

Welcome

3B Jennifer Hessel Jennifer is Vice President, Retail Operations, for Kiehl's skin care products.

4F Sarah Levine and Barrett Hall Sarah is a production coordinator with RKProductions in New York and Barrett is a designer with Scharff Weisberg.

9A Mark Robbins and Brett Seamans Mark is the Executive Director of the International Center of Photography in New York and Brett is a landscape designer for Matthews Nielson Landscape Architects.

Roof Garden

Despite the ravages of Hurricane Sandy, our roof top plantings look better than ever. For those of you who venture up there regularly, you have a chance to see the handiwork of our intrepid garden club members who regularly weed, prune, massage and fertilize our roof-top aerie. While enjoying the views, please remember to be considerate to those 201 residents below the terrace by keeping your voices low, and of course NOT SMOKING.

New Boilers

We are inching closer to completion of the replacement boiler program. NYC has continued with their battery of inspections to make sure everything is just so, including such details as which way the boiler room door swings, in or out. (Answer, it must swing out.) Once they are 100% satisfied they will give the nod for ConEd to supply gas to the boilers, making it possible for us to burn clean-burning natural gas. We hope that this capability will allow us to save substantially on our cost to heat the building by switching from gas to oil or vice versa depending on which is less expensive.

Please Recycle

Stack all your recyclables NEATLY on the floor below the compactor chute. Make sure that materials do not block stairs or access to the halls. Virtually everything is recyclable these days so please continue to do your part. Our superintendent Cristian Covaci reports record volumes of materials being recycled by our shareholders and residents, so we are making a difference. Congratulations.

2013 Annual Shareholder Meeting

The 28th Annual Meeting of shareholders was held on June 10th at the First Presbyterian Church at Fifth Avenue and 12th Street. As opposed to 2012, we did not achieve a quorum at the meeting. In that case the meeting becomes informational in nature rather than a business meeting. The Board of Directors continues in their present positions.

Charles Sullivan 12B President, Co-Treasurer

Ed Lewis 17E Vice President, Co-Treasurer

Barbara Brazong 3C Secretary

Rob Innes 18C Vice President

Jeff Billark 19A Vice President

Frederick Rossetter 17A Vice President

Clara Diaz Sponsor Representative

Those present heard from Amy Schwartz of our certified public accounting firm on the state of the cooperative finances (good) and of the usual challenges that cooperatives all around the city have in balancing the needs of their buildings while taking every step possible to keep maintenance charges reasonable. Mary Frances Shaughnessy, Principal of Tudor Realty Services, talked about NYC's unique ability to raise RE taxes and the pending phase out of tax abatements for shareholders who do not claim 201 as their permanent residence. Jeff Reich, our corporate attorney with the firm Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman and Herz, spoke briefly on the subject of updating the 201 Proprietary Lease.

They Lived Here?

This article is the second in a series highlighting the famous and maybe the infamous of past residents at 201 West 16th Street, all carefully and intriguingly researched by Board Member Rob Innes.

David Dubinsky was the longtime resident of our penthouse, and his story is certainly worth re-telling in a bit more detail. Dubinsky was born in Russia in 1892 and spent his pre-teen years working in his father's bakery at night and attending a prestigious Hebrew school during the day where he became fluent in three languages. By age 15 he grew disenchanted with the working conditions then prevalent in the baking industry and he became heavily involved in the Jewish Socialism movement in Russia at the time. Because of his education and intelligence, he rose quickly in the movement and began to organize work stoppages at bakeries throughout Russia. This led to his eventual arrest and sentencing to, where else, Siberia, at the age 19. He escaped from Siberia simply by walking out of the detention camp in which he was being held and immigrating to the United States in 1911. Once in New York, he entered the garment business and again became involved in labor organizing as a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), a union that was in a bit of disarray at the time. One of the biggest issues facing the American labor movement during the teens and twenties was whether to embrace the Communist revolution sweeping Russia or adopt a collective bargaining philosophy of labor and management agreements that was more compatible with American Capitalism. The ILGWU was divided on this issue when Dubinsky joined, limiting the organization's power. Dubinsky with his ties to Russia saw the negative impacts of Communism on his family members there and began to believe strongly in the collective bargaining approach. He spoke vigorously all over New York on his beliefs. By the late 1920s, American organized labor as a whole began to unite behind collective bargaining and Dubinsky's vision was seen by many as having saved the movement from making a terrible mistake in embracing Communism. By 1932 the ILGWU awarded him the Presidency of the union, a position he would hold until 1966. For many of those years he was considered the most powerful labor leader in the country and was often called before Congress to testify on labor issues. Much of his testimony begins by him stating his name to Congress as "David Dubinsky residing at 201 West 16th Street, New York."