

Biographical Profile: Mary Beth Kelly



Moving to The Masters Apartments in 1995 was a big change for my family. From living in a tiny, cramped apartment with two small children, then ages 11 and 6 -- we found room to breathe, the beauty of Riverside Park, friendly neighbors, and an amazingly generous staff.

Wanting to contribute, I joined the Board and served as treasurer for two years. Having been a founding member of The West Side Community Garden on 89th Street, I used my knowledge of flora and the city's tree planting program, and mostly city funds, to improve the look of our exterior. Two tiny tree pits -- with dead trees -- were transformed. New soil, Belgian blocks, and iron work (designed to match our first-floor Art

Deco window guards) were added, and four tiny thornless honey locust trees were planted. Over many years those saplings have grown into graceful giants offering us shade in summer and a golden display long into November. Each spring I planted flats of flowers around the trees and today feel grateful to those in our building who continued that work.

My husband and I were avid runners and cyclists, and almost daily rode our children on our bikes to PS 87 and MS 54. I have been a practicing psychotherapist since getting my Masters from NYU in 1980 and am currently pursuing an MFA in Literature and Writing from Bennington College.

My husband, Carl Henry Nacht, MD, was an internist in private practice on West 66th St, an attending at St Lukes-Roosevelt, and a clinical professor at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical School. In June of 2006, we were riding on the Hudson River Greenway -- returning from dinner -- when he was hit by a tow-truck, which failed to yield as we crossed an intersection on a green light. Henry's death propelled me into advocacy for safer streets. One death occurs every thirty three hours due to speed, the failure to yield, and poor street design. I am a founding member of Families for Safe Streets.

We need Board members who are able to collaborate with other shareholders and Board members to focus on the important issues facing us.

To re-cap: I am someone with vision and the ability to get things done:

- Served on the Master Apartments Board of Directors for 2 years
- Founding member of The West Side Community Garden
- Founding member of Families for Safe Streets
- Successfully lobbied to change the NYC speed limit city-wide to 25mph

If elected to the Board, I will work to:

- Work to eliminate the growing contentiousness at the Master's
- Restore the sense of community my family and I enjoyed when we moved here
- Work with Management to operate the building in a safe and efficient manner.

Thank you for your support.