



# The Chat

## The Year in Review

Co-op Boards usually have one big task to accomplish each year. We had four to accomplish in a few months.

We had the Local Law 11 work, the repair of the front steps, the resurfacing of part of the roof and the construction of the roof deck. All of these projects were done between May and August. Without a doubt, the Board's biggest challenge this year was managing the Local Law 11 work. We learned a great deal about flashing, parapets, pointing, chimneys and scaffolding. It seemed that every time we took a breath after making a decision we were faced with another. I think that I can speak for the entire

board when I say that we were all thankful the day the scaffolding was carted away and the work was finally done.

The Local Law 11 work benefited us in many ways that none of us will ever notice. Those things that were repaired will continue to keep the rain out of the building and prevent bits of the building from plunging to the street for many years to come. It was also extensive enough so that next time our Local Law 11 repairs need to be done they should be minimal.

One big benefit we reaped from the Local Law 11 work was the repair to our front steps. The steps seemed to have been suffering from a curse.

They fell apart every couple of years for no apparent reason. The strongest material (Granite) was used to rebuild the steps but it still cracked and buckled.

Our contractor discovered that the steps weren't cursed after all. They were built on top of a rather chaotic land fill that shifted easily and compromised the stability of the steps. That land fill extended down over six feet.

The contractor excavated the fill and replaced it with poured concrete. Now our front steps should out live each and every one of us.

Our second biggest challenge was the construction of the roof deck. Not only did we need to contract for the deck to be built, but we



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## The Hidden Jewel on 107<sup>th</sup> Street

The corner of Riverside Drive and 107<sup>th</sup> Street is dominated by the imposing Schinasi Mansion. It obscures all the other buildings in the area. But don't be so dazzled by the marble façade and the French Renaissance ornamentation of the mansion that you miss the real jewel on 107<sup>th</sup> Street just one door away.

brownstone that houses the [Nickolas Roerich Museum](#) (319 West 107th St.) belies the stunning surprises to be found inside.

Each room of the museum explodes with Roerich's vibrant art and the collections of exotic antiquities he acquired during his extensive travels.

1947) was a Russian philosopher, traveler, author, archeologist, painter and public figure. Trained as a lawyer and a fine artist, Roerich's various careers were diverse. In addition to his prolific and successful career as an artist he was the secretary of the Emperor's Art Encouragement Society, he edited periodicals on

Like a geode, the plain and unassuming

Nicholas Roerich (October 9, 1874 – December 13,

*Continues page 3*



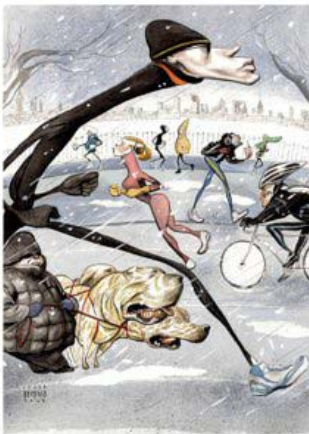
## NEW FACES



Illustrator and graphic artist Steve Brodner ([stevebrodner.com](http://stevebrodner.com)) recently moved into apartment 307 with his dog Sassy. The Chat sat down with Steve.

*Question: What attracted you to the building and neighborhood?*

The neighborhood is one of the most exciting and vibrant in the world. I love the city and this is a great place to be -- near everything. The building is mostly near my friends, but is also a quick jump to SVA and FIT where I teach, The New Yorker, Channel 13, Sundance channel, and Harper Collins, where I do projects these days.



A scene at the Reservoir track at about 92 St. a couple of months ago, published in The New Yorker

*Question: What is your occupation? How did you decide on your career?*

I am an graphic artist for print and now, the Web and TV. It kind of chose me. I started as a political cartoonist on a newspaper in the 70's. From there I established a freelance career making funny, sometimes not so funny pictures, usually of politicians for publications.

*Question: When you're not illustrating, what do you do for fun?*

I like museums, galleries, books, newspapers, magazines (okay work related), and walking with Sassy The Dog in Riverside Park.

*Question: Favorite Books? Sports teams? Movies? Activities? Vacations? Trips?*

Right now I'm reading about the US Constitution -- *The Invisible Constitution* by Lawrence Tribe, *America's Constitution* by Akhil Reed Amar and, *The Godless Constitution* by Kramnick and Moore. I'm a big Yankee fan (but that doesn't mean I hate other teams, okay? I am sincerely pulling for the Mets -- I need an interesting team to watch when the Yankees aren't on). I try to see all kinds of films, plays, opera, dance, and concerts. Last summer my girlfriend Cynthia and I toured Europe (here's the blog entry from that trip -- <http://stevebrodner.com/2009/09/> ).

