



CRAIN'S

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GOTHAM GIGS

Star concierge

ABBIE NEWMAN, 48, is the woman with the golden Rolodex, keeping many New Yorkers happy with Abigail Michaels Concierge.

PLEASED TO SERVE Ms. Newman spent 17 years at the InterContinental hotel. When business dropped after Sept. 11, she and fellow concierge Michael Fazio decided to use their network of contacts in the residential market. They co-founded Abigail Michaels in 2002 and now boast a portfolio of 40 apartment buildings. "We are big people-pleasers," she says.

COVERS EVERYTHING The company, with 15 employees, provides services that range from procuring theater tickets to hanging art. Ms. Newman has a midtown office, but many of the concierges work at buildings across Manhattan.

MINTY FRESH Some requests are more difficult to fulfill than others. One client wanted a certain peppermint ice cream for his daughter's Sweet Sixteen but couldn't remember where he had eaten it. Ms. Newman worked with a chef to re-create the dessert in time for the celebration. "I live this," she says.

—ADRIANNE PASQUARELLI

EXPERT OPINIONS

KIDS ACTIVITIES DURING MIDWINTER RECESS

NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS are closed this week, so it's a great opportunity to do things with your children. If you're not afraid to make a mess, try Spin Art from Alex Toys—but cover up the kitchen first. For younger kids, there's a new game, Zingo, which is like Bingo but uses picture tiles instead of numbers. Or you can get out of the house and take the youngsters ice-skating at Chelsea Piers or to the American Museum of Natural History. The dinosaur exhibit is always fun.

—SHARI MISHER
STENZLER
Co-founder
Kidville

