



## New Board Member Welcomed at Annual Meeting; Long-Time Residents Inducted

By Hedy Campbell

When we scheduled our annual meeting for March 31 and invited our new state senator, Adriano Espaillat, to be our guest speaker we knew it was risky. The New York State budget deadline was also March 31. Amazingly, the budget was passed on time, but Senator Espaillat was then corralled for a TV interview and sent his apologies and an aide in his stead.

Nonetheless, the meeting was held as planned in the Community Room of the Marseilles Residence thanks to the generosity of executive director Laura Jervis who made the space available to us. Board member Cynthia Doty welcomed the attendees and then introduced co-chair Terence Hanrahan who reviewed the year's activities and summarized the Block Association's finances. After introducing current board members, Cynthia presented the slate of twelve nominees for the coming year. It included Bob Aaronson, the one new name on the list, who coordinated our last two annual Yard Sales. The list was accepted by acclamation.

Having concluded the business matters, Cynthia introduced Ben Schachter, community liaison for Senator Espaillat. He reiterated the senator's commitment to his constituents and summarized the senator's objections to the budget.

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

## Après le Déluge, the 2011 Yard Sale Has a Great Sunny Day

By Hedy Campbell

It hadn't actually rained for 40 days and 40 nights, but it sure felt like it. There we were, faced with an ambivalent weather forecast and the responsibility of deciding whether to postpone the annual Yard Sale. By Friday evening, at least one online report predicted a few hours of sun the next morning.

That was enough for the optimists among us. We stuck to our original plan and held the Yard Sale on Saturday, May 21. Wouldn't you know it? There was only a brief splatter of rain at 5:30 p.m., after the official closing as vendors were packing their gear and starting for home. That Saturday turned out to be the only sunny day all week.

And what a day it was! We had vendors galore. Almost all of the drivers who had parked cars on W. 103rd St. heeded the flyers and removed their cars bright and early. The overdue Sanitation Department truck arrived just in time to clear the street of trash bags. Foot traffic was heavy. Bargains were struck. Treasures found new homes. Silent auction bids were placed, sometimes silently, sometimes not. Raffle tickets were sold. Old friends chatted while new acquaintances were forged. Textiles and e-waste were recycled.

Wraps, cookies, and cupcakes sold like hotcakes. In the span of a single day, the Block Association succeeded in bringing together the community it

serves and raising some much-needed income to boot.

An event like the Yard Sale doesn't come together in a single day, however. It's the product of many months of labor on the part of many volunteers: Bob Aaronson coordinated the event, securing our permit, touching base with the 24th precinct and the Sanitation Department, and seeing to countless myriad details. Anthony Bellov sold spaces to vendors. Marlene Lee, with the assistance of Robin LaPeters, Dorothy O'Hanlon, and Elisa Dunn, rummaged through many shopping bags full of donated treasures to stock the rummage table. Deborah Lott rode herd on raffle sales and silent auction donations. Mildred Speiser convinced First Republic Bank to donate Zagat Guides and umbrellas that enabled us to sweeten the pot for raffle-ticket buyers. Check page 5 for a list of businesses, local and otherwise, who contributed toward that effort and make sure to patronize their

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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. 14, Jul. 12, and Aug. 9.

## New From Peru: Warique on Amsterdam Ave.

By Hedy Campbell

Not too long ago, while reading a magazine, an advertisement caught my eye. It was the day after I'd dined at **Warique**, and it was the headline that attracted my attention: Peru, Latin American's Rising Star, I thought it read. "I'll say," I said to myself, thinking in terms of culinary trends, the lingering flavors of last night's meal still much on my mind. (The headline actually read Latin America's Rising Economic Star, but since interpreting almost everything in terms of food is my habit, I think we can momentarily sacrifice accuracy.)

