

# Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Fall 2008 Vol. 51, No. 4

## Modified Project Proposed for Site of Crane Collapse

By BRUCE A. SILBERBLATT, TBA ZONING AND LAND USE CHAIRMAN

The two-year saga of 303 East 51st Street has occupied many issues of the Turtle Bay News, from the project's initial problems, the horrific crane collapse in March, revocation of the building permit by the Department of Buildings, and speculation about what might become of the 18-story skeleton that looms over the neighborhood.

Now the developer, James Kennelly, is proposing a modified project for the site.

First, some history: Kennelly obtained Department of Buildings (DOB) approval and began construction of a sheer 43-story residential tower on the site last year. He also planned a 17-story residential structure at 301 East 51st Street. The zoning lot owned or controlled by Kennelly includes the entire east side of Second Avenue between 51st and 52nd Streets with an average depth of 122 feet. From the outset, the TBA opposed

the 43-story sheer tower, which it believed did not comply with the City Zoning Resolution, particularly its tower-on-base provisions.

On March 15, the tower crane employed at 303 East 51st Street collapsed, killing seven people, injuring two dozen more, crushing a town house and damaging at least a half dozen other buildings. Hundreds were forced from their homes and businesses shuttered. Immediately afterward, DOB issued stop work orders that remain in effect today.

On April 17, former DOB Commissioner Patricia Lancaster admitted in a public hearing that 303 East 51st Street did not comply with the Zoning Resolution. On May 20, Acting DOB Commissioner Robert LiMandri notified Kennelly of over two dozen zoning violations, and gave him 10 days to comply or face revocation of his

building permit. Kennelly's response was deemed insufficient, and DOB revoked the building permit on June 13. The incomplete 18-story skeleton remains standing, a poten-

*continued on back page*



Under the developer's new plan, a 31-story 'tower-on-base' structure (pictured here) would replace a previously planned 43-story sheer tower.

## Development Issues Top TBA Annual Meeting Agenda

Continuing concerns about the rapid pace of development in Turtle Bay dominated discussion at TBA's annual membership meeting held in mid-November. In light of the tragic March 15 crane accident, elected officials reported on new legislation to address construction safety issues, while TBA Zoning/Land Use Chairman Bruce Silberblatt updated the group on the many projects in the area, including status of the crane accident site, 303 East 51st Street. (story, above).

City Councilmember Jessica Lappin, in whose district the crane accident occurred, reported on three bills she introduced that have now become law. The three new laws restrict the use of nylon slings in crane operations (a defective nylon sling was found to have caused the March 15 accident), require stricter training for crane crews, and require a safety coordination meeting prior to all major crane operations. Lappin also has introduced legislation calling for on-site safety monitors at construction sites.

State Assemblyman Jonathan Bing reported on his recent legislation that increases penalties for fraud in licensing and crane inspections. Bing also addressed the future of 303 East 51st Street, and said he

believes the developer's new concept is a "step in the right direction." (story, above.)

State Senator Liz Krueger, who has called for state legislation to toughen safety requirements and oversight at construction sites, spoke of the challenge in prioritizing community needs at a time when budgets are being cut.

And 17th Precinct Commanding Officer, Captain Ted Berntsen, in his annual report to TBA members, assured the community that the Precinct will address ongoing concerns over security at buildings damaged in the accident. He also reported that overall crime in the neighborhood continues to decline, despite some rise in burglaries.

Silberblatt – in addition to addressing 303 East 51st Street – reported that as of the annual meeting date, November 11, work was ongoing at 250 East 49th, 228 East 46th, 517 Lexington Avenue, at the U.S. Mission and on the U.N. North Lawn (story, page 3). No work was underway at four other construction sites, including 315 East 46th Street, where, in September, a near disaster was averted when a supporting column form broke while the fifth floor was being concreted. Fortunately, the fifth floor shores held, he reported.

## Newsorthy Notes

**Local Landscaping.** Many of Turtle Bay's tree beds were planted with pansies for the fall season, according to Bill Huxley of the Turtle Bay Tree Fund, which cares for the tree beds along most of Turtle Bay's crosstown streets. Huxley says pansies are known for their hardiness during cool weather, and can even survive a mild freeze. Tulips are on tap for next spring's planting.

