

Historic Morningside Heights

Issue No. 9

Summer 2021

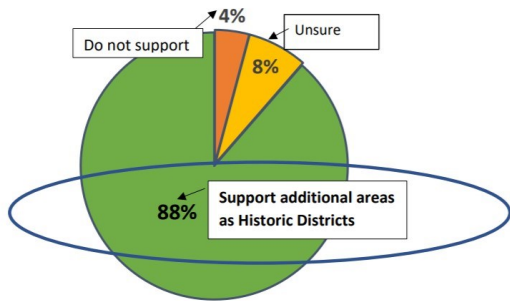


This illustration was created by local artist Avery Reed. It will be used in emerging merchandise that celebrates our neighborhood and supports our work to protect Morningside Heights. Learn more on page three.

Inside:

• Views on Historic Districting • Updates • A Very Notable Morningsider

Updates



Morningside Heights Historic District Phase II Survey:

Thank you to the more than 300 neighbors who recently completed our online survey on expanding Historic District protections and other quality of life issues in our community. The overwhelming majority of those who participated support implementing landmark status for additional areas of Morningside Heights (83%) and for McGiffert Hall (83%). Read the full report [here](#).

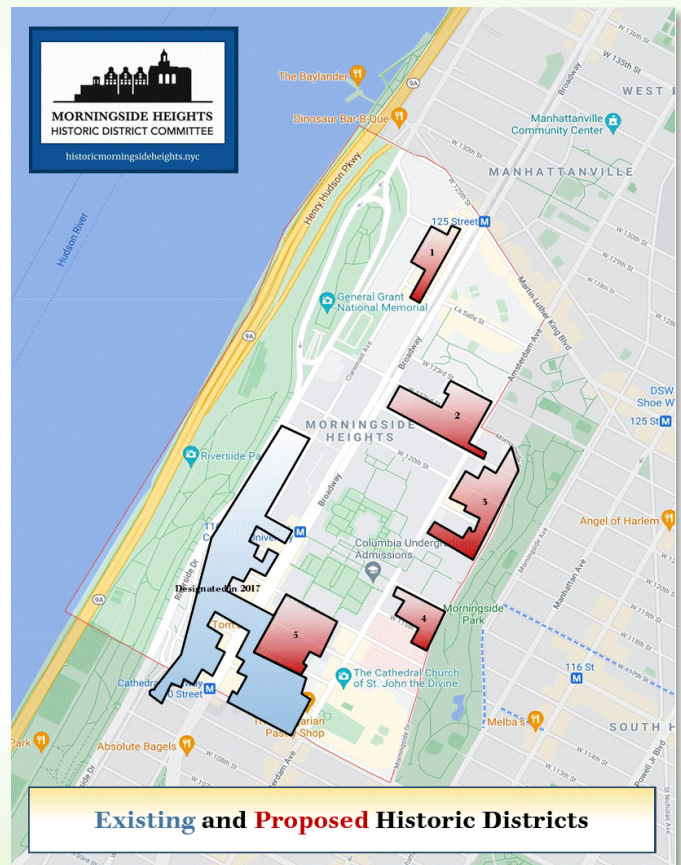
Have you signed our [Phase II Historic District](#) and [McGiffert Hall](#) Petitions? If not, please do so and share these links with neighbors. Momentum to protect our neighborhood is growing.

Though we've faced a wide variety of challenges during the last 18 months, the work to limit further over-development in Morningside Heights continues.

We have forwarded our Historic District [Request for Evaluation](#) to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. It is now up to us to show major community support for expanding local protections.

Meanwhile, we remain concerned about the fate of McGiffert Hall and are in talks with The Riverside Church about their plans for this striking and historic building.

Please get involved and spread the word.



Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, Inc.

Officers:	Laura Friedman, <i>President</i>	Robert Stern, <i>Vice President</i>	Allyn Shepard, <i>Secretary</i>	Harry Schwartz, <i>Treasurer</i>
Board of Directors:	Ann Armistead	Gretchen Borges	Betsy Cangelosi-Lind	Steve Friedman
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[MHHC](#)

Engagement



Greeting Neighbors & Attracting Support: Morningside Heights Community Resource Fair

MHHDC was out in force during this exciting July 10 event. We collected several hundred petition signatures and volunteer sign-ups. You can watch a short video on the event [here](#).

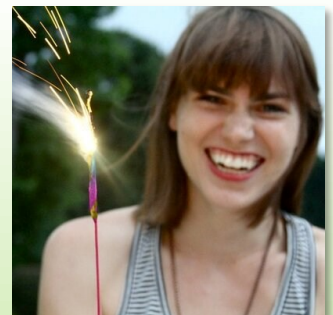
“This was about showing the revival of our community after a long period of struggle,” said MHHDC President Laura Friedman.

“Though many of us have been biding our time and working from home during COVID, we are now ready to reengage in our volunteer work to protect the neighborhood, even as pandemic challenges remain,” added MHHDC Vice President Robert Stern.

Capturing and Celebrating the Essence of Morningside Heights: Avery Reed

An avid patron of Hungarian Pastry, [Avery](#) is a talented neighbor who wants to give back to her community. She was observed drawing the shop recently and we approached her about developing an image that represents the diverse culture and notable architecture of Morningside Heights.

Presto! Her first illustration for MHHDC appears on the cover of this publication. It will be used in merchandise which will be sold in local shops.



Proceeds will support our ongoing work and organizational growth. Thanks for engaging, Avery!

Pictured are our prototype t-shirt and mug. We will develop a plan for sales soon. In the meantime, please let us know if you're interested in Morningside Merch by emailing us [here](#)!

Present & Past

Editor's Note: Each month, we feature an interesting Morningsider from local historian Jim Mackin's book, *Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side*. Thank you, Jim! Our focus is Morningsiders who lived in our [proposed Phase II Historic Districts](#). Buy the book locally at [Book Culture](#). Courtesy of Fordham University Press.



Simone Weil (1909–1943): 549 Riverside Drive

Proposed Riverside Drive—Claremont Avenue Historic District

A renowned philosopher, political activist, and mystic, Simone Weil spent most of her life developing and sharing her views on the human condition and its structures and norms. Born in Paris, during her early life she espoused strong Marxist views but turned away from them, critiquing the emergence of vast bureaucracies in the Soviet Union that harmed working people. Later in life, she experienced three profound mystical experiences that influenced her development and writing. She was a major influence on many leading thinkers, called “the only great spirit of our times” by Albert Camus.



This proposed Historic District is defined by its mix of distinguished residential buildings, which are augmented by dramatic shifts in elevation and topography. It's a beautiful part of our neighborhood whose residents have had profound local and global influences.

From our report on the proposed Historic Districts:

"...a notable style is displayed by one of the most cohesive, intact rows of “New Law” tenement buildings of anywhere in the Heights. Located at 180-200 Claremont Avenue, this entire blockfront comprising eight tenement buildings was designed Neville & Bagge in 1905, and bear all of the hallmarks of the Renaissance Revival style, incorporating Colonial Revival elements."

