, TVs, radios, and all manner of other electronics, with enthusiasm and gratitude that their unwanted equipment would be repurposed, refurbished, stripped for parts, or properly disposed of. In a reverse Santa operation, our helpers made four car trips, dashing through the snow to deliver the unwrapped "presents" to W. 63rd St.

Thanks go to board member David Reich for suggesting that we piggyback onto the LESEC event, and to that organization for allowing us to participate in this way. Its workers ran a very efficient site. Hedy Campbell, Cynthia Doty, Jock Davenport, Bob Aaronson, and Terence Hanrahan all lent a hand to make sure that the donation process went smoothly and that all equipment was delivered safely. Our appreciation also goes to the co-op board and residents of 240 W. 102nd St. for graciously allowing their lobby to serve as the staging ground. And of course, thanks to all of those who contributed.

Special thanks to Andres Veranes, who in addition to donating, volunteered to organize e-waste recycling drives on a regular basis. Watch for an announcement of a similar event in the not-too-distant future.

## Block Association Seeks Long-term Residents

We're not trying to find all of your neighbors. Just those who have lived in the area for 50 years or more. In preparation for the annual meeting of the Block Association, scheduled for Thursday, March 31, we'd like to identify additional Residents of Long Standing. Last year we identified eleven individuals who have lived within the boundaries of our neighborhood for half a century and successfully made contact with seven of them. Four were able to attend the meeting in person and were honored with certificates and tulips. Go to [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org) to see a photo of the four of them and short bios of all seven.

This year we would like to recognize those who have reached that milestone in the last year as well as anyone we missed last year. If you are aware of anyone who meets the criterion, please let us know by calling (212) 865-8524 or at [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org).

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For info & apptmts  
Please call (212) 865-1162

## State Senator to be Block Association Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

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are expecting a lively Q&A session following his talk.

The second part of the program will bring to light a hidden treasure of our neighborhood: residents who have lived on our blocks for 50 years or more. Last year, when the Block Association did this for the first time, we were able to contact seven such veterans of whom four came to the meeting to be recognized and applauded. You can read about them all on our website [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org). If you know of anyone new who should be included this year, please inform us by email at

[info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org) or by phone at (212) 865-8524. As a step toward preserving their memories, each will be asked to provide a short written anecdote for our website that illustrates how the neighborhood has changed as well as one that highlights how it has remained the same. Each honored resident will be presented with a certificate acknowledging his or her contribution.

Mark the date now in your calendar: **Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m.** It will be a rare opportunity to hear about what our senator sees in our future and what our half-century residents have witnessed in our past. Come join us!

## Bloomington Aging in Place Hears about St. Luke's Hospital, Schedules More Panels

Continuing its series of informational meetings for area residents, Bloomington Aging in Place presented three speakers from St. Luke's Hospital at the Marseilles Residence last month. Located on W. 114th St. and Amsterdam Ave., St. Luke's operates the emergency room closest to our neighborhood and, with Roosevelt Hospital on W. 59th St, constitutes the St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center.

The first speaker was Dr. Dan Wiener, chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine, who described the triage, diagnosis, treatment, and admission or discharge procedures of the ER. He mentioned the need for information about the patient's primary physician, contacts, advance directives (living will) and health care proxy, which, he noted, the patient might not be in a good condition to provide on arrival in the emergency room. Dr. Wiener commented favorably on BAIp's pilot project to design and distribute an Emergency Information packet with a magnetized vinyl sleeve that can be attached to most refrigerator doors where it could be

easily found by ambulance personnel or family members.

Following Dr. Wiener, Dr. Brenda Matti-Orozco, chief, Division of Geriatrics, spoke about St. Luke's extensive geriatric fellowship program, its expertise in diabetes and chronic care for the elderly, and its home visit program. She also mentioned St. Luke's free flu shot clinic with BAIp last November as an example of the hospital's commitment to community partnerships.

Abigail Nimako, director of Outreach and Practice Development, who had been very helpful in setting up this meeting, spoke briefly about volunteer opportunities at St. Luke's. There is an extensive clearance procedure for new volunteers as well as a waiting list.