**In the News.** Greenacre Park, the pretty pocket park on East 51st Street between Second and Third Avenues, was the focus recently of a New York Times feature article on small parks. The Times called Greenacre "the champion of all Midtown oases." A gift to the city from Abby Rockefeller Mauze, Greenacre Park opened in 1971. The Times said, "The hidden park is in such pristine condition that it looks as if it opened last week."

**Achievement Award.** George McDonald, founder of the Doe Fund, has won the annual Lifetime Achievement Award, presented annually by the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. The Doe Fund, which the TBA supports through its grants program, works to help homeless and formerly incarcerated individuals become self-sufficient. In Turtle Bay, Doe Fund workers can be seen regularly caring for the neighborhood's tree beds.

**Turtle Bay Walkers.** Vanderbilt YMCA members took a walking tour of Turtle Bay in early September, part of a Y program to promote walking as exercise. Led by the Y's Adam Gruberger and Tony Pascual, the group followed the tour outlined in the brochure, "20 Sites to See," published by the TBA in 2005.

**60th Year.** Holy Family Church parishioners honored Brother Robert Fontaine recently when he celebrated his 60th year as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Brother Fontaine's career has included assignments throughout the U.S. and in Rome, and he is currently Pastoral Associate of Holy Family and Director of its Ministry to Senior Parishioners.

**Holiday Gift Idea.** The neighborhood history, "Manhattan's Turtle Bay: Story of a Midtown Neighborhood," is available to TBA members for \$15, a 25 percent discount off the full retail price. Sales proceeds benefit the TBA. To order, use the order form on the back page of the newsletter, or call the TBA at 212-751-5465.

**17th Precinct Community Council.** The Council mourns the death of Geraldine Aronson, a long-time and loyal member of the Council and its treasurer for many years.

**Membership Drive.** The TBA has begun its annual membership drive with a solicitation letter to thousands of households in the Turtle Bay area. If you know of a friend or neighbor who is not a member, encourage them to join. For more information, they can call 212-751-5465 or email [tbaoffice@mindspring.com](mailto:tbaoffice@mindspring.com).

**Past Issues.** Did you miss a news story from a previous issue of the Turtle Bay News? You can view past issues of the Turtle Bay News at the TBA website, [www.turtlebaynyc.org](http://www.turtlebaynyc.org). Click the menu item "Newsletter," and then "Past Newsletters."

## Financial Seminars

The Vanderbilt YMCA, at 224 East 47th Street, has some timely financial seminars that may be of interest to neighbors. They are free and open to the public.

Financial Volatility Seminar: Thurs., Dec. 4, 9 a.m.; Thurs., Dec. 11, 11 a.m.; Mon., Jan. 6, 5 p.m.

"529" College Planning Seminar: Thurs., Dec. 4, 12 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 11, 9 a.m.; Tues., Jan. 6, 12 p.m.

Seating is limited and reservations are

required. To make reservations and for more information, call Paul Crawford at 212-912-2521.

## Lappin's Office Moves

City Councilmember Jessica Lappin's office has moved. Her new address is 330 East 63rd Street, Suite 1K, New York, NY 10065. Phone: 212-980-1808. Fax: 212-980-1828. E-mail [lappin@council.nyc.ny.us](mailto:lappin@council.nyc.ny.us).

Lappin represents District 5, which covers Turtle Bay from the north side of 49th Street and above.

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, December 7**  
TBA Holiday Toy Drive and Party  
Clancy's Pub and Restaurant  
978 Second Avenue, 3-6 p.m.  
Admission: Gift for a needy child  
212-751-5465
- **Wednesday, December 10**  
Holiday Tree Lighting  
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
5 p.m.  
212-826-8980
- **Last Tuesday every month**  
17th Precinct Community Council  
Open Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Sutton Place Synagogue  
225 East 51st Street  
212-826-3228  
(No meetings July, August, December)
- **Second Wednesday every month**  
Community Board 6  
Full Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
NYU Medical Center  
550 First Avenue  
212-319-3750

### TBA Contacts:

Phone: 212-751-5465

Fax: 212-751-4941

E-mail: [tbaoffice@mindspring.com](mailto:tbaoffice@mindspring.com)

Web Site: [www.turtlebaynyc.org](http://www.turtlebaynyc.org)

Check our Bulletin Board:  
East side of Second Avenue,  
between 48th and 49th Streets,  
on outside wall of the supermarket.

