



Dennis 'Todopoderoso' Ubiles, left, and Juan 'Lefty' Gomez

A Team of Our Own

In early June hope springs eternal for every ball team, and the CP Wolfpack, where 336 CPW staffers are mainstays, is no exception. The team is feeling like a contender for the Big Apple Central Park League championships, having made it to the playoffs last season only to be eliminated in the first round.

Dennis 'Todopoderoso' Ubiles is the team manager—he also catches when his knees can take it. He's responsible for lineup, morale, enforcement, cajoling, criticizing and third-base coaching. Juan 'Lefty' Gomez is the team's ace pitcher, firing underarm bullets that on a good day can leave the opponents awestruck and open-mouthed. Juan pitched the Pack's only winning game

last Sunday; the other two proved that there is room for improvement. And there's time....it's only June.

Most Sundays this summer, weather permitting, the Pack will be playing down on one of the Heckscher ballfields just south of 65th Street in Central Park, sometimes as early as 10:00 a.m. The competition is fierce, some of the hits are massive, and the drama can get intense. There are some stalwart fans among 336 CPW residents and staff alike, and everybody should feel free to join them in the bleachers.

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Neighborhood Cinema

Movie buffs at 336 CPW were left in the lurch in January, when the Lincoln Plaza Cinemas on Broadway between 62nd and 63rd Streets unceremoniously closed. It was the only regular commercial venue for independent films on the Upper West Side. If you couldn't see what you wanted at the nearby Film Society of Lincoln Center, you basically had to stay home with Netflix or head down to the Village.

Now there is at least some hope. Devoted fans of Lincoln Plaza have formed a group called "New Plaza Cinema" to screen independent and first-run movies in our neighborhood. They are sponsoring a summer film series at the Marlene Meyerson JCC at Amsterdam and 76th Street. It kicks off on June 24 with a three-day run of "The Catcher was a Spy." No, it's not a J.D. Salinger parody, but rather a recounting of a true story about a baseball player, Moe Berg, who spied for the U.S. government during World War II, starring Paul Rudd.

The following week the group will screen four adaptations of Philip Roth works: "Indignation" (July 2 and 5); "Elegy" (July 3 and 5); "American Pastoral" (July 3); and "Goodbye, Columbus" (July 2).

It's a stopgap, but it could lead to greater things. "We're working to find a more permanent venue which will offer first-run and independent films," said Norma Levy, founder of the Coalition for a New Plaza Cinema. Milstein Properties, which owns the site of the closed cinema, says it is renovating the space and will eventually lease it to a new provider. The local group hopes that will be them or some like-minded entity that sees a market for more than superhero sequels on the Upper West Side.



CO-PRESIDENTS' POTPOURRI

Dear 336 CPW Friends and Neighbors,

Summer is almost upon us! After a very wet April and a May that seemed to waver in its commitment to springtime, we're seeing the payoff in our current lush greenery in the park and blooming flowers around us. And did you notice Trader Joe's finally opened? Surely that's a harbinger of change. Let's hope the weather plays it straighter in the coming weeks and that summertime gets under way on time.

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend the Annual Shareholders Meeting on May 7. It's always nice to see everyone and we do get such great participation. The meeting was an eventful one in that we had two new nominees running along with the members of the incumbent board for its 10 seats. Jesse Huot, a longtime resident of 336, was newly elected to the board. We welcome Jesse and look forward to serving with him. We thank Todd O'Donald for his service to the building. Todd always made thoughtful contributions on all matters that came before the board, and had great insight in particular into building issues. It was a pleasure working with him.

For those of you who missed the meeting, the board provided a summary of operations for the building in the past year and updated shareholders on Local Law 11 remediation and the window program. The board emphasized some simple measures shareholders can take to prevent leaks.

Among other things, the board has recommended and circulated a remedial program for legacy washing machines, meaning those that were grandfathered in before current building regulations calling for leak pans and shutoff valves took effect. During the meeting, one shareholder also put forward a great suggestion: If you have a legacy machine, and if you can remember, shut off the valve before going away for more than one night.

The board also emphasized the importance, for any renovation project, of using quality service providers who follow the building's alteration guidelines and--equally important--take on Sergio's guidance. Please reach out to Sergio, Orsid or a board member if you have any questions.