Almost entirely unfamiliar with Peruvian fare other than the *pollo a la brasa* (roisserie grilled chicken) that is Flor de Mayo's specialty, I didn't realize how lucky we are that a place devoted to that South American cuisine has opened so close by. The menu is filled with interesting combinations of ingredients, some of them prepared in unusual ways. All of them, or at least all of the ones people I know have sampled, are delectable, reasonably

priced, especially considering the portion size, and nicely presented in cozy, serene surroundings.

Speaking of surroundings, the restaurant itself is, in a way, like a pair of conjoined twins. Two storefronts, on the west side of Amsterdam Ave. halfway between W. 101st and 102nd Sts., mirror images of each other, are connected at the rear. Each half features one brick wall, dark wood wainscoting with marquetry accents, leather banquettes, white tablecloths, warm melon-colored walls, and a small bar area. Tiled floors, hanging light fixtures fashioned of pierced metal, statuary, paintings, and Latin music all help set the Peruvian mood.

Furthering the Incan tone, is *cancha*, addictive roasted corn kernels tossed in a light coating of oil and a sprinkle of salt that are brought to the table for nibbling while perusing the menu. From the appetizers, you might want to choose the tamales, stuffed with chicken and peanuts and served with salsa Criolla (\$6), or opt for a first course of soup or salad. The avocado salad (\$6)

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## Hudson Beach Café: A Great Place to Relax

By Hedy Campbell

In order to snag a table on the patio with a view of the water at most restaurants that offer same, you have to call way in advance, well before you know whether the weather will be fine. At the Hudson Beach Café, in our own Riverside Park at W. 105th St., every table is on the patio and every table affords a view of the river, no reservations necessary. With a burger, sandwich, or salad (and perhaps a Scrabble board) at lunchtime it's idyllic. At sunset with a glass of wine or a beer, it's potentially breathtaking. On weekends, it's a beehive of activity at which you can run into everyone you know and enjoy live music, some provided by neighbor-

hood musicians (see Marty Toub item on page 3).

It's just about my favorite place to be come spring, summer, and fall. Before starting out to take in such a wonderful setting, however, it's important to know what you're getting into. The proximity of the lower-level tables to the sand pits and rings make for great, if rambunctious, family fun. The proximity of the upper-level tables to the dog run and provision of water dishes draws dog-owners. The lack of a proper kitchen means that everything is served on or in waxed paper-lined baskets, paper plates, or plastic cups with plastic utensils. For me, the aroma wafting off the barbecues and the view trump all else.

## 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.

# Neighborhood Artists To Be Seen and Heard this Summer

By David L. Reich

Editor's note: by email, we asked our Block Association members if any of them were performing or having exhibits of their work in nearby locations this summer. Here is what we discovered so you can discover them as well.

## Gretchen Cryer

There is going to be a staged reading at the **York Theater**, 619 Lexington Ave. at E. 54th St., on June 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26, of Gretchen Cryer's old show from 30 years ago "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking it on the Road" followed by the sequel (her new show), "Still Getting My Act Together." The sequel is about the same characters 30 years later. There will be a younger cast for the first show, and then Gretchen will be performing in the second show along with some of the cast members from the original production.

The two shows will play with a 30 minute break on weekend matinees and weekday evenings. On weekend evenings there will be a 90-minute dinner break between the two shows. As many of our readers probably know, Gretchen wrote these shows with composer Nancy Ford.

## Liz Queler and Seth Farber

Following the recent release of their CD "The Edna Project," and a sold-out show at Joe's Pub in April, Liz and Seth will be touring in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island in July. The CD, on which they set poems of Edna St. Vincent Millay to original music, is described on their [myspace.com/ednaproject](http://myspace.com/ednaproject) page as "an eclectic, imaginative collection of 21 songs spanning folk, bluegrass, rock and jazz." They expect to be back and performing again in New York City in the fall.