## Turtle Bay Association

President: William E. Curtis

Vice Presidents: Millie Margiotta,  
Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt

Treasurer: Francine Irwin

Secretary: Marie-Louise Handal

Directors:

Ethel Bendove, Bunny Blei,

Orin Buck, Meryl Brodsky,

Barbara Connolly, William E. Curtis,

Denise Hamilton, Marie-Louise Handal,

Olga Hoffmann, Bill Huxley,

Francine Irwin, Richard Irwin,

Millie Margiotta, Dolores Marsh,

Patricia Q. McDougald, Ron Palau,

Michael Resnick, Carol Rinzler,

Jeannie Sakol, Helen Shapiro,

Bruce Silberblatt

## Turtle Bay News

Editor: Pamela Hanlon

Contributors: Terri Heveran,

Olga Hoffmann, Bill Huxley,

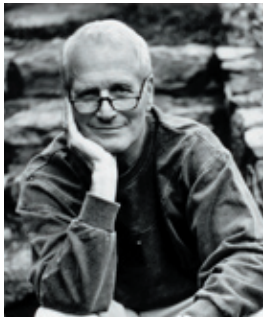
Millie Margiotta, Patricia Q. McDougald,

Rita Rowan, Bruce Silberblatt

Photography: Vivian Gordon

# A Personal Memory of Neighbor Paul Newman

**W**hen actor Paul Newman died recently at the age of 83, neighbors remembered fondly the many years when he and his wife, Joanne Woodward, lived in Turtle Bay. Even before the couple married in 1958, Ms. Woodward rented a fifth floor apartment in a brownstone in the East 50s. Later, in the 1960s and 1970s, they lived in the apartment building at 230 East 50th Street. Neighbors remember them as a friendly couple, and many recall chatting with them in local shops and restaurants.



Paul Newman

But it's doubtful anyone in Turtle Bay ever had a more personal encounter with the famous couple than did Colleen and Bill Curtis, president of the TBA. It occurred years after Newman and Woodward had moved from Turtle Bay.

As they do now, the Curtises lived in an East 50s brownstone in early 1983, when they got a call from their landlord. "He wanted to know if we would be willing to open up our home to a couple who had lived in our apartment when they were first married," recalls Colleen. "They would be celebrating their 25th anniversary on January 29, and were planning a day-long 'sentimental journey' of places that had been close to their hearts during their marriage."

The couple was Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Colleen and Bill Curtis's apartment was the one Woodward had rented when she was single, and where she and Newman had stayed on early in their marriage.

## Getting Ready for Guests

"Of course, we were *thrilled* to have them as our guests," says Colleen, although Bill remembers mostly that they spent the next three weeks cleaning the apartment. "We cleaned like madmen," he says. "We even cleaned the inside of the refrigerator."

The anniversary day arrived. The Curtis apartment was first on the tour for the actor and actress. "At 9 a.m. sharp – it was a Saturday morning – they rang the doorbell," says Colleen. "I remember vividly my first glimpse of Newman as he was coming up the stairs,

looking cool – just like in his movies – with his sunglasses under his chin and a Burberry raincoat slung over his shoulder."

"The apartment looks so big!" were Newman's first words when he walked through the door. (Colleen and Bill, who don't think of their apartment as particularly large, appreciated the compliment.)

But Colleen recalls that Paul was disappointed when he noticed the bookshelves he had painstakingly built for the living room had been removed. "Oh, the books never stayed straight on the shelves anyway," he said, laughing about his carpentry skills coupled with the old brownstone's settled foundations.

Then, like typical Manhattanites, the anniversary couple headed to the windows to recall the view. The U.N. was still visible from the living room windows. But Joanne was disappointed when she looked south out of the bedroom window to see the 20-story Engineering Center on 48th Street blocking the view. "This view used to be like Paris," she recalled ruefully. "You could look far south with nothing to obstruct the downtown skyline." (In re-telling the story, Colleen is quick to point out that now, 25 years later, the 1960s-vintage Engineering Center has been replaced by the 72-story Trump World Tower, completed in 2001.)

## Famous Friends

They chatted about all the friends who had been in the apartment when Paul and Joanne were there – Warren Beatty, Alan Bates, Dennis Hopper and Claire Bloom. And it was the living room of the brownstone apartment where Edward R. Murrow interviewed the actor-actress couple for his popular 1950s series, "Person to Person," a weekly show in which Murrow talked with celebrities in their own homes.