*Question: Tell us about Sassy – Where did you get her? How's is she adjusting to the new place?*

Sassy is a rescue. She was picked up in 1997, in my old neighborhood, Washington Heights,

coming off the Henry Hudson Parkway, dirty, starving and crazy. Today I can report she is clean and extremely well fed. I have been working on the crazy part and have made good progress but have come to terms with what's there. I try to explain her hyper behavior to folks in the park. I basically accept and love her. Maybe it's a case of Stockholm Syndrome! She's a sweetie, but has fear/anxiety/whatever issues still. She also has age-related things wrong with her, but I found a good vet on Amsterdam and she's doing very well.

*Question: Anything else you'd like to add?* 214 is a wonderful place to be. Everyone has been kind in helping me settle in -- especially the folks on my floor. I feel immediately connected and part of the community. I am extremely grateful to everyone. And look forward to seeing you all on the roof deck and around the campus this summer.

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## The Year in Review, cont'd from pg1

needed to resurface the part of the roof occupied by the deck. We wanted the deck to be completed before July 4<sup>th</sup> so we had to coordinate the roof resurfacing and the deck construction in a way that wouldn't interfere with the Local Law 11 work. None of this was easy.

We did it and the result was one of the best 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties in the building's history. It seemed as if the entire City was celebrating the return of our roof deck.

In addition to the marathon construction work we managed at the beginning of our term, we've accomplished other less spectacular things. We have also had hard decisions to make.

One of our most important duties as the Board of

Directors is to insure that the building remains fiscally secure. During the real estate boom the Board had the luxury of offsetting rising costs with flip tax money. We no longer have that luxury and costs are still rising. We made the tough, but unavoidable, choice to raise maintenance. We are lucky that we have the financial talent we have on the board who helped us realize a modest maintenance increase while still enjoying fiscal integrity in the building.

In addition we've continued to generate these newsletters and insured that you get them in your inbox rather than under your door. We've been in negotiations with Verizon to get Fios into the building (a great relief for those of us who are sick of pixilated TV). We

replaced the old, ugly, guard desk with a new one. And, of course, we've reviewed mountains of paperwork and conducted countless interviews of prospective residents.

There are still things to be done. We are working on contracting for the repair of the fence and the fence foundation on the north side of the building and arranging for the replacement of the ewes that perished under the scaffolding.

And, finally, we have enjoyed one perk. Our meetings are generally hosted by Teresa who insures that we are comfortable and well fed. Thanks Teresa. Your hospitality has made a difficult job just a little easier.

-Judy Judd

## The Hidden Jewel on 107<sup>th</sup> Street, cont'd from pg1

archeological expeditions into remote areas of Asia and he initiated and authored the "Roerich Pact", a international treaty that protects and preserves artistic sites, institutions and artifacts in times of war and peace.

The Nicholas Roerich Museum boasts a vast collection of Roerich's paintings spanning his entire career. The collection is as diverse and fascinating as the man himself. There are early works from his school days, works from his theatrical career including preliminary set

designs for the historic (and notorious) premiere performance of Stravinsky's *Le sacre du printemps (the Rite of Spring)* and many paintings from and inspired by his travels to exotic places and his submersion in their respective cultures.

Roerich's motto was "Peace through Culture" and the museum lives up to that saying. In addition to displaying the Roerich collection, the museum has been hosting poetry readings and classical concerts almost every week (Sundays and

Wednesdays) since 1958. These events are free to the public but donations are encouraged and well deserved.

The museum is open from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Sunday. If you have a free Saturday or Sunday afternoon it's well worth the short stroll up Riverside Drive to 107<sup>th</sup> Street to visit this jewel of a museum.

