

We sorrowfully announce the death of Coalition's founder, President and driving force, the unstoppable, Madeleine F. Polayes. Her indefatigable spirit worked to insure generations of West Siders a better and more livable neighborhood. Her death leaves us bereft. **Batya Lewton**



Tribute to Madeleine F. Polayes

As I prepared remarks for this tribute, it occurred to me that there was prescience and poetic justice in Madeleine's middle initial. Her middle initial - F - stood for so many of the qualities that made her life one of compassionate leadership - a life dedicated to making things better for the greatest number.

Thus her middle initial "F", foretells her character and the formidable footprint she has left in the sands of time.

"F", then, for fearless, forthright, feisty, forceful, fabulous.

"F", for free-thinking, forward looking, fun loving.

"F", for fair-minded, fact-finder, a force for good.

"F", for a facilitator, a fervid fomenter, a fiery founder, a free-thinker, a free spirit, and a faithful friend.

And finally, F for Frank - Frank was her maiden name. Frank she was born and Frank was her forte.

I'll conclude this alliterative allegory with a sigh of regret and with the wish, Madeleine, that flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Madeleine Frank Polayes - alas, there will never be another.

Farewell, dear friend. **Jan Levy**



Councilmember Gale A. Brewer

"I want Madeleine's family to know how deeply I value all that she did for our community in her 53 years of public service.

She spearheaded affordable housing, fought against overdevelopment and for safer pedestrian corridors. She was a tireless presence at thousands of meetings. She always spoke up and led the effort for sensible decision-making.

All West-Siders owe Madeleine a debt of thanks for founding the Coalition for a Livable West Side."



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal

The Upper West Side has a long tradition of helping to cultivate in people an innate sense of social justice and activism.

Madeleine Polayes embodied the true spirit of Upper West Side activism and made it what it is today. She dedicated her life to helping others.

In honor of Madeleine, let's vow today to work together with our neighbors and fellow Upper West Siders to preserve the character and charm that drew us to this neighborhood in the first place. We must make sure that this community remains a vibrant, economically diverse community for families to live in for years to come.

Countless New Yorkers, and our City, are the better for Madeleine's unstinting energy and inspiration. Both the Coalition and Madeleine Polayes will be recorded in the history books as guardians of the public welfare; her impact will be everlasting.

Stephen Whelan



Congressman Jerry Nadler

I met Madeleine Polayes with my first entry into West Side public life. I was 21 years old, a brash young kid, running for district leader on the Upper West Side, and there was Madeleine. Madeleine was always a fearless advocate for what she believed in. She stood by her principles for every project, in every issue that she got involved in. She was an unshakeable advocate for what she believed was best for our community, and she was a formidable opponent, as developers like Donald Trump learned to their detriment. She accomplished a tremendous amount for the Upper West Side—building the affordable housing developments of Stryckers' Bay and Turin House, stopping the Lincoln West overdevelopment, creating the Coalition for a Livable West Side, and strengthening the community and block association networks on the Upper West Side. Madeleine was truly a model of how a committed individual can make change. I hope we can all carry on her legacy of improving the quality of life for our neighbors and communities. I am proud to have called Madeleine my friend, proud to have worked and fought by her side on many issues over the years, and will miss her dearly.



Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer

Madeleine Polayes was part of the fabric of the Upper West Side until her death in February 2013.

Her legacy lives on through the community organizations and affordable housing developments she founded.

Madeline fought tirelessly to improve the lives of her neighbors on the West Side and every other neighborhood throughout her entire life.

No one spent more time and effort looking out for her neighbors than Madeleine did and the West Side will not be the same without her.

City Now Lets Construction Continue All Day and Night, Including Week-ends and Holidays

If the cacophony of construction noise is driving you crazy, you should know the following:

- The NYC Department of Buildings (DOB), in its infinite wisdom, now allows contractors to receive After-Hours Variance (AHV) so that they can *start work early in the morning and work late at night on weekends and holidays*.
- What is even more egregious, the DOB allows a contractor to "Self-Certify", ie. promise that all DOB regulations will be followed, when applying for an AHV.
- Compounding the distress, there is no construction coordination between the DOB and the Department of Transportation (DOT).
- Calls to 311 are routed to the DOB. Its response to complaints are either answered a few days later or at inappropriate times.

Don't let the
fox guard the
chicken house.