## Marty Toub

Warm and sunny weather is finally here bringing with it one of our neighborhood's best-kept secrets: live music at the **Hudson Beach Café**. Throughout this summer, our very own singer/songwriter Marty Toub performs on Friday and Saturday nights playing a mix of well-loved covers and soulful originals.

Just a short walk from home, in Riverside Park at W. 105th St., you can sit on a deck overlooking the Hudson River watching the sunset and enjoying a beer or glass of wine while listening to Marty's music. From time to time Marty will invite other musicians to join in while café manager Liam O'Flynn gets to know everyone who stops by and makes them feel welcome. Marty expects to be playing at the Hudson Beach Café from June through October.

## Will Galison

Called "the most original and individual of the new generation of harmonica players" by the virtuoso Toots Thielemans, Will is appearing on Monday evenings at the **Underground Lounge**, 955 West End Ave. at the southwest corner of W. 107th St. He makes music with chromatic, diatonic, and bass harmonicas, guitar, keyboard, alto and soprano sax, and vocals.

Will has played on many movie scores including the well-known "Untouchables," "Bagdad Café," and "Prelude to a Kiss." He has recorded or performed with Sting, Carly Simon, Astrud Gilberto, Les Paul, Paquito D'Riviera, and many others. His latest CD is "Line Open," eleven original songs on which he plays and sings with some of New York's finest musicians. Will's set at the Underground Lounge gets underway at 9:00 p.m.

## New Board Member Elected at Annual Meeting

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Schacter announced that the senator's district office is at 5030 Broadway, near W. 213th St.; phone: (212) 544-0173. Espaillet is also at Councilmember Gale Brewer's office at 563 Columbus Ave., near W. 87th St., on Mondays.

To conclude the meeting, co-chair Hedy Campbell introduced eight new inductees to our Residents of Long-Standing Hall of Fame, which honors those who have lived in the neighborhood for 50 years or more. They are: Edith Eisler, Robert and Marsha Dennis, Ernest Sanders, Hilda Muchow, David and Theresa Rogers, and Mildred Speiser. The five who were in attendance were

awarded Block Association coffee mugs in which African violets had been planted (thanks to Academy Floral for the discount) and certificates.

To see their biographies, and those of previous inductees, visit our website [w102-103blockassn.org](http://w102-103blockassn.org) and click on the link to the 2010 or 2011 Annual Meeting. If you know of someone we have missed for this honor, please write to [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org) or call (212) 865-8524

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## 2011 Yard Sale Enjoys the Only Sunny Day

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fine establishments and thank them!

Congratulations are in order to Patricia Cortes. Happy enough after scoring a Danish coffee table in tiptop condition for only \$25, she went on to win \$200 in the 50/50 raffle. You can see her delight across the fold on page 5.

Every year we add a new feature to the Yard Sale. Andres Veranes was responsible for this year's innovation: e-waste recycling. Thanks to Cathy and Stephen Fink, Nancy Gropper, and Jeffrey Feidner for their help receiving donations, some 20 computers, 20 monitors, half a dozen TVs, and a sizeable collection of VCRs, cell phones, batteries, cables, etc., and loading the truck. It was all delivered the next day to the Upper West Side Recycling Center's e-waste drive that was being sponsored by the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District. Also in the recycling mode, Cynthia Doty arranged, for the second year in a row, to have Wearable Collections take donations of recyclable textiles that we collected during the Yard Sale.

To keep us all on track, David Reich managed our database, kept the Block Association website current, issued vendor badges, publicized the Yard Sale on various websites, hung banners, and otherwise kept busy with all sorts of troubleshooting. Ginger Lief, Terence Hanrahan, and Alan Cary blanketed the neighborhood with posters. Kerstin Hasenpusch and I, with the help of a squad of bakers and buyers, kept everyone fed and hydrated. (See page 5 for the full list of contributors to the refreshments table.)

