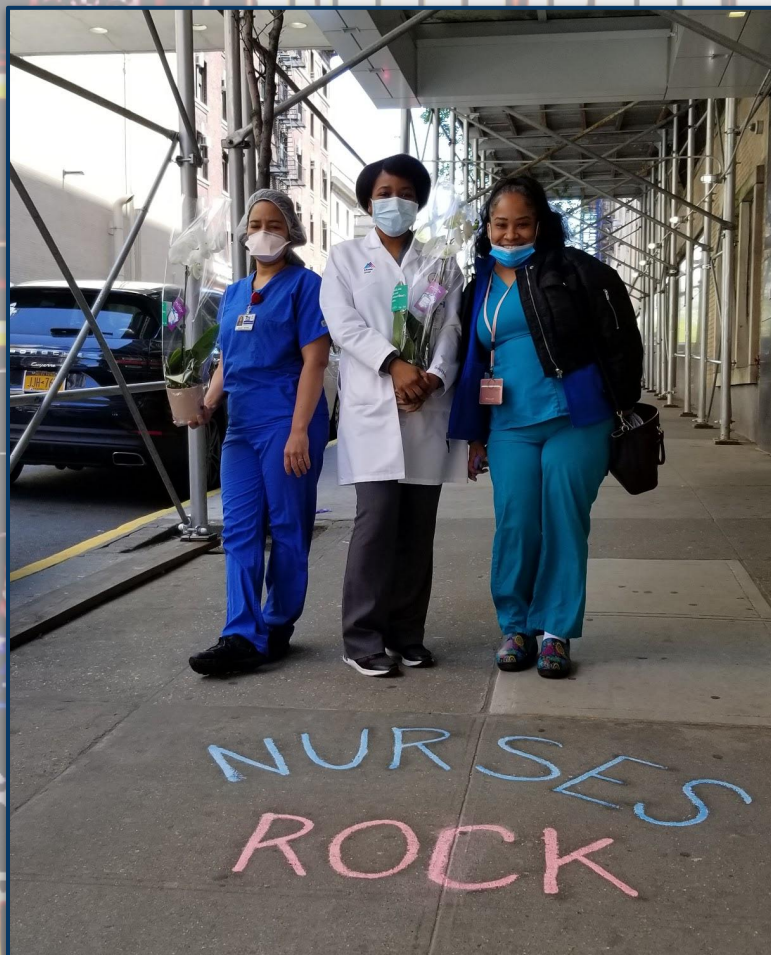


THE *Morningsider*

Inaugural Issue

June 2020

Welcome Home



If we have learned anything over the past several months, it's the fact that community bonds are essential to resilience.

Our new monthly newsletter aims to strengthen these bonds.

THE *Morningsider*

We're glad you're checking us out.

We are the [Morningside Heights Community Coalition](#), a group of long-time residents committed to preserving the good and addressing the challenges in our neighborhood. **We are advocates for our shared home.** Regardless of how long you've been in Morningside Heights, welcome to our newsletter.

Through *The Morningsider*, we'll share timely and engaging content about our unique corner of New York. Please click through a few pages and [let us know](#) what you think.