This is an ongoing problem for residents who live near construction sites that are underway or are planned, especially in a very small area - West 60th - West 62nd Street, Freedom Place South to Amsterdam Avenue [see development sites in this newsletter].

Both Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal and Councilmember Gale A. Brewer have written to DOB Commissioner LiMandri and DOT Commissioner Sadik-Khan demanding that **After-Hour Variances be given only for emergency and safety reasons**.

To-date, neither Commissioner has responded to them. From: <http://www.westsiderag.com/2013/02/28/oh-that-racket-city-lets->

A Jewish Home Life Nursing Home on W. 97th Street Would Be a Disaster for the Community

The new site would be a disaster because:

- Twenty stories is inappropriate for this or for any nursing home. No evacuation is possible; the plan is to "shelter in place," should a fire or other catastrophe occur. Unbelievably, **lobbyists succeeded in actually reducing the federal fire safety code governing nursing homes**. This is outrageous considering the problems of evacuating nursing homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
- West 97th St. is a busy thoroughfare connecting east side traffic through the transverse to the west side and the west side highway. The block from Columbus to Amsterdam Avenues has a narrowed street that is already congested every morning and afternoon. For Coalition's 2010 Traffic Study of W. 97th Street, send a SAE # 10 envelope to Lewton, 315 W. 86 St. 2B, NY, NY 10024
- Plans for this project show no adequate protection for either residents of the area or for the school children and teachers of PS 163, from inevitable construction accidents.
- Discovery of toxic levels of lead make it imperative that no construction take place so as to not disturb the lead embedded in the soil. What kind of city is this that would leave a generation of children vulnerable to brain injury and to permanent neurological problems so that developers can prosper?

Community Defeats DOE's Obscene Proposal to Demolish PS 199 (270 W. 70th St.) and MMS/PS 191 (210 W. 61st St.)

In Nov. 2012, the community was shocked by an ad placed in Crain's by the Department of Education's (DOE) Educational Construction Fund¹ that solicited proposals from developers to demolish PS 199 on West 70th Street and PS 191 on West 61st Street and build 50- 60 story luxury towers on their sites. The DOE said the schools would return to their sites after construction was completed.

The DOE did not count on an outraged and organized community. Because of community pressure and opposition by our elected officials, the DOE has stated that **neither MMS/PS 191 or P.S. 199 will be demolished**.

This victory is due not only to the community but also to the dedicated leadership of Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal and Councilmember Gale A. Brewer and their dynamic staffs: Lauren Schuster, Paul Sawyier, Shula Warren and Rosalba Rodriguez.

The community is grateful for the outstanding work of David Saphier, who created the [199demolition.com](http://www.199demolition.com) website to organize opposition against the DOE's plans and organized petition drives in Lincoln Towers and the wider community. Kudos to the Museum Magnet School /P.S. 191 Redevelopment Committee which was created and led by Susannah Blum and Stacie Lorraine who refused to allow their school to be torn down for the benefit of a **well-connected developer**. Thanks also to Laurie Frey, CEC representative for MMS/PS 191, Roberta Semer, the United Federation of Teachers, Amsterdam Houses and The Coalition for a Livable West Side,

1. The ECF was created in 1967 but has been **dormant for decades before recently being revived by the Bloomberg administration**. Bloomberg has been making a big push to build private developments on public land to raise money for the city; the city is also planning to offer public land to developers in the midst of housing projects. For more on NYCHA's plans go to <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/short-article-1.1256450>

Victory for the community: Jewish Home Life ordered to do an Environmental Impact Statement. Go to <http://www.nojhlatpww.com> for more information.

New Development on Upper West Side

The Collegiate School - West End Avenue Between 77th and 78th Street Two Development Issues

Issue 1:

The Collegiate School is planning to sell its buildings on West End Avenue between 77th and 78th street to the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church for \$97 million, and the church is likely to redevelop the site.

We have asked a land use expert about the zoning for the site, ie. density and height. We will keep you informed.

Issue 2:

Collegiate plans to move to a new larger site in Riverside South between West 61st and West 62nd Street and between Riverside Blvd. and Freedom Place South.

The Coalition believes that the site is K2 in the Riverside South Plan. K2 (260,670 sq. ft) is zoned for 241 units and 255 cars. Coalition believes that the Collegiate School will build an apartment tower that would house the new school.

227 West 77th Street Under construction

A 20-story, 181-unit rental building (the L-shaped Larstrand) is under construction on the SE corner of Broadway and 77th Street. Twenty percent of the units will be affordable, ie. subsidized under the 80/20 program.