Our good friends, the management and residents of St. Luke's Addiction Institute, again pulled out all the stops to lend a hand as well as several large tables for the Block Association to use, delivering them early in the morning and retrieving them at the end of the

day. Ed Campbell and Dan Nissenbaum earned a Golden Yoke award for hauling above and beyond the call of duty.

Every year at least a couple of people who remember the Block Fairs of yore stop by the refreshments table and wonder why we don't have an active barbecue serving sausages and hamburgers. The answer is easy: our existing board is already consumed by the work it takes to put the Yard Sale together in its current format. There are plenty of jobs that go undone due to the lack of able helpers. A few more volunteers would make a huge difference. We'd be delighted to add the aroma of a charcoal grill or any of the other great ideas for improving the Yard Sale that we know you have. Let us hear them. And let us know how you can help. A few hours of your time can have a big impact on your community.

## Lost and Found Items Reported at Yard Sale

Most of us had a really great day at the recent Yard Sale. There are three people, however, whose day was blemished by loss. Somebody left a set of keys at one of the vendor's tables. We'd like to see them back in the owner's hands, so please get in touch if they are yours. Two others lost small handheld purses that were not turned in by the end of the day. One is purple velvet, the other pale pink and white sequins. Both owners are eager to have them back, no questions asked. Please email [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org) or call (212) 865-8524 if you can help with the reunion efforts.

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## Lawyers Discuss Housing Rights for Renters And Owners at BAiP Panel Discussion

Our neighborhood contains a wide variety of housing types, from small rented studios to large owned apartments. With the debate in Albany over rent regulations as a contentious background, three lawyers, each deeply involved in housing issues, spoke to an audience of over 50 people at a Bloomingdale Aging in Place meeting on May 19 concerning legal rights and financial support programs of particular interest to seniors. The panel discussion was organized and moderated by Hanna Rubin, co-founder of BAiP.

Housing issues are often complex and may involve dealing with the city's or a rental company's bureaucracy so the first question is often "Where can I find guidance about my particular problem?" The first panelist, Joyce Goodman, from State Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell's office, spoke about her experience dealing with housing issues in

our neighborhood and the free monthly legal clinic provided by O'Donnell.

Carolyn Silver, director of legal advocacy at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, at 331 E. 70th St., talked about the City's Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program for low-income seniors. Lenox Hill offers a clinic for those applying for or encountering difficulties with the program. She also dealt with other rent assistance programs and their complications.

The third speaker, Joseph Burden, is the founding partner of a law firm where he primarily represents owners and management in landlord-tenant cases. He explained how co-op apartments fall under the City's tenant laws whereas condos do not. He also spoke about inheritance, roommate, and co-op conversion situations. A lively Q&A session followed. For more information visit BAiP's website [bloominplace.org](http://bloominplace.org).





Photo: Ozzie Alfonso



Photo: David L. Reich

After a week of rain and thunderstorms, a calm and sunlit day greeted the crowd of bargain-hunters on W. 103rd St.

Patricia Cortes was the excited winner after her ticket in the 50-50 raffle was drawn at the end of the 2011 Yard Sale.

## The Block Association Thanks the Generous Donors to the 2011 Yard Sale!

### Silent Auction

- \*\*Academy Floral
- \*\*Bank Street Bookstore
- \*\*Book Culture
- \*\*Café du Soleil
- Hedy Campbell (festive cakes)
- Camille Colon (baby blanket)
- \*\*Festival Chamber Music Society (Ruth Sommers)

- Ruth Helfrich (FanciMutz)
- \*\*In & Out Nails
- \*\*Indus Valley
- \*\*Knit Kit by Joyce Goodman
- Laura & Terence Hanrahan
- \*\*Leave It To Lisa
- \*\*Metro Diner
- \*\*PicNic Market and Café
- \*\*Regional

- \*\*Silver Moon Bakery
- \*\*Symphony Space
- \*\*Urban Outfitters
- \*\*West Side Gem Pilates
- \*\*Yarntopia

***\*\*When you patronize these neighborhood businesses, please thank them for their support of the Block Association!***

### Refreshments & Bake Sale

- \*\*Buster's Restaurant & Catering
- Hedy Campbell and the bakers:
- Nancy Becker Cope,
- Susan Dessel, Judith Guberman,
- Laura Hanrahan, Kerstin
- Hasenpusch, Chris Kronish,
- Deborah Lott, David Reich,
- Janis Ruden, Catherine Scott

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### Support Your Block Association Mugs, Bags, & Caps For Sale!

