

336

C.P.W.

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1991

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The decorated Christmas tree in our lobby looks especially beautiful this year, and it is thanks to Margaret Ahstrom (apt. 7A) and a group of our building's children who did the decorating. The lights, the colored balls, the bows and all were installed by John and Lizzie Platt (2E), Emily Ahstrom (7A), Jasmine Carrasquillo (1C) and several other youngsters who stopped by to help. Thank you all, and to all a merry Christmas and happy new year.

WINDOW NEWS

The Landmarks Preservation Commission complimented the Board of Directors of 336 for organizing a Master Plan for window replacement, but was not able to approve the application in its entirety. They refused approval of the design we submitted for replacement of the casement windows on the Central Park West facade, and suggested a couple of compromise possibilities combining the best (or the worst) of a "picture window" and a multi-paned casement opening. Our Board in turn refused these mongrel designs.

So we will re-submit the plan only for all double-hung windows on all facades, and we have every expectation that this will be approved at the Commission's January hearing. When we finally have approval, represented by the Certificate of Appropriateness in hand, you will receive a letter from the Refenestration Committee detailing what this all means to each individual apartment owner. We will attempt to explain what A and B-line owners with casements can do to modernize, and give some sort of schedule of costs and time. Panorama Windows Inc. will come shortly thereafter to show samples of the windows approved in the plan, and to take orders for new windows at last.

The Refenestration Committee started work on this project a year ago last October. While a glance at our front elevation gives a clear idea that a plan is necessary and uniformity is a dream for the distant future, it also gives a reminder of how beautiful our building is and how important it is to make the right changes.

POLITICAL ACTION

A few tenants have responded to the inauguration of a Political Action Committee for 336, and the chairman, Mark Maas (16CD)

says that a meeting will be called after the first of the year. The group will determine targets for attention: taxation, safety, city services, or whatever is deemed most significant for our life in the community. Mark has been in touch with the Council of New York Cooperatives and Councilmember Ronnie Eldridge's office. If you are interested in this project, please call Mark (222-5588) or send him a note to let him know.

Meanwhile, our Board President, Toby Weinberger, has received a copy of a letter sent to our managing agent by New York City Commissioner of Finance, Carol O'Cleireacain, explaining the budget problems that led to higher taxes and lower services and asking for "support" in addressing these problems. Toby suggests that it might be a good time to write to Ms. O'Cleireacain (Dept. of Finance, Municipal Building, New York, N.Y. 10007) to voice any complaints you have in the realm of city finances.

BUILDING NOTES

Remember that your maintenance bill will be higher on Jan. 1 due to a 7% rise in regular maintenance costs and a 10% additional assessment necessitated by the city's rescheduling of tax bills. The latter charge is to last only 12 months.

If you plan to be away over the holidays, please be sure to leave a set of keys for use in emergencies - either with the Super or with a trusted neighbor whose name you should give to the Super. If a leak or fire or other problem bursts out in your absence, it would be essential to gain entrance to your apartment at once.

No bicycles or baby carriages or other impedimenta should be left in the back halls outside your back door. Garbage and recyclable materials are picked up there twice or three times a day, and otherwise the area must be free for fire access. Please try to keep the floors there clean, as well.

Be part of the 336 graffiti watch; if you see anyone marking up our granite foundations, tell our doorman or a porter at once. It is much easier to clean these blemishes off immediately.

You should have received a list of our staff members from the managing agent, in case you want to distribute a little Christmas largesse to those employees who have been especially helpful to you during the year. If you need a copy of the list, call Donal Bergin at Kreisel Co. Inc., 692-8374.

FIRE ALARM

Now that the calendar says it is winter and some days even are a little cool, tenants will be beginning to use fireplaces again. A reminder to have yours cleaned if you use it at all frequently comes in the news that apt. 2E suffered a frightening chimney fire a couple of weeks ago. No damage was done, but the pitch and soot in the flue caught fire and made a "terrible roar"; the Fire Department was called and said all was okay, but the possibilities for serious damage were immense. The firemen gave a few suggestions: have your fireplace and chimney cleaned regularly (the last chimney-sweeping organized by the building was about four years ago); when you order wood, get dry wood and preferably

not pine which has a lot of pitch; keep a fire extinguisher nearby. No cooking in the fireplace.

Perhaps most important in the fire safety department is to check your smoke alarm. Did you remember the rule of thumb: check your smoke alarm when you set your clocks back/ahead in the fall/spring?? Your editor heard a very strange beeping sound that went on for a night and a day before realizing that it was the smoke alarm asking for a new battery. Don't wait that long.

PLAYGROUND WATCH

Another playground roundup is set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at the 93rd Street playground across from 336. Mark and Diane Maas (16CD), leaders of this ongoing cleanup effort, say that the Saturday morning gatherings have been very successful, and they are now pushing to get the neighborhood more involved. Call the Maases (222-5588) for more information; otherwise, start your new year by joining your neighbors in keeping the playground and adjoining area up to snuff.

NEWCOMERS

Matthew and Molly Bersani had "more or less" finished unpacking in their new apartment (5B) when they became parents of their first child, a son named Walter Cliff Bersani for his maternal grandfather. The baby, born on Dec. 4, will be called Cliff.

Kate and Amnon Bar-Tur and their daughter Sasha (Alexandra), 20 months old, have moved into apartment 16B. Amnon is chairman of Chroma Copy International, a group of photographic laboratories. Kate, who underwent surgery for peritonitis just before moving in (she is fine now) looks forward to enrolling at Columbia University as a graduate student in social work.

New residents of apartment 11E are Matthew Brady and Maureen Green (she says she kept her name "to confuse our next door neighbors"-- they live next to Walter and Rona Green in 11F). They are both lawyers, Matthew with Donovan Leisure specializing in taxes, she an associate with Graham & James where she is a litigator.

Welcome to all our new neighbors!

WANT AD

Housekeeper available: Patti Kaplan (apt. 7E) writes: Our wonderful reliable housekeeper, Janet, with our family for 10 years, seeks additional days or part days work in the neighborhood. Call Patti at 865-1469.

Please send news, notes, want ads, or suggestions for the January Newsletter to
the Editor,
Mary Gould, 16F