After visiting the Curtises, the famous couple continued on their unpublicized visit to other favorite spots from their first 25 years of marriage. They ended the day with a large anniversary reception at their home in Westport, Connecticut.

Newman and Woodward celebrated their 50th anniversary in January of this year. Newman died on September 26. Neighbors will forever remember him, and take pride in knowing that Paul Newman and his wife are a part of Turtle Bay's storied past.

# UN Renovation Project on Track

The project to renovate the United Nations buildings is moving ahead on time, with construction of a temporary three-story building on the U.N.'s North Lawn well underway. The temporary structure will be used as "swing space" for staff while permanent facilities are being renovated.

At the second in a series of briefings for neighborhood leaders, U.N. Executive Director Michael Alderstein said the building will be ready to house the Secretary General's office and conference facilities by early next fall, when renovation of the

Secretariat and the Conference Building will begin. Work on the General Assembly will follow, starting in 2011. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the South Annex will be the last to undergo rehab.

Alderstein reiterated that once the renovation project is completed and the North Lawn re-landscaped in 2013, the United Nations will plant more trees around the U.N. campus perimeter. (See Turtle Bay News story, Summer 2008 issue). More news on the project is available at [www.un.org/cmp](http://www.un.org/cmp).

## Newsletter Editor Needed

Interested in becoming the new editor of the Turtle Bay News?

Contact the TBA office at  
212-751-5465 or  
[tbaoffice@mindspring.com](mailto:tbaoffice@mindspring.com)

Writing and editing experience needed, but desktop publishing skills are not required

A good opportunity to help the community at a time when so many changes are taking place in our neighborhood



## TBA Board at Work

The following is a summary of issues and activities addressed at recent TBA Board meetings, as reflected in the meeting minutes. The TBA:

- is working closely with local elected officials and Community Board 6 to have voice in determining the outcome of the site of the 51st Street construction crane accident, and is monitoring other ongoing neighborhood construction for safety and other concerns.
- is monitoring, with Community Board 6 and as part of the East Midtown Coalition for Sensible Development, progress of the Con Ed Waterside development and United Nations renovation, as well as opportunities for East River waterfront possibilities.
- has joined with other neighborhood groups to demand stronger laws regarding newsrack placement on City sidewalks.
- continues to work to beautify the neighborhood through the TBA Tree Program and support of the Turtle Bay Tree Fund.
- has sponsored or supported neighborhood events, including the upcoming Holiday Toy Drive and Party on December 7.



**Children's Jamboree.** The cutest kids in all of Turtle Bay came out for this year's Octoberfest and Children's Jamboree, held in mid-October in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Sponsored by the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and the Haley Foundation, this year's Jamboree attracted the most kids ever, with games, tricks, and entertainment, as well as the favorite pumpkin painting.

## Recollection of New York Holidays Past

An often-overlooked midtown museum offers a slice of historic holiday entertainment that will be fun for adults and children alike. The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden, a few blocks north of Turtle Bay on 61st Street between First and York Avenues, will conduct a series of candlelight tours of its decorated period rooms from the

1800s, accompanied by live seasonal music played on traditional instruments, and hot cider and eggnog.

Tours are on Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 12, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 13, 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. (The 4:30 tour on Dec. 13 is a special family tour geared to children ages 3 and up.) \$18, \$6 for kids under 12.

A holiday concert, with singers Maria Millar and Shawn Wyckoff, will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$10 for kids under 12.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum was built as a carriage house in 1799 and converted to a hotel in 1826, when it became a fashionable country escape for New Yorkers living in Manhattan's crowded city to the south. The museum is open year-round for tours (except August and some holidays) Tuesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m., with last tour starting at 3:30 p.m. Call 212-838-6878 for information and to purchase tickets for events. Also visit [www.mvhm.org](http://www.mvhm.org).