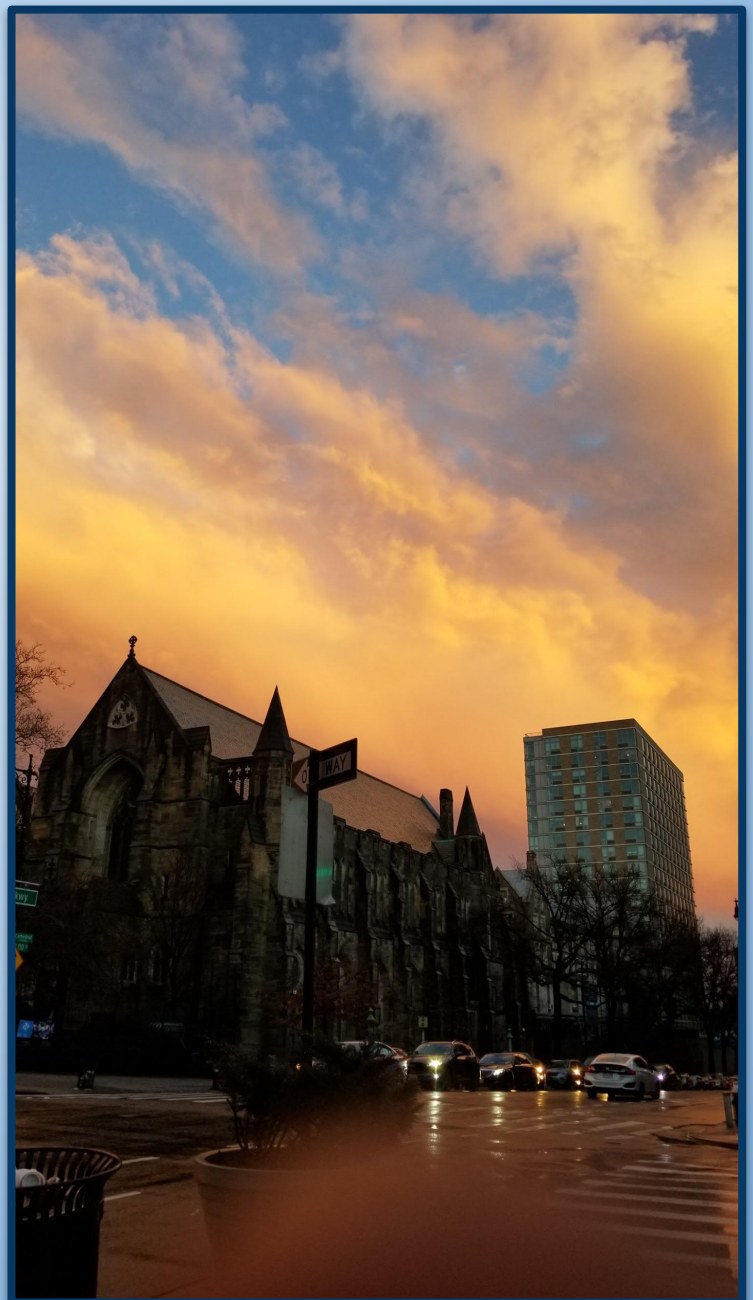
In return, we'll offer you assessments on local issues and suggest ways we can work together to fix local problems. It's all about people, and Morningside Heights has no shortage of talented and committed community members.

Thanks for engaging. Stay safe as we collectively work toward a better society for all.

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In Solidarity

Black Lives Matter

MHCC is horrified by the murder of George Floyd and the repeated instances of violence against Black people. We stand in solidarity with protest movements in our city and throughout the world.

We condemn the systemic racism that pervades our community and our country, as reflected in our schools, housing, health care and criminal justice system.

While our work seeks to protect the vanishing diversity that has enriched our neighborhood, we all must do more to address the underlying issues in our community and beyond.

We encourage you to donate to some of the organizations linked below that are involved in the struggle.

[Brotherhood-Sister Sol](#)

[WEACT](#)

[Boys and Girls Club of Harlem](#)

[Harlem School for the Arts](#)

[NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund](#)

1 Line: *Thoughts on Connections and Continuum*

Perhaps we've had an unrealistic perception of societal stability. COVID-19, a severe economic downturn, and the growing protests around racism and police brutality have shown us both how fragile our relations and structures *can be*, and how responsive culture and government *must be*, in the face of widespread rejection of the status quo.

As engaged advocates for our community, MHCC supports the heroic contributions of our health care workers, first responders, and essential service employees. We have also begun assisting local organizations that address issues of race and poverty. In both of these efforts, it is critical to know our neighbors and maintain real connections with them.

We are part of a continuum, over time and from local to national. Sustainable reform in our communities can only occur by acknowledging this context and the connections inherent in it.



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MHCC Executive Committee:

Andrea Brecker
Laura Friedman

Kwesi McDavid
Harry Schwartz

David Robinson
Robert F. Stern

Barry Weinberg

Editor: Dan McSweeney

Contact: mhccnyc@gmail.com

mhccnyc.org

[@mhccnyc](https://twitter.com/mhccnyc)

In the News

[Construction Wraps On Vandewater At 543 West 122nd Street In Morningside Heights](#)

[New Rendering Revealed For RAMSA's 42-Story Tower Planned At 3041 Broadway In Morningside Heights](#)

[More Local Streets Closed to Traffic](#)

[St. John the Divine Cathedral To Hold Black Lives Matter Vigil](#)

<https://ilovetheupperwestside.com/supporting-black-owned-restaurants-upper-west-side-nyc/>

[The Murder That Threatened to Divide the Two Harlems](#)

[150-name waitlist opens for modern affordable rentals next to Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#)

[Three Upper West Side Kids Who Became Famous](#)

[Columbia Offers Emergency Loans To Harlem Businesses: Report](#)



Resources

Our neighborhood is supported by a wide array of public and private resources that can be of great assistance during daily life or in times of challenge. For a comprehensive list of local resources, please visit MHCC's website page [here](#).