Following the presentations, a lively Q&A session ensued with the audience of about 45 people. In the final few minutes of the evening, David Reich, president of BAIp, reviewed the many activities of last year and announced a panel discussion on de-cluttering on March 24 and another on housing issues scheduled for May 19.

## Zen Palate: a Tasty Way with Vegetables

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miliar non-vegetarian version. He and his wife found the appetizer sampler for two (\$17.50) large enough for four. It consists of seven different selections, including "excellent" yam fries, and is served with four dipping sauces.

My guests and I agreed that the best of our entrees was my eggplant Zentastic (\$10.75), a stir fry of Japanese eggplant and baby bok choy in garlic sauce, which came with a crispy spring roll and an unusual and delicious brown rice pilaf. We also shared the Mediterranean medley (\$10.50) and the Cantonese pan-fried noodles (\$11.50), which were satisfying, but not outstanding.

My reliable friend reported enjoying the Tapestry Embrace (\$20.95), sliced steamed portabello mushrooms with yellow and green squash and tofu slices served with sticky rice in a banana leaf cone, and the sizzling medallions of seitan (\$19.25), which he described as reminiscent of veal scallopine, though served in an orange sauce with vegetables. A 16-year old vegetarian was ecstatic about the Wheel of Dharma: shiitake mushrooms, mashed sweet potato and snow peas in an onion-sage sauce (\$20.95). Her dad, not a vegetarian, wrote "I don't remember the names of anything I ate. It's all mumbo jumbo to me" yet described his meal as "mouth-watering – tangy, each flavor distinct."

Too full for dessert, we passed on the molten chocolate cake, key lime pie, tofu cheesecake, and banana bliss. We had also chosen beer, wine, and sake, so did not get to try any of the fresh-squeezed juices, flavored iced teas, or all-natural sodas. Perhaps next time.

Zen Palate is located at 239 W. 105th St. and is open for lunch and dinner; telephone 212-222-2111; prices for take-out (\$15 minimum) are reduced by 25%. Visit [zenpalate.com](http://zenpalate.com) for the full menu and additional information.

### Charter School Advances

After neighborhood protests helped to squash the establishment of a charter elementary school in PS 145 on W. 105th St., the school, led by former City Council member Eva Moskowitz, has found a home in the Brandeis High School building on W. 84th St.

The city's Panel for Educational Policy approved the co-location of the charter elementary school with five small high schools over the concerns of parents and elected officials who were skeptical about mixing older and younger students at the location. Concerns were also raised about the possible loss to the high schools of specialized space for the arts and theater. The charter school is scheduled to open in the fall.

### Historic District on Calendar

The Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) has set the dates for hearings on the establishment of three West End Avenue Historic District extensions, which would stretch from W. 70th St. to W. 109th St. and include buildings on many side streets adjacent to West End Avenue. The public hearing dates are March 22 for the section from W. 79th St. to W. 87th St., June 28 for W. 70th St. to W. 79th St. and October 25 for W. 89th St. to W. 109th St.

For specific questions about owning a home or apartment in a historic district and the regulatory process, one can call Landmark West! at (212) 496-8110 or visit [landmarkwest.org](http://landmarkwest.org). The LPC website is [nyc.gov/landmark](http://nyc.gov/landmark).

### BA Speaks at 24th Precinct

Usually, a Block Association representative attends the Community Council meetings to hear from the precinct commander about crime in the neighborhood and its pursuit by the police. This time, Community Affairs Officer Pam White, invited us to tell a group of patrol officers what was of concern to us. On Jan. 14, Hedy Campbell and David Reich spoke to members of the evening shift about the rare crimes on our blocks, the need for good rapport between our street guard and the police (it is good, they said) and the occasional heavy-handed enforcement of parking regulations (usually the Traffic Division, not the precinct, we were told). Another visit will be scheduled.

