

# West 9th Street

BLOCK ASSOCIATION

## Sidewalk Sale Breaks Record

Despite the threat of some early morning rain, buyers came out in big numbers on September 15th, helping us set a new sales record. We grossed \$4,120.85, nipping last year's total by \$10.40! After expenses, we were able to net \$3751.

The Block Association is indebted to many volunteer residents, particularly Sale Day supervisor, Ginny Lehman, and her hardworking team including Ann Caponi, Patty Brundrage and Harriet Miller. They were in the hot basement at #35 for weeks before the sale to sort, tag and prepare the merchandise. Kathy Harbough and Michelle Nicole Wesley were also in the thick of the tagging process. And behind the tables were Dick Grider, Susan Sandler, Dolly Mirchandani, Kate Rutherford, Victor Ramos, Martin Hutner and Diana LaGuardia.

We also want to acknowledge Jorge and Elba Torres at #35, as well as all the doormen at the building who carried heavy merchandise up and down to the basement for several weeks. The sale could not happen each year without the wonderful cooperation of the folks at #35.

A special thank you to Louanna Gardner, who has never failed to make our sidewalk sale event extra special with her durable folding table, coffee and snacks. Louanna is the ultimate trooper and a double decade volunteer. Finally, Wendy Hurcombe, our trusted treasurer, fixes a sharp eye on our sale day earnings and block funds and has kept us solvent for 20 years. Thanks to all – now it's time to buy a handful of wickets!

## Tsk, Tsk To Tour Buses

More residents are noticing increased inflows of large tour buses, some open double-deckers. This is illegal on West 9th Street and through the efforts of Leslie Breeding, who is diligently reporting all violations to the 6th Precinct, the police are cracking down.

The 6th Precinct Community Liaison Officer has been calling Grey Line, Academy and other offending bus lines alerting them to the violation and warning them about further infractions. If you see a tour bus of any kind, jot down the tour company name, license plate and the ICC number that always appears on the side of the bus. Or take a cell phone photo. Then call Leslie Breeding at 777-4876 who will make an immediate report to the 6th Precinct.

## Stop the Sidewalk Stumbling

The Block Association has received several calls in recent months about broken pavement and uneven sidewalks causing stubbed toes and more serious falls. It is easy to take action. Call #311, the city's quality of

life complaint line, and report the sidewalk damage or defect. You can also send an email via the web at [www.nyc.gov/dot](http://www.nyc.gov/dot).

We have reported several sidewalk problems in these ways and have gotten prompt action from the Sidewalk Management Unit that inspects and then notifies the property owner of defective conditions. If the property owner does not correct the situation the DOT will add the location to a city repair contract and the owner will be assessed for the cost of the repair. So call #311 or visit the city's website whenever you see a dangerous sidewalk defect.

## The Zeppelin Hovers

The new restaurant slated for the old Mary Lou's site in the middle of our block, tentatively named Zeppelin, was reportedly going to open in September, then December. But owner Billy Gilroy (also owner of the popular restaurant and night spot, Employees Only, on Hudson Street) recently told Block Association representative, John Scott, that he believes the opening could be delayed for up to nine months. Apparently, the restaurant was left in disrepair when the previous tenants departed several years ago, and there is now serious water damage and a stubborn mold problem. Stay tuned for an update in our winter issue.

## Holiday Decorating Day, December 8th

Our annual Holiday Decorating Day, a revered West 9th Street tradition, will be held on Saturday, December 8th from 10a.m.–1p.m. Once again, the lobby of 61 West 9th will be our base of operations.

Many residents like to come out and share in the festivities, as we fill our block with holiday cheer, festooning every door with a balsam wreath and red ribbon, and stringing garland on every fence. Please mark the date on your calendar and join your neighbors for a delightful holiday event.

## At the September Meeting ...

We had 13 block residents and Executive Committee members at the Fall meeting. Some items discussed: Subway-type graffiti has been spotted on the roof of the Portsmouth, but management says it will be removed soon. Mary Wolf at #50 West 9th St. has been monitoring the growing restaurant sprawl on 8th St. to be sure no backyard garden cafes spring up facing West 9th Street buildings – so far, all clear. President Allan Ishac is concerned that so few building owners are involved more actively in the Block Association. He also notes that after a recent mailing to building owners intended to update our owner contact list, not one responded. Hmmm.