White porcelain coffee mugs or off-white baseball caps each with the Block Association logo and motto *"Where Community Spirit Thrives"*  
Blue recyclable tote bag (logo only)  
**Mugs: \$5, Caps: \$10, Bags: \$5.**  
See page 2 for contact information.

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# Summer Entertainment in Riverside Park

Riverside Clay Tennis Association on the Lawn at the 97th Street Tennis Courts (Rain date: following Sunday. Check <a href="http://rcta.info">rcta.info</a> )	
<b>Saturday, June 11, 7 p.m.</b> Los Hermanos Cintron	Flamenco
<b>Saturday, June 18, 7 p.m.</b> Musica Bella Orchestra of New York plays Mozart	Classical
<b>Saturday, June 25, 7 p.m.</b> Gotham Winds, classical woodwind ensemble	Classical
<b>Saturday, July 2, 7 p.m.</b> Bassist Ron McClure and his ensemble	Jazz
<b>Saturday, July 9, 7 p.m.</b> Dartmouth Boys (and a watermelon eating contest)	Bluegrass
<b>Saturday, July 16, 7 p.m.</b> Efendi: music of Turkey, Armenia, Israel, Greece	Middle Eastern
<b>Saturday, July 23, 7 p.m.</b> The Atwaters/Ed Baker	Rock and Blues
<b>Saturday, July 30, 7 p.m.</b> Steve Tarshish and his instrumental trio	Folk and Rock
<b>Saturday, August 6, 7 p.m.</b> Bob Kindred Ensemble with vocalist Anne Phillips	Cool Jazz
<b>Saturday, August 13, 7 p.m.</b> Gilad Bloom Band plays folk and rock	Eclectic
<b>Saturday, August 20, 7 p.m.</b> Pe de Boi headed by Marcio Sapel	Samba

Riverside Park South Free Concerts Pier 1 at 70th Street Sundays, 7–9 p.m.	
<b>July 10</b>	Abdoulaye Alhassane and the Deep Sahara Band playing traditional Touareg and Cajun music
<b>July 17</b>	Trio Tritticali, a new jamming universe of strings
<b>July 24</b>	Biakuye Percussion Group, celebrating the musical spirit of Africa and America
<b>July 31</b>	Beyond Beyond is Beyond with their cage-free rock and roll sampler
<b>Aug. 7</b>	Galeet Dardashti and Divahn, an all-female group bridging Middle Eastern culture
<b>Aug. 14</b>	Los Soneros de Oriente plays fiercely danceable Cuban Son

**Let's Dance!**  
**on the 70th Street Pier Plaza**

**Sundays: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 6–9 p.m.**  
Learn to dance to the salsa, cha-cha, and bachata led by teachers from the Piel Canela Dance & Music School.

**Sing for Hope Street Pianos 2011**

**June 18–July 2, far end of Pier 1 at 70th St.**  
Debuted with great success in 2010, Sing for Hope Street Pianos makes pianos available to all who pass by, encouraging exploration of music by all individuals and featuring formal and impromptu concerts by amateurs and artists alike.

**9th Annual West Side County Fair**  
**Saturday, Sept. 10, 1–6 p.m., park-wide**  
Enjoy a little country right here in Manhattan with carnival rides and games, music, square dancing, side-show performers, a petting zoo, greenmarket, and more!