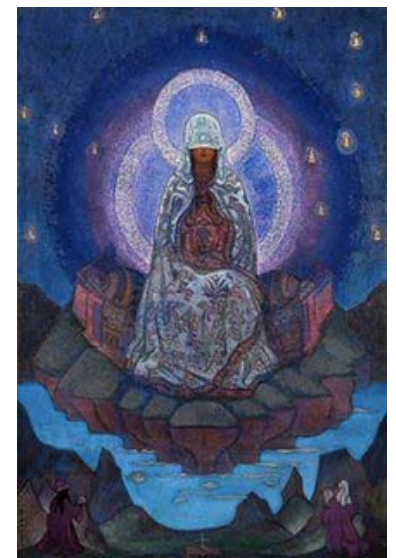
To learn more about the Roerich Museum visit <http://www.roerich.org>

-Judy Judd




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*It seemed as if the entire city was celebrating the return of our roof deck.*




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*"Mother of the World"*  
--Nicholas Roerich



**NEW FACES, cont'd from pg 2**



Susan Schor, #705, is a shining example of an accomplished woman. She is a prolific writer, tenured professor at Pace University, past administrator of a campus child care facility, loving mother and grandmother to Joanna and Rachel, and, in her current position, Chief Culture Officer at EILEEN FISHER. She is tasked with keeping her company on track with the important values EILEEN FISHER espouses – individual growth and well-being, collaboration and teamwork, in an environment that promotes inclusiveness, infuses possibility and positive energy, and fosters authenticity and the spirit of play.

How many people can really say that going to work every day is a creative and powerfully engaging experience? Susan can.

So how did she end up in such an interesting job? Susan got her PhD in

organizational behavior at UMass, specializing in career building relationships, particularly gender differences between men and women’s career building relationships. To quote Susan, “Women have a lot of career building relationships; men hardly have any.” Her background and experiences were recognized by EILEEN FISHER who knew her organization could benefit from someone with Susan’s talents and sensitivities.

Although she lived on the upper west side as a young child and grew up in Westchester, much of Susan’s adult life was spent in New England, specifically in the southwest part of New Hampshire. She moved to 214 Riverside about six months ago, having fallen in love with the neighborhood and our building. So far everything about living at 214 Riverside has been positive – the warmth of

the people, the charm and Beaux Arts architecture of the building, the accessibility to Joan of Arc and Riverside Parks, the textured brick walls of her apartment as well as the river view. She particularly enjoys the “dog-friendly” nature of the building and, Gussie, a Bichon Frise, is a frequent guest. When Susan is in the city she enjoys theater, 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y lectures, and movies – just about everything the city has to offer.

When she is not in New York, Susan can be found at her summer house on St. George peninsula, Maine. About 2 hours north of Portland, she spends as much time there as she can, particularly during the summer. The politically-sensitive area is a favorite of artists, writers, naturalists, water fowl and the Chief Culture Officer of EILEEN FISHER.

- Cynthia Bailey

***Desperately Seeking Gardeners!***

Are your thumbs green?  
Is dirt your thing?

Does the site of earthworms or potato bugs NOT make you run for the hills?

If you have a knack for growing things, or are willing to lend a hand and learn, please contact Lisa Gorelli ASAP so we can add a little flower power to the exterior of our grand building.





## Two-Tone Thomas The Eyebrow Talker

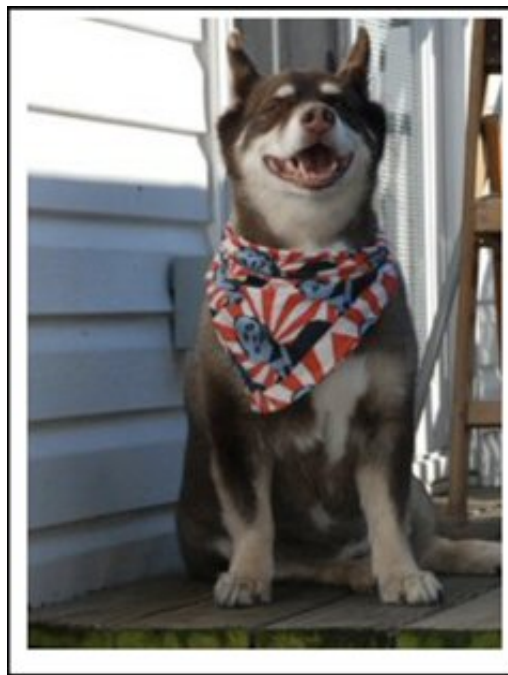
Thomas Brown of the famed Brooklyn Browns is just right. He's tall enough to be walked with the bigger dogs and little enough to be non-threatening to the smaller dogs. Yet, he's a bit of a mystery. Is he part Husky and part Corgi? Is he a Lancashire Heeler? Is he really 11 years old?