The developers are putting in a 4,800-square-foot roof deck with an outdoor movie theater. Won't its neighbors just love it?

There will be 40,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor, as well as two lower levels. So far, **CVS has leased a 9,800 sq. ft. store.** Oh, goody another CVS!

Adjacent to The Larstrand, on West 78th Street, there is an historic two-story structure, being renovated, that adds to the project's retail space.

* There were no documents in the Building Departments database. We don't know the actual height of the building.

Old Lincoln Square Synagogue Site 200 Amsterdam Ave., Corner of W. 69th St. No Plans Filed Yet But...

There is a very strong possibility that a 60-70 story tower could be built on the site. We will keep you informed.

More than 1,000 new rental apartments are headed for Lincoln Square, the Upper West Side neighborhood between Central Park West and the Hudson River and 59th and 72nd streets.

21 West End Avenue

A **43-story, 616-unit rental** building on **West 61st Street** is being built by The Dermot Company. It is the first of the **five** buildings planned for the mega-project, Riverside Center (W. 59th St - West 61st St., West End Avenue to Riverside Boulevard) which will contain 2,500 apartments.

The building is set to open in **2015** and includes the mandated four-story public school. Dermot is responsible for building just the shell of the building and the School Construction Authority will build the school.

160 West 62nd Street Under Construction

Glenwood Management has begun construction on its **54-story, 339 unit rental tower** across the street from Damrosch Park.

175 West 60th Street Planned

Glenwood Management will begin construction on a **48-story, 257-unit rental tower** later this year.

Fordham University Law School and Dormitory Would Front West 62nd Street, Between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenue Under Construction

The **22-story building** will house the Law School on the lower nine floors plus **430 undergraduate students** in the rest of the 468,000 square foot building.

170 Amsterdam Avenue West 67th - West 68th Street Under Construction

Equity Residential is building a **20-story, 250 unit rental building.**

15 and 17 West 96th Street Planned

Sackman Enterprises plans to demolish two Upper West Side townhouses - 15 and 17 W. 96th Street - to be replaced by a 13-story building. A demolition permit is pending.

Given Sackman's appalling illegal actions in the demolition of 732 and 734 West End Ave., we strongly urge residents at 7 W. 96th Street and 27 W. 96th Street to remain alert.

Call 311 and Community Board 7 (212-362-4008) if there are problems.

Quality of Life Issues



Update

W. 68th Street Ramp in Riverside Park South

It is disgraceful that people with mobility problems *still have no access to the beautiful Riverside South Park.*

On **April 13, 2012**, Coalitions's consultant, Jimmy Zuehl, Architectural Specialist, (United Spinal Association) inspected the W. 68th Street 400 foot ramp in Riverside Park South. He did a follow-up inspection on **May 23, 2013**. The ramp not only does not meet ADA standards, it is even more dangerous.

Coalition needs the original plans for the 68th St. ramp in order for its consultant to be able to design an accessible ramp. We have been trying to obtain them since *June 1, 2012* .

For Jimmy Zuehl's report go to www.livablenewyork.org (West 68th Street Ramp). For a paper copy send a #10 Self Addressed Envelope (SAE) to Lewton, 315 W. 86 St. (2B), NY, NY 10024.

We are determined to make River Park South accessible to ALL!

DOT Plans Changes at Intersection of W. 86th St and CPW

DOT's plan calls for adding a second eastbound through-lane, creating north and south left-turn lanes, and formalizing the westbound right-turn lane. It moves turning vehicles out of the way of through vehicles.

No Parking spaces will be removed . Proposed implementation, Spring 2014.



Life-Saving Changes Needed on W. 79th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

Residents are asking the Department of Transportation (DOT) to urgently make changes to the intersection of W. 79th St. and Amsterdam Ave., which they say is frequently the site of close calls between pedestrians and cars.

The issue: Turning, speeding drivers make it dangerous to cross the intersection, especially because cars on West 79th Street *have a green left-turn arrow onto Amsterdam that conflicts with crossing pedestrians.*

Changes Needed: Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal recently requested *a red arrow on the traffic light*, to create a window in which drivers on 79th Street are not allowed to turn onto Amsterdam Avenue. The lack of a red arrow currently allows vehicles to continue to turn, even after, the green turning signal shuts off. Pedestrians need a *walk signal that begins before cars are allowed to turn.*

Community Board 7's transportation committee has sent a letter to the DOT in support of changes to the intersection. A DOT representative said the DOT is open to making such changes to the intersection.