**7th Annual**  
**GlobeSonic Sound System Dance Party**  
**on the 70th Street Pier Plaza**

**Saturday, June 4, 4–10:30 p.m.**  
Join hundreds of partygoers at our GlobeSonic on the Hudson open-air summer dance party and dance the night away.

**Children's Performance Series**  
**Pier 1 at 70th Street**

**Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. (for kids up to age 7)**

**July 14** The FunkeyMonkeys!  
**July 21** The Bossy Frog Band  
**July 28** Junior Jam  
**Aug. 4** Bindlestiff Family Cirkus  
**Aug. 11** Bari Koral Family Rock Band  
**Aug. 18** City Parks Foundation presents Puppeteers from the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater

**This year's theme: Terror through the Decades**  
**Pier 1 at 70th Street**  
**Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.**

**July 13** *The Invisible Man* (1933)  
**July 20** *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956)  
**July 27** *The Birds* (1963)  
**Aug. 3** *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes!* (1978)  
**Aug. 10** *The Return of the Swamp Thing* (1989)  
**Aug. 17** *Mars Attacks!* (1996)

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

### W. 103rd St. Mall Repaired

When the W. 103rd St. subway station was refurbished about eight years ago, one unfortunate side effect was that the pavement across the Broadway Mall on the north side of the W. 103rd St. intersection was left bumpy and irregular. It remained a hazard for the elderly and others with mobility problems in spite of many entreaties to the City's Department of Parks and the Broadway Mall Association.

Finally, this April, the City acted. The rough pavement was taken up and replaced with smooth brickwork that is easy to traverse and nice to look at as well. We have thanked Department of Transportation Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiione for the result.

### NYC Sued on Charter School

In February, the NYC Panel for Educational Policy approved the location of the proposed Success Academy Charter School in the Brandeis High School building on W. 84th St. over the protests of parents, CB7, and several elected officials. In April, parents of high school students at Brandeis sued the city to stop the project claiming that the Department of Education violated its own procedures and used inaccurate data in approving it. At a news conference, they complained that the charter school would take away space needed for science labs, classrooms, and arts programs. Success Academy has filed a motion in State Supreme Court seeking to dismiss the lawsuit.

### Historic District Meeting Held

The first of three meetings of the Landmarks Preservation Commission on the proposed West End Ave. Historic District Extension was held on Mar. 22, 2011. The portion of the extension between W. 79th and W. 87th Sts. was the subject of the session at which close to 50 people, including officials, residents, and others, voiced their opinions about the importance of the historic district designation. Two more meetings will be held, on June 28 for the portion between W. 70th and W. 79th Sts. and on Oct. 25 for the section from W. 87th St. to W. 109th St. The meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to speak is required to register in advance with the LPC.

### Help Needed for Block Association

Several Block Association jobs are currently being filled temporarily or not at all. We need a few skilled and motivated neighbors to take them on.

**Co-Treasurer:** good with numbers, Quicken and Access, this co-treasurer maintains the financial records and the membership databases. The other co-treasurer already handles receipt of contributions, deposits, and management of the check ledger. High reliability is a critical characteristic of this volunteer. Detailed software training is available.

**Newsletter Ad Manager:** solicit new ads and renewals. This is a very part-time job requiring communication skills and a curiosity about the businesses in our neighborhood.

**Webmaster:** experience in web design is needed to take the Block Association's website from its current rudimentary state to a better looking, easy to maintain, and more useful layout. For more information, please contact [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org).

### Citizens Committee Funds Treewell Improvements

We're very excited to report that the grant proposal the Block Association submitted to the New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods program was approved! The program is administered by the Citizens Committee for New York City, which also runs the related Love Your Block grant program from which we received funds last year. On Tuesday, May 3, our board co-chair Terence Hanrahan represented us at a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods event where he spent the evening talking with other community-minded volunteers working on projects with the common goal of neighborhood improvement.