### Report Construction Concerns

Call 311; the 17th Precinct (weekdays 212-826-3228; 212-826-3211 on weekends and evenings); Community Board 6 (212-319-3750); and TBA (212-751-5465, [tbaoffice@mindspring.com](mailto:tbaoffice@mindspring.com)). Or:

- State Senator Liz Krueger (212-490-9535), [liz@lizkrueger.com](mailto:liz@lizkrueger.com)
- Assemblyman Jonathan Bing (212-605-0937), [bingj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:bingj@assembly.state.ny.us)
- Councilmember Jessica Lappin (212-980-1808), [lappin@council.nyc.ny.us](mailto:lappin@council.nyc.ny.us)
- Councilmember Dan Garodnick (212-818-0580), [garodnick@council.nyc.ny.us](mailto:garodnick@council.nyc.ny.us)

## Pocket Park News

Thanks to neighbors working together, the small pocket park at the northwest corner of 46th Street and Second Avenue, part of the Dag Hammarskjold Towers complex, has returned to being a peaceful oasis.

Panos Adamopoulos and Elisa Papas, who live on 46th Street, worked to bring the issue to the community's attention, the Towers management hired a security guard to keep watch over the park, police added extra surveillance, and other neighbors pitched in to monitor the situation.

In a neighborhood that has so few parks, it's good to know this one is once again among our nicest.

# And the Award for ‘Best Stage Manager’ Goes to...

If the Turtle Bay neighborhood gave an award for “Best Stage Manager,” it would surely go to Detective Frank Bogucki of the 17th Precinct. Each year, when the U.N. General Assembly gets underway, it is Bogucki who orchestrates the scores of high-profile rallies and protests in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, the choice location for demonstrators who want to be within “sight and sound” of the U.N.

To Bogucki, the Precinct’s community affairs officer, the series of demonstrations is something akin to a Broadway stage production. Along with his partner, Detective Debra Winski, he has the task of organizing the protests so that all groups can have their voices heard without causing undue



Detective Bogucki

disruption to the neighborhood. He set a record during the Millennium Assembly session back in the year 2000, when he handled 92 rallies in the Plaza within just three days. But he got close to that number this year, when he orchestrated no fewer than 60 demos during the week of September 22, ranging from a group of 25 Bangladeshis, to 300 Tibetans, to over 10,000 protesting the Iranian president’s visit to New York, at a rally organized by a coalition of Jewish groups.

Why is Dag Plaza the favored rally site? It is one of only two locations near the U.N. where protests, with sound, are permitted.

The other is Ralph Bunche Park on First Avenue, which can be used for demonstrations of fewer than 50 people. However, because Bunche Park is located directly across from the U.N. entrance, security concerns keep it “off limits” during the General Assembly opening session.

So that leaves Dag Hammarskjold Plaza as the focus of what Bogucki calls his yearly “jigsaw puzzle.” He can handle up to 18 rallies at one time in the Plaza, depending on the size of the group. On his computer screen, Bogucki keeps a map of the Plaza – his theatre stage – divided into 18 spaces. “By juggling the spaces around, I try to help each group have a successful event,” he says, sounding more like an events planner than police officer.

“If a group wants to have a vigil, or has a display, then I try to put them in the center of the Plaza,” he says. “If they are aiming their protest at a particular mission, then I stage them as close to that mission as possible.”

And if a group is unusually large – like this year’s 10,000 demonstrators who were bused in to protest the Iranian president’s visit – then he works to expand their space. In this case, the overflow was moved a block west.

On the day of the protests, Bogucki – a 20-year veteran of managing rallies – is in the

Plaza – bull horn in hand – directing the protestors to their designated location and helping to keep the order. “These groups are generally very polite and easy to work with,” he says. “I even get ‘thank you’ notes from some of the groups.”

Of course, for the 17th Precinct and neighborhood residents, it isn’t only protests and rallies that the U.N. General Assembly session attracts. As scores of heads of state descend upon Turtle Bay, the 17th Precinct police are joined by some 500 officers from other precincts throughout the city, Coast Guard flotillas in the East River, police helicopters and bomb-sniffing dogs. Streets and even some pedestrian sidewalks are closed, and check points are set up at street corners from 42nd to 49th Streets east of Second Avenue. “Turtle Bay neighbors are very cooperative,” says Bogucki. “They really help us make everything go smoothly.”



Managing huge rallies at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, like this protest against the Iranian president’s visit, is all part of the job for Detective Bogucki and 17th Precinct police. Photo by Robert A. Cumins

## Briefly in Business:

■ **Nations Café and Plaza Diner**, both new TBA business members, offer TBA members a 15 percent discount through the end of 2009. In addition, through the end of this year, TBA members can take advantage of a special “Early Bird” (3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) offer – order one dinner from the Dinner Specials menu and get a second, of equal or lesser value, at half price.