From: <http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20130613/upper-west-side/residents-demand-changes-dangerous-uws-intersection>

Protect Pedestrians From Speeding Vehicles

The Coalition urgently requests that the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) include the entire Upper West Side (UWS) in DOT's Neighborhood Slow Speed Zone, in which traffic is reduced to 20 miles per hour.

Unfortunately, DOT reached an erroneous conclusion when it decided that the UWS was *ineligible* for inclusion because the UWS did not perfectly fit its criteria for the program.

Our consultant, Amy Pfeiffer not only refutes DOT's conclusion in her analysis but offers substantial remedies. (Send a SAE #10 envelope to Lewton, 315 W. 86 St. (2B) , NY, NY 10024 if you wish a copy.)

We should be deemed *eligible* because:

- the UWS has a high concentration of young children, seniors, and schools. Seniors make up 13% of it population and account for 39% of pedestrian fatalities.
- the risk of pedestrian death in crashes rises from 5% at 20 mph to 45% at 30 mph and 85% at 40 mph¹.
- the UWS truck routes, together with tour buses and longer-distance trucks, make UWS traffic very dangerous.

Please help make the UWS into a district-wide 20 MPH speed limit zone.

Write to: Hon. Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner , NYC DOT, 55 Water St, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10041 or email her at jsadikkhan@dot.nyc.gov.

Sample message: To save lives, the entire Upper West Side must become part of DOT's Neighborhood Slow zone

Send cc: to Hon. Margaret Forgione, Man. Boro Commissioner, NYCDOT, 59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor, New York, NY 10038 or to mforgione@dot.nyc.gov

Please send a copy to CLW, PO Box 230078, NY, NY 10023 or livablenewyork@erols.com.

1. Speed Kills: The Complex Links Between Transport and Urban Health <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2845829/>

Community Board 7 Votes to Remove Newsrack Eyesores

Are you fed up with the dirty, vandalized and usually garbage-filled newsrack boxes, clustered at corners? Are you disgusted



with the Department of Transportation's (DOT) lack of enforcement of its 2002 Newsrack Law?

So is Community Board 7, which has called on DOT to immediately remove any newsrack that is in disrepair or disuse and to consider switching to Multiracks.

A Multirack is an elevated stand that can hold four or five publications at a time, and is maintained and supplied by one company. The spokesperson for DOT said the CB7 proposal is being reviewed.

Photo from DNAinfo.com - 6/6/13

Residents Sue Lincoln Center and City Over Damrosch Park Mis-use Time to Reclaim Damrosch Park for the Public

The watchdog group NYC Park Advocates announced that area residents have filed a lawsuit against Lincoln Center and the city in an effort to halt the transfer of Damrosch Park for commercial use and restore this *municipally-owned park* on W. 62nd St. for *public use*.

The 2.4-acre plot, between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, became off-limits to the general public in 2010 when New York Fashion Week erected tents on the grounds during its September and February shows. Fashion Week was held from 1994 in Bryant Park until 2006, when the Bryant Park Corporation stated that it would no longer allow the shows "because they were interfering with plans to operate a skating rink in the winter and *public use of the main lawn in the late summer*."

Imagine that, a Public Entity rejecting revenue so that the public has full use of public space.

"All of these private, commercial uses of Damrosch Park for non-park purposes constitute an unauthorized alienation of public parkland in violation of the Public Trust Doctrine and may not lawfully continue in the absence of state legislative approval," the group said in its lawsuit release. Source: RealDeal.com 5/21/13 and the New York Times, 2006.

Look Out, You May Be in a New UWS Hurricane Evacuation Zone!

"The city has just updated its hurricane evacuation zones, and they now cover quite a bit more area than the old zones.

"Upper West Siders who live near the Hudson River are covered in evacuation zones, and in the event of a big storm could be forced to leave their homes. We have included an interactive evacuation map below. Among the new areas covered are the streets west of Amsterdam Avenue in the low 60's and the area west of Riverside Drive above 96th street (It's not clear if the apartments on Riverside Drive itself are included, but in the event of a hurricane you could type your address into a map and find out if the evacuation order covers you.)

"Previously the only evacuation zone in the neighborhood was the area around the Trump development just off of the Hudson River from 59th to 72nd streets.