### Orfeo Duo Receives 2011 LMCC Grant

For the seventh year in a row, the Block Association is pleased to have helped the Orfeo Duo, a violin and piano ensemble, receive a grant from the Fund for Creative Communities of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council by serving as its fiscal sponsor.

The grant enables siblings Vita and Ishmael Wallace to continue their "What a Neighborhood" series of concerts. The series was started by the Orfeo Duo in 2003 in order to "encourage and inspire composers and draw neighbors together, helping to nurture a strong community that includes all the diversity of our area."

There are two "What a Neighborhood" events still ahead this spring: Family Dance, on Sunday, March 27 at 5 p.m. at the Ascension School (220 W. 108th St.) and A Musical Picnic, on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. in Morningside Park. See the duo's website, [orfeoduo.com](http://orfeoduo.com), for details. Congratulations, Vita and Ishmael!

### Espailat New State Senator for Our District

In November of last year, Adriano Espailat was elected to the New York State Senate to represent the 31st Senate District. He replaced Eric Schneiderman who was elected New York State Attorney General. The 31st District covers the W.102nd & 103rd Streets Block Association as well as several connected neighborhoods from Riverdale in the north Bronx all the way to W. 70th St., a very diverse group of communities.

Senator Espailat previously served as the NY State Assembly Member for the Washington Heights area. His election to that seat in 1996 made history as he was the first Dominican-American elected to a state legislature. In the Assembly, he distinguished himself as a reformer and champion of tenants' rights, small businesses, education aid, economic

development, and the environment.

Senator Espailat earned his degree in Political Science from Queens College in 1978, and later completed postgraduate courses in Public Administration at NYU and Rutgers.

His district office is located in Washington Heights, but the senator will also share space a couple of days a week in Councilmember Gale Brewer's office on Columbus Ave. at W. 87th St.

Senator Espailat will be the keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Mar. 31 at the Mar-sailles Residence, 230 W. 103rd St. (see article on page 1). Save the date!

#### James Perez

Senior Vice President/Associate Broker

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## Block Assn. Needs Webmaster/Designer

For several years, the Block Association has had a rudimentary website at [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org). With more of our members using the Internet on a regular basis, we need to upgrade the design and the content of this site. We need a knowledgeable webmaster/designer to volunteer to make our website more attractive and useful.

The current home page contains links to information on Block Association activities such as the Annual Meeting in March and the Yard Sale in May. We have just added a link to a calendar on which we display these events plus our regular board meetings and other activities of potential interest to neighborhood residents.

We would like to improve the appearance of the home page and add historical information, neighborhood photos, and a section where residents could communicate on topics of general interest. If you have the skills and the time to work with our board to make this happen, please email [editor@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:editor@w102-103blockassn.org).

## Income, Expenses Decrease Below Last Year; Contributor Count Remains about the Same

Your Block Association has seen about a 10% decrease in total income but only a 5% decrease in expenses in 2010. Unfortunately, once again, our goal of significantly increasing the number of residents contributing during the year has not been met.

Newsletter advertising no longer covers the cost of production but advertising revenue did go up slightly last year. The Block Association ran visibility events, arranged by co-chair Terence Hanrahan with the help of other board members, in three building lobbies. The purpose is to let our neighbors know what we are doing and to encourage them to become contributing and participating members. In January 2011, one was run in 310 Riverside Dr. and more are planned for other buildings later this year.

If you have ideas about how we can expand our membership and especially if you are prepared to assist in that endeavor, please contact us. See the box on page 2 for contact information.

### 2010 Financial Report

1/1/2010 balance	<b>\$26,174.88</b>
12/31/2010 balance	<b>24,635.90</b>
Net (decrease)	<b>(1,538.98)</b>

### INCOME

Building contributions	\$13,640.00
Individual contributions	19,624.00
Newsletter ads	2,690.00
Yard Sale	4,091.00
Logo items	15.00
Interest	5.11
Grants	775.00
Other income	<u>329.13</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$41,169.24</b>

### EXPENSES

Contributions, dues	\$1,307.66
Event expenses	426.54
Post office, bank charges	142.00
Website	9.95
Contribution envelopes	555.35
Newsletter prod. (3 issues)	2,516.28
Security guard (53 wks)	<u>37,750.44</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$42,708.22</b>