As we laid out at the shareholders' meeting, the window program has been a bit delayed, largely as a result of the immense work that went on in the wake of the big leak in the building in May 2017. We understand many shareholders have expressed an interest in participating in a bulk window purchasing program. It is on the board's list of "to do's" but for now, unfortunately, we do not yet have a sense of timing on when we can effect a bulk purchasing program.

Details of the plan are available, along with other important and relevant documents, on our website, 336cpw.org. As soon as we have more information, we will certainly share it and as necessary post it there.

So--there is lots to do. We look forward to another year. We welcome noteworthy items for publication in these newsletters. Please e-mail James Graff (jamesgraff1@gmail.com) or any of the board members with any news you would like to share with the 336 CPW community.

Cindy Michel (Apt. 12C) and Seth Segel (Apt. 9E)

Our Other Street



336 CPW has been an active member of the 94th Street Block Association for a number of years. Each apartment owner is encouraged to participate in a number of events throughout the year. The Block Association, to which we pay dues as a building, organizes plantings in the spring and cleanups in the fall, in conjunction with the students at Columbia Grammar and neighborhood homeowners.

Neighborhood issues include upkeep and maintenance of the street, in particular the landmarked red bricks in the middle of the block. The association looks after the block's trees and garbage removal, and fought the good fight back in 2013 to prevent the closure of Food City at 94th and Columbus. It also communicates with the City Housing Authority of New York on issues such as the two mobile boilers that have been parked on the street for months.

The block association coordinates with Columbia Prep regarding traffic flow and the annual street fair, keeps in touch with the NYPD's 24th Precinct, Community Board 7 and the office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

One key effort, spearheaded by 336 resident Mark Maas, is to get authorization for historic street lights on the block. The so-called Bishops Crook style lights would be a big improvement from the more conventional and less residential lighting now in place on the block. Mark has brought the cause to the Community Board. Gail Brewer's office and City Council Member Helen Rosenthal are key contacts for moving the project forward.

We enjoy two unique and picturesque streets, and only one of them is Central Park West. If you'd be interested in helping to push the lighting project forward or otherwise participating with the 94th Street Block Association, please let a member of the 336 Board know.

Gary Lincoff Corner?

Petitions were advanced at the last meeting of the Community Board 7 Transportation committee to bestow a new, supplemental name to the corner of Central Park West and 95th Street. Gary Lincoff, an impassioned citizen-scientist and mushroom expert who died earlier this year, used to depart from there on his guided tours of Central Park's fungal glories, and the New York Mycological Society thought a sign marking the corner would be a fitting tribute to a respected and generous mentor.

Some residents of the block didn't agree, however, arguing before the board that however noble and admirable Lincoff's work was, it seemed arbitrary to name the corner after someone who never lived there. "Frankly, it's never occurred to any of us to put a sign on the corner of the street with a name of somebody," the vice president of the 95th Street block association testified, according to the West Side Rag. Lincoff actually lived on 95th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam, so the board recommended that the mycophiles pursue giving his name to one of those corners instead—well away from the park's mushrooms that he studied and loved.

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A Notable Spring Party

A good crowd of residents gathered and lingered in the lobby on May 23 for the building's annual spring party. Aside from offering the simple pleasures of catching up with neighbors--to say nothing of Claudia Ochoa's legendary empanadas--the occasion also marked a special anniversary: last month Chip Scott completed 30 years of not just working at 336, but of taking special care of its residents, watching their children grow up, offering them smiles, quiet advice and constant discretion over the years.

Board member David Bither read the following speech and presented Chip with a signed and framed jersey of his favorite player on his favorite team: Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. Chip signaled very convincingly that he appreciated it, but no more than we appreciate his being a big part of what makes our building special over three decades!



Dear Chip,

On behalf of everyone at 336 Central Park West—owners, management, and staff alike—it gives us great pleasure to congratulate and thank you for thirty years of service to our community. Your father Scotty was a beloved member of the 336 staff for many years and your exemplary performance for three decades serves as a model for anyone who works here. There have been many instances over the years where the Board has received comments from residents praising you for your calm and wise service; we say often that the community of 336 is a special one and you exemplify everything that makes it so. It is with gratitude that we present you this token of our thanks and hope that we have the opportunity to do so again in another decade or two!

With warmest regards,

The Board of 336 Central Park West