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Commercial Real Estate Press Release

CERF WAGNER TOWNHOUSE GETS SHEIK RENOVATION Barbara Evans-Butler of Stribling & Associates Exclusive Agent

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Tuesday, October 13, 2009 - NEW YORK – October 13, 2009 – When Zonnie Sheik, jeweler to the “swells,” walked into the Cerf/Wagner brownstone at 62nd street off Park Avenue, she could almost hear the tinkling glasses and the scintillating chatter of the Manhattan glitterati. Phyllis Cerf/Wagner entertained the politicians here. The portrait of her husband, esteemed Mayor, Robert Wagner still hangs in the library on the parlor floor where books signed by Capote, Stein, Hemingway, Mailer, and Didion energize the rooms and the abstract oil painting by Frank Sinatra (who knew) still adorns the parlor gallery. Her first husband, Bennett Cerf was the Founder of Random House and Phyllis not only wrote and edited the Dr. Seuss’s series but she became a beloved hostess to the cultural and political elite that electrified Manhattan from the 1950’s to the end of this century.

“The meticulous renovation of this townhouse incorporates the finest craftsmanship to bring about one of New York City’s most architecturally significant residences.” said Barbara Evans-Butler, Senior Vice President at Stribling & Associates.

Recognizing that she had discovered an old gem, Zonnie Sheik, who enjoys transforming real estate, focused her creative talent to completely redesign, renovate, and update this 20’ wide, five story, landmarked 19th century estate into a 21st century state of the art “architectural digest” quality townhome. Every room in this fine home is tasteful, elegant, exceptionally fine, and reflects a level of craftsmanship that distinguishes designer quality from mere flavor of the month, a talent Zonnie brings from decades of creating a continually prized jewelry collection.

Zonnie wanted to maintain the architectural integrity and historic legacy of this fine property but to infuse it with her own style. Together with a team of artisans inspired by Zonnie’s vision, they undertook a two year renovation. Colin Kappler and Jonathan Baker combined their architectural expertise and directed select artisans to restore this historic brownstone with unparalleled attention to detail and uncompromising standards of excellence. Kathleen Rivers, a highly successful interior decorator from Charleston, South Carolina, renowned for her stunning decor at the super chic Chattooga Club, focused on the interior. The result is an undisputed masterpiece in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Every part is faceted with a level of care and

artistry that Zonnie and her team imported from the genteel south. Zonnie’s team reincarnated the façade back to its former life and the garden into a peaceful “timeless” Zen oasis complete with a water wall. The entrance and garden level have been totally transformed by an elegant marble gallery with stunning one-of-a-kind bronze and gilded glass doors that lead onto a very contemporary and informal living/dining space with a chef’s kitchen. All rooms open onto a wall of glass and iron doors that completely re-orient the whole space with a central axis that accentuates the flow of space from the entrance door through to the garden.

Throughout this home the materials used, Carrera and Namibian marble in the entrance foyer and bathrooms, burnished mahogany walls and cabinet in the study, and exceptional hardware and fittings throughout are all chosen with a jeweler’s eye for every facet of each room.

Kathleen Rivers chose the color scheme of muted pearlescent colors in tribute to Zonnie’s trademark which are her magnificent pearls of every confection. The parlor floor retains the original architectural detail and grandeur, but at the same time has a lighter, modern touch in the color palette. And so, a faded diamond has been refashioned and cut to restore its brilliance. Best of all, this house continues to be a magnet for the “swelligentsia”. The piano in the drawing room that was played by Bobby Short in the Cerf/Wagner home now echoes the Tony Award winning tunes of Zonnie’s hyper talented son, Duncan Sheik of “Spring Awakening” fame.

Rich in a history that is quintessentially Manhattan from the 19th century to the present, this home has been given a new life that respects and incorporates its past, and every room has been lovingly recreated by artisans and artists who love their craft. This 7,000 plus square foot, 14 room landmarked home is offered at \$17.5M and is being marketed by Stribling and Associates, Barbara Evans-Butler.

About Stribling & Associates: Stribling & Associates, Ltd. is a premiere residential real estate firm employing over 200 agents in three Manhattan locations. As one of the most renowned brokerages in New York, Stribling uses its respected expertise in the current market to provide individualized services to both buyers and sellers. Stribling agents specialize in the sale of luxury townhouses and cooperative and condominium apartments. Their company philosophy is based on professional, personalized services coupled with exceptional knowledge of key residential market trends.