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# On Broadway

**O**penings and Closings: ♦♦Last December, **Besen Retail** wrote on its website that "The former Metro Theater will soon reopen as **The Galleria at Metro Theater.**" With "booths" from 60-250 square feet being offered "for any use." Didn't happen. Besen Retail's Elliot Dweck now reports that they are no longer marketing the property. ♦♦The Thai restaurant **Lime Leaf** on the west side of Broadway at W. 108th St. has closed. The hand-written sign in the window thanks their customers of the last ten years and mentions their other restaurant at 128 W. 72nd St. ♦♦**Edible Arrangements**, a second-floor shop on W. 105th St., just east of Broadway was one of a chain that sold "bouquets" of fresh fruit as a gift alternative to flowers. After a couple of years at that location, the shop has moved to 2575 Broadway just south of **Walgreen's**. ♦♦Below where Edible Arrangements had been, **Zen Palace** has finally opened after a long renovation of the former **Metisse-Brasil** space (see the review on page 2).

♦♦For a few days in January, the low-cost men's clothing store, **Runway**, on the northeast corner of Broadway and W. 101st St., was closed with a marshal's notice on the door. Then, in a second resurrection (the first was when the store closed and then reopened with new management last fall), the sign was gone and the store reopened. ♦♦Two of the three "rebirths" reported in the December issue have not made it. The "**Sample Sale**" of men's clothing in Ariel West is gone, as is the toy store that briefly existed on the east side of Broadway between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts. Rootchi's appears to be hanging on month-to-month. ♦♦A small real estate office on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., **Tyger Realty**, has closed. When it first opened, the window was plastered with listings of properties for sale and for rent. There was an awning covered with advertising for the real estate services and a mortgage broker and a signboard outside the office offering computer, mailbox, fax and other services.

That variety was apparently not enough. After offering to sell a jumble of computer parts for a few dollars each, suddenly every trace of the office was gone, except for the awning. ♦♦This column is mostly about commercial activity on Broadway, but we occasionally report on Amsterdam Ave. as well. The situation there is mixed. Between W. 103rd and W. 104th Sts., four store fronts are currently unoccupied. According to Peter Arndtsen, district manager for the Columbus-Amsterdam BID, some landlords are seeking higher rents even in these difficult economic times. For example, **Rona Fashions**, a clothing store formerly on Amsterdam Ave. in the block mentioned above, has responded to a rent increase by moving to a smaller space on W. 106th St. near Broadway. On the brighter side, the space on Amsterdam Ave. between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts., vacated by **Noche Mexicana** when it relocated down the block, is being prepared for **Warique Peruvian Kitchen**. No word yet on opening date or menu.

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**Marc Sorkin**

Block Association Member

## 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 at least 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  
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**247 W. 102 St.:** Dunn, Robbins  
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**310 W. 102 St.:** Albert, Alpert  
**311 W. 102 St.:** Doyle/Lauren  
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**315 W. 102 St.:** Hansen, Kalkut-Knox/Knox, Weil  
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**250 W. 103 St.:** Charap, Crowley, Falk, Horwitz/Bolotin, Katzer, Lee/Payez, O’Neill, Rahmani, Soskin, Stribling/Uss, Sue/Lin, Sugarman, Wall, Winick  
**254 W. 103 St.:** Feldman/Hasenpusch  
**303 W. 103 St.:** Frishauf/Rice  
**305 W. 103 St.:** Bertin, Keller  
**307 W. 103 St.:** Tredanari  
**308 W. 103 St.:** Carozzi, Ian, Stivers, Weiss  
**312 W. 103 St.:** Aaronson  
**314 W. 103 St.:** Parizhsky  
**316 W. 103 St.:** Cruz/Woit, Kleidon/Ahmed  
**855 West End Ave.:** Coffiman, Hawke, Huey, Solowiejczyk/Porjesz, Trout  
**858 West End Ave.:** Regensburg  
**862 West End Ave.:** Hewitt  
**865 West End Ave.:** Axelrod, Beels, Blumm, Carroll/Bartlik, Coulter/Knowlton, Currin, Cushman/Sor-