"The increased number of zones will provide the City with more flexibility in targeting areas to evacuate in advance of a predicted storm. Now nearly 3 million New Yorkers are part of an evacuation zone."

Check out the map at <http://maps.nyc.gov/hurricane/> . Enter your address to find out if you are in an evacuation zone. From: <http://www.westsiderag.com/2013/06/20/look-out-you-may-be-in-the-new-uws-hurricane-evacuation-zone>

Name _____ Address _____ Apt. ____ City/State _____ Zip Code _____

I wish to support the Coalition for a Livable West Side's efforts on behalf of the community.

Annual Dues (Please check one) : \$25 [] New Member [] Renew - Year 2013 Dues [] Prepay 2014 Dues []

My contribution is: [] \$500 [] \$250 [] \$200 [] \$100 [] \$75 [] \$50 [] \$25 [] other _____

Please make checks payable to: CALW, Inc.. **Write Challenge Grant in lower left-hand corner of check.**

Mail to: CLW, Inc., P.O. Box 230078, New York, N.Y. 10023. Contributions are tax deductible [section 501c3]

Even if you believe we have your email address, please send it again to livablenewyork@erols.com . We had a minor problem in transferring addresses to our new computer. We send out frequent updates via e-mail. If you are interested, send your e-mail address to us. We never give any person or organization your email address. All e-mails are sent as blind copy.

Albany Rally Against Fracking

More than 3,000 New Yorkers rallied in Albany on June 17, 2013, asking Gov. Cuomo and the state legislature to reject fracking and lead the nation in renewable energy.

The Assembly passed a two-year moratorium on fracking and many, including Gov. Cuomo, have noted it would pass the Senate *if allowed to come to the floor for a vote*.

Fracking has brought accidents, contamination and devastating health effects. The science is clear: fracking poses a serious threat to our health, our air and the water we drink. [See reports on www.livablenewyork.org]

While Gov. Cuomo has been weighing whether or not to allow fracking, the oil and gas industry and their supporters have poured millions of dollars into New York to lobby and influence elected officials and saturate the state with pro-fracking propaganda. Fracking opponents are determined to prove that New Yorkers aren't buying the oil and gas industry's propaganda.

Independent observers have noted that the gas industry cannot be trusted when it describes fracking as safe. A recent investigation by the Times Tribune in Pennsylvania revealed many cases of water contamination from fracking.

Stanford University Professor Mark Jacobson, is the lead author of a peer-reviewed plan which shows how New York State could reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2030. The plan describes how converting to wind, water and sunlight could create a sustainable, reliable energy supply that creates local jobs, saves the state billions of dollars in pollution-related costs and reduces health impacts and climate damage.

"Fracking is not just a political issue," said Reverend Bill Levering of the New York State Council of Churches. "It's also a moral issue. It's about protecting the common good from greed. And that is why the New York State Council of Churches opposes fracking." Source: EcoWatch.com

Please sign the petition to President Obama asking him to enact an immediate fracking moratorium. <http://ecowatch.com/2013/obama-fracking-moratorium/>

Real Images of a Fracking Site In-progress

Google image search the word "fracking" and you are more likely to see a generic drill rig than an actual hydraulic fracture job underway.

Between incorrectly labeled pictures of drill rigs and a wide variety of diagrams, you have to sift through dozens of pictures before you actually find an image of an actual frack.

Go to: ecowatch.com/2012/fracking-flyover/ for a detailed breakdown of what a frack job in-progress looks like. It will blow your mind!!!

Disastrous News EPA Pushes Back Fracking Impact Study to 2016

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving back its timeline for release of its study *on the impact of hydraulic fracturing from 2014 to 2016*.

The study, aimed at assessing the threats fracking poses to groundwater supplies and air quality, began *in 2010* under the direction of Congress. The intent was to create a *thorough assessment of the drilling method so states could make informed decisions on whether to ban fracking or regulate the industry*.

With the study's release still years away, some observers question whether it will mean much at all, as the industry is likely to continue its takeover of the issue. A release date of 2016 could be too little, too late. Full report at <http://ecowatch.com/2013/epa-pushes-back-fracking-impact-study-2016/>



Even if you believe we have your email address, please send it again to livablenewyork@erols.com . A minor problem occurred while transferring addresses to our new computer.

Coalition for a Livable West Side
PO Box 230078
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***Maximize Your
Contribution
via our Challenge Grant***