The grant proceeds will cover all of the expenses involved with our annual spring tree-well cleanup and planting event. On Saturday, June 4, under the direction of board member and long-time

resident John Hewitt, volunteers young and old will gather to remove trash and plant annuals and perennials in many of the treewells in our area. As long as a building resident makes the commitment to water the plants regularly, we're happy to fund the cost of fertilizer, mulch, and the plants themselves. If funds allow, we may also undertake to coordinate with building owners in order to make some improvements to the treewell guards, some of which are very much in need of repair.

If you have ideas for neighborhood beautification projects, please contact us at [info@w102-103blockassn.org](mailto:info@w102-103blockassn.org).

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

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## New From Peru: Warique on Amsterdam Ave.

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was plenty for two of us—although the piquant dressing that was served alongside was so good we needed to ask for a second serving—as was the Warique salad (\$8), a delightfully novel mixture of quinoa, corn, dried cranberries, cucumbers, tomato, and avocado. The *aguadito del pollo* (\$5), Peruvian style chicken soup with yucca, peas, carrots, corn, and rice, could have been a delicious meal in itself.

Ceviche (fish or seafood cooked in an acidic mixture of lime juice, herbs, and spices), another South American specialty, is another good choice. The mixed medley (\$16) contains corvina (a white, firm-fleshed fish featured in many of the entrées), shrimp, octopus, calamari, and scallops and is served with a side of sweet potato and corn as is the shrimp-only option (\$15). Corvina is also the centerpiece of *pescado a lo macho*, a good-sized, pan-fried fillet

topped with an abundance of shrimp, mussels, and calamari in a pool of a special, and especially delicious, secret-recipe sauce with a side of yellow rice (\$20). The aforementioned classic, *pollo a la brasa*, is available in quarter-, half-, or whole chicken portions (\$4 to \$12, respectively) and is also a hit, described as tender, moist and tasty by two others who recently dined at Warique. With sides of yellow rice and black beans, the bill for dinner for two can come in under \$20! Another entrée is *lomo saltado*, beef sautéed with onions and tomatoes in soy sauce and served with French fries and white rice. A request for *maduros* (sweet plantains) instead of fries was happily fulfilled. Skip this dish if you're on a low-salt diet!

Warique, which translates from Quechuan as “temple of food,” definitely earns its name! It's open for lunch and dinner daily. Major credit cards are accepted. In the absence of a liquor license, diners may bring their own beer or wine. Free delivery is available; telephone (212) 865-0101.

## Not Much to Report From 24th Precinct Community Council (That's Good!)

At the May 18th meeting of the 24th Precinct Community Council, the commander of the precinct, Deputy Inspector Kathleen O'Reilly reported continued decreases in major crime categories, year-to-date. This coincides with recent FBI statistics for the country as a whole, confounding predictions that crime would rise as a result of bad economic conditions. However, New York City, as a whole, has seen a rise in murders this year compared to last year.

DI O'Reilly repeated her invitation to residents to get in touch with her concerning crime in the precinct. Her cell phone is (646)739-0693 and her email address is [kathleen.oreilly@nypd.org](mailto:kathleen.oreilly@nypd.org).

## Neighbors See *Monster* At Pan Asian Repertory

By Camille Colon

On Sat. April 9th, several members of the Block Association attended the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre's production of *Monster*, written by Derek Nguyen who also starred in the play. The story tells of the disappearance of a Vietnamese high-school student following a brutal hate crime. The journey of the investigation reveals layers of truth mixed with guilt and innocence. The playwright fled Vietnam as a child and was raised in the United States. Exploring his identity and connection to his birthplace inevitably links the play to the American involvement in Vietnam. This production was a searing journey into how perspective is manipulated by our personal subjectiveness.

After the show, the actors, director and host, Tisa Chang, who is the Artistic Producing Director, provided refreshments and the opportunity to discuss the play with the actors. As usual, those who attended had a wonderful time. Watch for an announcement of the next Pan Asian production in the fall.