kin, Davidge/Lott, Eisenstein, Hanrahan, Mao, Moskowir, Mota/Leshen, Nye, Perchanok/Krasner, Wight, Zakrzewski  
**870 West End Ave.:** Wuorinen  
**875 West End Ave.:** Appelbaum, Babush, Batterman, Borinstein/Vartanian, Canin, Canin/Sauer, DeCurtis/MacDowell, Felton, Freeman/Norwalk, Fricke/Klimley, Fuerstein, Garbers/Belth, Gillman, Gordon, Gorelick, Grosos/Fisch, Keane, Lasher, Leiman, Levin, Levine, Lohr/Trucco, Malatzky, Manley, March/Laferrère, McDermott, Meyer, Pastreich, Perez, Pommer, Rogers, Rosenfeld/Stein, Rubel, Smith/Chibnik, Sondik/Greene-Sondik, Stein, Straw/Gubitosa, Ward, Yahr, Yood  
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**885 West End Ave.:** Barth/Kopp, Bernstein/Bowen, Cryer, Friedman, Goldberg, Kronenberg, Sanders, Spring/Miller, Stokinger/Maas, Tolkow/Woodbury, Tympanick/Gilman, Weiss  
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**300 Riverside Dr.:** Abramski, Butera/Warren, Chevray, Corcoran, De Prenger, DeRosa/Margold, Edelman/Gold, Eisler, Fain/Hodapp, Flint/McLeod, Forbes/De Prenger, Fox, Goldwaser, Hinzman, Hudson/Cherry, Larned, Livingstone, Maderer, Meer, Mills, Mojarro/Greiper, Plum/Rocks, Rack/Agnew, Reich/Greenberg, Reiner/Lally, Schiff, Seget/Labasse, Serra, Simon, Sinaiko, Smith/Castellano, Smith/Silverman, Themm/Clevenger, van Schaardenburg, Vaz/Moebius, Vinicor, Weissberg  
**305 Riverside Dr.:** Avidon, Colon, Danzig/Minerva, Doty, Gold, Hoffman, Logan/Stulz, Soltz, Staav  
**310 Riverside Dr.:** Acero/Dyer, Barnum, Brown, Cooper, DeCurtis, Dixon, Dooley, Hagiwara, Hagiwara, Huber, Hugus, Kelly, Kostelanetz, Maffei, McKinney/Chin, Napolitano, Piper, Woodward  
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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., 865 West End Ave., 866 West End Ave., 868 West End Ave., 872 West End Ave., 875 West End Ave., 878 West End Ave., 299 Riverside Dr., 300 Riverside Dr., 310 Riverside Dr.  
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## Spring Activities for All in Riverside Park

The Riverside Park Fund has three one-day opportunities for the public to get involved in caring for the park over the next three months. The first two, on Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, April 10, are each a “Horticulture Volunteer Day.” All events will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On the *riversideparkfund.org* website, the Fund writes: “Our monthly volunteer projects are a great way for individuals of all skill levels to make meaningful contributions to the park.” The March 12 event meets at the Volunteer House inside Riverside Park at W. 108th St. The April 10 event meets at W. 153rd St. and Riverside Dr.

The third opportunity, on Saturday May 21, is called “It’s My Park! Day.” It will take place in various locations throughout the park. That is the same date as the Block Association’s Yard Sale (see page 1). After you help in the park in the morning, come visit the Yard Sale in the afternoon! According to the Fund’s website you can “Help with spring park projects on this city-wide day of Park volunteerism! Activities range from spreading woodchips, weeding, planting, and picking up debris, to a whole host of other beautification efforts. This is a great way to help build your neighborhood and your park!”

Call Director of Volunteers, Lynda Miller at (212) 870-3070 or send email to *grassroots@riversideparkfund.org* for more information or to volunteer for these days.