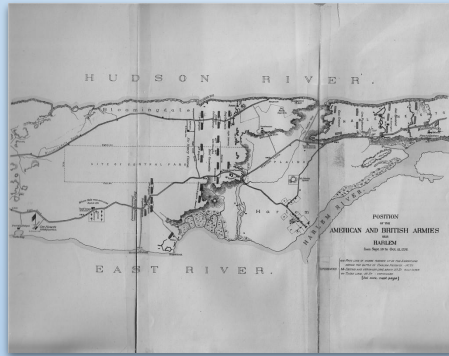
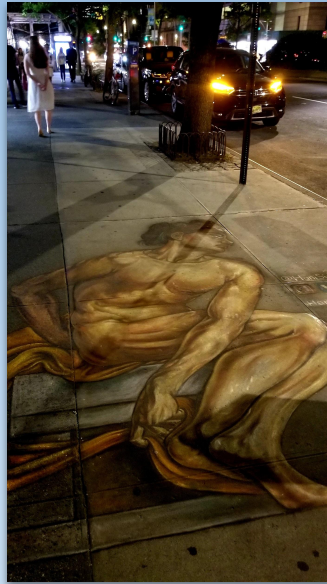
This month, we want to offer a special thanks to [Manhattan Community Board 9](#), which serves residents of Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, and Hamilton Heights. The purpose of MCB9 is to ensure that City services are accessible and responsive to the needs of all residents, organizations, businesses, and institutions in West Harlem.

Community boards advise and inform their constituencies on matters relevant to their immediate neighborhood. MCB9 convenes meetings each month, including the following:: Arts & Culture; Economic Development; Health & Environment; Landmarks Preservation/Parks; Housing, Land Use & Zoning; Uniformed Services & Transportation; Senior Issues; Strategic Planning; and Youth, Education, & Libraries.

Monthly Spotlights

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Morningside Heights is truly one of the most interesting and beautiful neighborhoods in America. Each month we'll demonstrate why.



Clockwise, from upper left:

- **Olga Hidalgo** lived on 111th Street for over 60 years. She received a Manhattan Borough Proclamation for her 100th birthday in 2019. May this great and loving neighbor rest in peace.
- **Art**: It's literally all around us. And our architecture: second to none.
- Manhattan School of Music is one of the top conservatories in the country and one of our major institutions.
- Friends of Morningside Park do a great job maintaining this Olmstead-designed gem.
- George Washington fought the Battle of Harlem Heights on our blocks - his first victory of the Revolution.
- Mel's Burger Bar converted itself into a general store during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Institutional Reopening During the Pandemic: Is it Safe?

One of the unique features of Morningside Heights is the presence of so many esteemed institutions of higher learning. These institutions enrich our community.

However, as colleges and universities consider under what circumstances they can reopen in the fall (assuming they're permitted to do so by the governor), it is critical they take the well-being of our neighborhood and city residents into account in their decision-making. MHCC has written to the heads of Columbia University, Barnard College, Teachers College, Union Theological Seminary, Jewish Theological Seminary, Manhattan School of Music, and Bank Street College. We [reminded](#) them to consider our community in making difficult decisions on the terms of their reopening.

As of June 8, there have been 2,335 cases of the COVID 19 virus and 262 deaths in the two zip codes of Morningside Heights and West Harlem, 10025 and 10027. Older residents of the neighborhood and low-income people of color in nearby public housing are particularly vulnerable to the virus.

Thanks to the great work of our health care workers and the practice of social distancing by our neighbors, the threat has been reduced. However, we fear the influx of thousands of students and employees into our neighborhood could seriously threaten the progress we have achieved. MHCC has requested meetings with each school to discuss their plans and advocate for the well-being of our neighbors, as well as students, faculty and staff.

The Morningside Heights Community Fund

With funds contributed by institutions and developers in Morningside Heights, the MHCC has established the Morningside Heights Community Fund ([MHCF](#)). The Fund is administered by the [New York Community Trust](#), a large and esteemed charitable organization.