We may never know. What we do know is that he was adopted by Brooklynite Teresa Cicala on July 23, 2004 from BARC (Brooklyn Animal Resource Center). He was left outside of the no-kill shelter with no information. But, that doesn't stop people from asking.

Just about every day Teresa gets the breed question because Thomas is so unusual looking. He looks like a big dog cut off at the knees. That doesn't seem to bother Thomas at all. He either loves you or he's totally indifferent -- there's no in between. His expressive unique beige eye brows tell the whole story. Thomas, is no tail talker.

The brown dog loves carrots (they are often his treat), kissing, belly

rub, being outside, and riding in a vehicle. Don't keep your car door open around Thomas or you might get an unexpected passenger along for the ride.



He's been known to jump into taxis and attempt to board buses. Also, beware of your shopping bag in the elevator. He once scored a bagel by sticking his head inside and is determined to repeat that success.

You won't necessarily find Mr. Brown at the dog run because he's normally on perimeter patrol

engaging in his favorite pastime -- sniffing. His playtime is likely to come in short two to three-minute bursts. Brown (also Teresa's dad's nickname) has a whole big pack of

In his youth when he wasn't neutered, he would either fight or hump other dogs and Teresa came close to giving up, but the dog walker and trainer worked with him and he's become a good friend. He even does imitations of a pit bull, a cocker spaniel, and a ballerina.

Although, some people think he's part fox because every spring he gets a clean shave and only his tail remains fuzzy. Whatever breed Two-Tone-Thomas (Lewis' name) is, he makes a mighty cuddly neighbor.

- Lori Greene




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*Just what is Thomas?  
Husky? Corgi?  
Lancashire Heeler? Fox?  
We may never know.*

# Brag Board



## TERESA CICALA

Is directing the Off-Broadway production of My Big Gay Italian Wedding. Previews start May 5<sup>th</sup>. Go to Telecharge for tickets, or <http://biggayitalianwedding.com/> for more info!



## MELANIE REIM

never dreamed that, when she drew the runway at the FIT Fashion Show that she would see this drawing on Fashion Ave!

FIT asked her if they could use the drawing for the invite for this year's fashion show and look what happened! At first, she was not sure that she liked the knock-out, but when she saw the banner, she decided that she could live with it.

"Draw what you love and good things will come!"

<http://www.sketchbookseduction.blogspot.com/>

## PETER GUTTMAN

Beautiful Planet HD, the number one Travel iPad application since the device's launch, is a groundbreaking app that captures the breathtaking beauty of our world and its cultures. [Wired.com](http://www.wired.com) named Beautiful Planet a Top 10 iPad App they were most excited about and the app is an Apple Staff Favorite.

Featuring a collection of galleries three decades in the making by travel photographer, author and explorer, Peter Guttman, Beautiful Planet spans seven continents and 160 countries. All at once a savvy encyclopedia of the world, a striking art gallery, an evocative poetry selection and an inspiring travel planner, Beautiful Planet is a lovingly curated, incisively written and joyous portrait of the planet -- a rich resource of knowledge about the wonders of the world around us. -- You can check it out here. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/beautiful-planet-hd-for-ipad/id363660568?mt=8#>

## Summer Recipe Corner

### Grilled Lime Chicken and Avocado Salad

*This is a wonderful summer salad.*

1/2 Cup Olive Oil  
Juice of 4 limes  
2 Tbsp finely minced shallots  
1 tbsp finely minced garlic  
2 tsp sugar  
salt and pepper

Fresh Thyme (about 2 tsp fresh time leaves)  
Chopped pickled jalapeño peppers (to taste)  
1 tsp Paprika  
1 chicken breast  
1 avocado  
1 medium ripe tomato  
Lettuce Leaves for garnish

Mix the oil, juice, shallots, garlic, sugar, salt pepper and thyme in a large bowl. Remove about 3 tbsps of the mixture and set aside. Add the peppers and paprika to the bowl and stir.

Marinate the chicken breast in the bowl for several hours.

Peel and pit the avocado. Cut the meat of the avocado into 1 inch pieces. Dice the tomato and toss the avocado and tomato in the reserved dressing.

Grill the chicken. Slice it when done (or you can pound it and slice it before you marinate it. It's up to you).

Arrange the lettuce into a bowl. Add the avocado mixture and top with the sliced, grilled chicken.



### Reminder: WEB PASSWORDS:

The Green Committee:  
214treehugger

The Garden Committee:  
planting94