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# On Broadway

**Openings and Closings:** ♦♦The Indian restaurant, **Calcutta Café**, a fixture on the west side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts. for many years, has closed suddenly. ♦♦In the “once-in-a-blue-moon” category, a **Duane Reade** drugstore has closed. What was a 24-hour branch on the west side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. is gone. The windows are papered over and signs direct customers to the **Walgreen’s** on Broadway at W. 97th St., which has more limited hours. If you wonder why Duane Reade customers are being directed to a competitor, it’s because Walgreen’s bought the Duane Reade chain about a year ago. Former workers in the closed store say they have been given positions in nearby Duane Reads and no jobs have been lost. ♦♦After a fire that closed the restaurant for several weeks a year ago, and from which it never seemed to recover, **Angelina Piz-za Bar**, on the east side of Broadway between W. 104th and W. 105th Sts., has closed. Signs on the windows say

that it has closed for renovation but an owner, who also owns **Café du Soleil**, a thriving French restaurant across Broadway, says they are selling the lease. ♦♦Several blocks north, on the east side of Broadway near W. 109th St., the Crystal Gourmet deli has closed. It had only been there for about a year and a half. ♦♦**Precision Athlete** has been open for about three months at 237 W. 105th St., just east of Broadway in the space vacated five years ago by **Movie Place**, a video rental store. The new tenant is a private training studio owned by trainers Annie Vo and Antonio Cordova. They emphasize that it is not an open gym: all training will be supervised either individually or in classes of 2 to 3 people. For more information, visit their website *precisionathlete.com*. ♦♦If you are looking for another way to reshape yourself, perhaps **NuYu Revolution**, a soon-to-open, “semi-private group fitness center created specifically for the non-athlete” is your style. It is located at 233 W. 99th St., just east of Broadway. The owner, Susan Rap-

port, lives just steps from the studio. ♦♦From fit to feet in a few easy steps: a **Super Runners Shop** will be opening on the west side of Broadway between W. 95th and W. 96th St. It will feature running, walking and cross-training shoes for men and women. The chain employs “fit specialists,” including ped-orthists. ♦♦An occupied storefront is mostly better than an empty one so we welcome yet another cell phone store. **Metro PCS** has opened a shop on the east side of Broadway between W. 101st and W. 102nd Sts. in the space previously occupied by a recently-closed real estate office. ♦♦Perhaps it isn’t a mom-and-pop store, but two French cousins, Francois and Bruno, expect to open their first New York **Spices and Tease** shop by the end of June on the east side of Broadway between W. 97th and W. 98th Sts. In addition to spices, loose-leaf teas, and various accessories, they will serve freshly-brewed tea and a few French pastries. They also plan to sell their products worldwide on their website *spicesandtease.com*.

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## David Reich Awarded CB7 Recognition as Neighbor of the Month

Many of us who live on these blocks have observed and perhaps benefitted from David Reich’s neighborliness. In March, however, we discovered that awareness of and appreciation for his contributions had spread even further. Penny Ryan, manager of Community Board 7, informed us that Reich, a resident of 299 Riverside Dr., had been chosen to receive its Neighbor of the Month recognition, an honor bestowed occasionally on deserving individuals in the Community Board district.

At the CB7 full board meeting on April 5, in front of a large audience that included a couple of dozen municipal officials visiting from Sweden, Barbara Van Buren, with her co-chair of the Health and Human Services committee, Madge Rosenberg, at her side, summarized Reich’s many activities: former chair and current co-treasurer of the Block Association; editor of the organization’s newsletter; and co-founder of Bloomingdale Aging in Place, which works to arrange activities for seniors, provide valuable information and services to them, and connect them with their neighbors. They, and CB7 chair Mel Wymore, then presented him with a framed certificate attesting to the recognition.

We couldn’t be more pleased that our neighborhood is Reich’s home base and we offer him our congratulations.