Using an initial contribution by The [Jewish Theological Seminary](#), MHCF recently made grants of \$5,000 each to Broadway Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, for food programs serving local residents. It also granted

MHCC \$10,000 to continue its local work. Using contributions anticipated later in the year, MHCF expects to make additional grants to neighborhood groups making positive impacts.

You can donate to the food programs at:

[Broadway Presbyterian Church:](#) 601
W 114th Street New York, NY 10025
Email: chris@bpcnyc.org

[St. Mary's Episcopal Church:](#) 521
W 126th Street New York, NY 10027 Email: parishoffice@stmarysharlem.org

Rezoning Morningside Heights

MHCC and the Morningside Heights community have come a long way toward rezoning our neighborhood.

We have worked closely with all our local elected officials, particularly Council Member Mark Levine and Manhattan Boro President Gale Brewer, to contact our member base, community stakeholders, and the Department of City Planning. We wrote articles and drew press attention; engaged residents at sidewalk tabling; and researched and issued a [“soft site study”](#) of locations vulnerable to overdevelopment. We organized large, open meetings to discuss community needs and issued a report ([Morningside Speaks!](#)). We presented our preliminary plan at a February 2018 MHCC Town Hall meeting and circulated petitions signed by over 1,000 residents supporting rezoning. All these efforts led to Council Speaker Corey Johnson’s September 2019 announcement that he was formally committing to developing a viable rezoning plan for approval by City Council vote.

Morningside Heights, surrounded by other areas that have been rezoned, has been targeted by developers taking advantage of outdated, “as-of-right” zoning to combine lots and air rights and build tall,

out-of-context luxury towers.

When MHCC’s formal zoning challenge to the 34-story Vandewater was rejected by the Department of Buildings, we re-doubled our efforts. We determined to deliver a rezoning plan that will promote as much affordable housing as possible by sustaining stabilized units; providing development opportunities for affordable units where feasible; limit tall towers by selectively imposing height caps; increase community leverage in negotiations with developers; foster greater small business activity and opportunities; and preserve the unique character of Morningside Heights. Our [video](#) on the issue tells the story in 13 minutes.

MHCC has been conferencing with the City Council Land Use Group to refine the plan in preparation for conducting the required Environmental Assessment Statement before moving to the final approval stages and City Council vote. Once we can make arrangements, the Land Use Group and MHCC will be excited to share the plan for further feedback by specific stakeholders and the broader Morningside Heights community. Much progress but a robust effort must continue. Stay tuned.

Elevator Lobby

The escalators at the 125th station of the #1 train are old, frequently break down, and are not accessible to everyone, such as people with mobility challenges or strollers. Recognizing that the MTA’s current capital budget contains billions of dollars for improving access to transit stations and that major new developments, such as Columbia’s Manhattanville Campus, are occurring near the station, MHCC and [Morningside Retirement and Health Services](#) have formed the “Elevator Lobby.” This group will campaign for elevators at the station. Local institutions, elected officials, and residents have already met to organize the Lobby and start planning a campaign. Meetings will resume after the public health crisis abates and the MTA’s capital budget is clarified. If you would like to join us, please contact us at www.mhccnyc.org.

Local Engagement

Calendar

As public health regulations allow, MHCC will return to offering regular programming and events. We want to engage Morningsiders through social, cultural, policy, and other gatherings that both inform and connect us. Please keep an eye on our [calendar](#) and join us either online or in-person. We guarantee you'll have a positive experience and you may make some good, new friends.

Of Note: Our sister organization, the [Morningside Heights Historic District Committee](#) will be holding a webinar on historic residents of our neighborhood on Wednesday, June 24th at 5pm. Join them to hear local historian Jim Mackin, of the [Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group](#), discuss his upcoming book.

Comments, Suggestions & Questions

Please let us know what you think about *The Morningsider* or, more importantly, our work in the neighborhood.

Do you tweet? We're [@mhccnyc](#)

Here's a recent comment posted on our website: "Bravo. Really encouraging news."

However, we know we're not always going to get it right. You can share your views or questions via our [website](#), email (mhccnyc@gmail.com), or through a survey we'll include in next month's issue.



P.10 Diversion: Turn the page for the *Morningside Hits* Crossword Puzzle

During this time of crisis and quarantine, some might be saying, "If only I could find a crossword puzzle that both challenged my skills and tested my knowledge of Morningside Heights." We heard you and created the MHCC Crossword Puzzle Challenge.

To encourage support for local business, MHCC purchased \$50 gift certificates from three neighborhood shops. These will be awarded to the first three contestants who correctly solve the entire puzzle or the first three who come closest to doing so.

To enter: Print, solve, scan, or attach a photo of your solution and email to: mhccnyc@gmail.com. Please be sure to provide your name, mailing address and email address so we can notify you and mail your prize. The gift certificates are from:

- **Samad's Gourmet Deli:** 2867 Broadway, Tel. 212 749 7555
- **Janoff's Office & Art Supplies:** 2870 Broadway, Tel. 212 866 5747
- **The Hungarian Pastry Shop:** 1030 Amsterdam, Tel, 212 866 4230

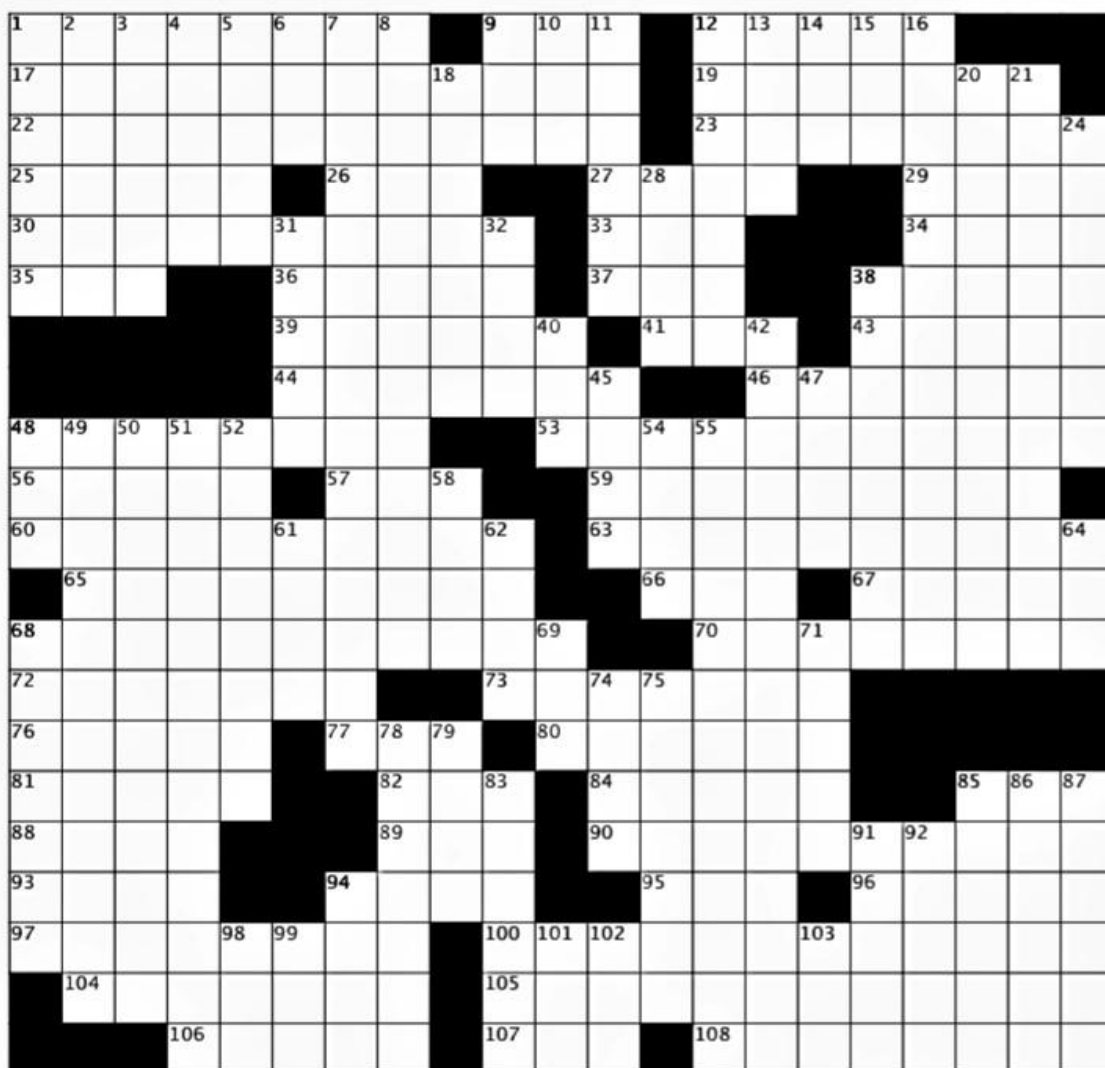
The Crossword Puzzle will also be posted on our website. The solution will be posted once the winners have been notified. Good luck to all!

MORNINGSIDE HITS

Robert F. Stern

ACROSS

1. "If you can't beat'm, ____." (var.)
 9. 1936 Presidential nominee Landon
 12. Way up front
 17. "Dear Columbia Professor: You May Be A Prize Winner!"
 19. Give Teddy a gun
 22. Refreshing Stroll Rte.? (MH)
 23. With 97 Across, Freudian area? (MH)
 25. Senior Org. + Medicare Part
 26. St. Louis, MO. poet of Four Quartets
 27. Strike tacos from the menu
 29. DVR brand
 30. Old infantryman's memoir? (MH)
 33. Hidden bird in cloak of 71 Down
 34. Annual job assess.
 35. 2nd sight
 36. Get Newhart's attention
 37. Baseball stat.
 38. Give the third degree
 39. Conservative Cong. person
 41. Microsoft file extension abbrev.
 43. Lasso
 44. Slowly dance
 46. Receipts record
 48. With 24 Down, farmer's artwork? (MH)
 53. Comin' together location? (MH)
 56. MHCC supports either 28 Down ____
 57. Sound of disgust
 59. "Vote for Hamilton for Congress"
 60. Where W.H. Taft found suits?
 63. Bother some more
 65. Online fishermen's spot
 66. Farrow or rapper
 67. "To ____ ownself be true" (Polonius)
 68. Will Shortz, as comic book hero?
 70. Sean Penn mythical guitarist role
 72. With 79 Down and 81 Across, landmark toasting spot? (MH)
 73. Reno school deg. (var.)
 76. Possible Tottenville affiliate of 9 Down?
 77. Mouth agape, eyes a ____
 80. Cheer for Frazier
 81. See 72 Across
 82. Bad review
 84. Confederate USMA grad.
 85. Morse code mark
 88. Sole
 89. Juin ou juillet
 90. Dye jobs
 93. Bears in Barcelona
 94. Again
 95. Beat
 96. Pour another
 97. See 23 Across
 100. Spy at Tom's Restaurant?
 104. A letter, a beverage, a shirt



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105. Morningside Heights Community Coalition, to all
 106. Le ____, newspaper or Morningside Heights restaurant
 107. Each
 108. Intl. Alliance maneuver

DOWN

1. Confine
 2. Wisdom teeth
 3. Buy ride sharing stock?
 4. ____ Learn, early childhood dance program
 5. NY Yankee or Balt. Oriole snitch hitter?
 6. Cap or beret
 7. Change the salad recipe
 8. Male fashion headline
 9. Road grp.
 10. Ullmann or Tyler
 11. Limb bending muscle
 12. DNA do-over?
 13. Silicate gemstone
 14. Past be
 15. Exhibition at Columbia's Wallach
 16. Bulb, to Con Edison
 18. Peak in Big Bend National Park, TX.

20. Completely unimportant
 21. America or Europe
 24. See 48 Across
 28. Partners MHCC likes to see
 31. A Supreme
 32. Online wager
 38. Grab destiny
 40. Nixon or Buchanan
 42. Tchaikovsky's "The Queen of Spades"
 45. Hammer part
 47. Stake
 48. Crate
 49. Q: Who performs "Alice's Restaurant"? A: ____
 50. Neighbor's text memo to archer
 51. Jittery IRT?
 52. Cartoon bear's cravat
 54. Jewish or Union Theological Sem. grad
 55. Words you may find at St. John the Divine
 58. The Divine Miss Midler with SRO crowds
 61. This in Tabasco
 62. Skin in Strasbourg

64. Middle Eastern flute
 68. Director's order to Flynn, Connery, Costner or Crowe
 69. Eggy drink
 71. Alma ____, Columbia campus statue by Daniel Chester French
 74. MH, described by some
 75. Mother sheepishly admits?
 78. Free to swing
 79. See 72 Across
 83. Crown replacement
 85. Unsend
 86. Form of sarcasm in Saint-Malo
 87. Double recipe meas.
 91. RN's hospital hassle
 92. Las ____, or "Tom's Diner" singer Suzanne and family
 94. Won a quick point
 98. Family name of famed Italian restaurant
 99. UK based TV company
 101. "____ On A Grecian Urn" (Keats)
 102. Quick turn (var.)
 103. Soak