Nations Café: southwest corner of 49th Street and First Avenue (212-

308-2001). Open every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Plaza Diner: northeast corner of 56th Street and Second Avenue. Open 24 hours a day except Monday, when it closes at 11 p.m.

■ **Quality Art & Framing** offers TBA members a 20 percent discount on all custom framing, along with free delivery. Quality Art is at 909 Second Avenue, between 48th and 49th Streets. Telephone: 212-826-2693.

## News Profile of Turtle Bay

Turtle Bay was featured prominently in the newspaper *amNew York* recently, in a four-page article that called the neighborhood an area of “quiet charms” and “one of the city’s more desired enclaves for young professionals and families.”

Chock-full of photos of local sites, the article profiles Turtle Bay’s history, parks, attractions, restaurants and shops. The article is available at the newspaper’s website [www.amNY.com](http://www.amNY.com). Search “Turtle Bay” and scroll down to the story headlined: “City Life: Turtle Bay.”

# Turtle Bay Happenings

# Art & Culture

**Musical Review.** “Give My Regards to Christmas,” holiday tunes from Broadway shows are performed by St. Bart’s Players. Sun., Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.; Dec. 8, 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m. The Chapel at St. Bartholomews Church, Park Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets. \$15. Call 212-378-0248 for tickets.

**Beekman Place Caroling.** The Turtle Bay Music School Community Chorus will lead carolers around the Beekman Place holiday tree, at 50th Street and the East River. Sun., Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Beekman Place Assn.

**Japan Society.** Highly acclaimed exhibit, “New Bamboo: Contemporary

Japanese Masters,” continues through Jan. 11. \$12; \$10 seniors. Free each Fri. from 6-9 p.m. Special tour for children, ages 2-4, Sat., Dec. 13, 2-3 p.m. and Sun., Jan. 11, 2-3 p.m. Tour free with adult admission. 333 East 47th Street. Info: 212-832-1155.

**Family Hanukkah Celebration.** For “pre-K” children and their families, Sun., Dec. 14. Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st Street. Info: 212-593-3300, or lhoffman@suttonplacesynagogue.org.

**Turtle Bay Music School.** Family concert series – “What is...?” – offers interactive way to learn music. “What is a Viola?” on Sat., Dec. 20, 2:30 p.m.;

“What is a Woodwind?” on Sat., Jan. 17, 2:30 p.m. Em Lee Concert Hall, 244 East 52nd Street. Free, but RSVP requested at 212-753-8811 or info@tbms.org.

**German House.** Exhibit of photographer Peter Frischburn’s scenes of Berlin’s Kreuzberg district before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Mon-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Dec. 12. 871 United Nations Plaza. Info: 212-610-9719.

**Holiday Celebration.** The Vanderbilt YMCA hosts a Family Night Holiday celebration, Fri., Dec. 19, 6-8 p.m. 224 East 47th Street. Open to the public. No RSVP needed, but for further information, call Paul Crawford at 212-912-2521.

**Seasonal History.** At the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum. See story, page 4.

- compiled by Rita Rowan

**Modified Project** continued from page 1  
tial hazard to the neighborhood.

In mid-September – at the request of Borough President Scott Stringer, State Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblyman Jonathan Bing, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Councilmember Jessica Lappin – Kennelly met with the writer of this article, a TBA Vice President and its Zoning/Land Use Chairman. Kennelly proposed a 32-story tower, including a six-story base, occupying the entire zoning lot except for the three buildings on the 52nd Street corner. Since he wished to salvage the existing 18-story skeleton, certain modest zoning variances

would be needed. The writer recommended that the base become seven stories, lowering the building to 31 stories, which Kennelly accepted. He agreed not to pursue the 43-story sheer tower, which would have met with continuing TBA opposition.

On November 3, the TBA Board of Directors, recognizing that to leave the present 18-story skeleton as is, or to demolish all or part of it, would be dangerous in both the short and long run (to raze it would be a lengthy, noisy, hazardous operation requiring dangerous, dirty, and noisy jack hammering for over a half year), accepting that the proposed 31-story tower-on-base is the

most feasible solution, and desiring to put closure to what has been a traumatic event for the community, adopted a “no objection” resolution covering the proposed 31-story building. Kennelly now begins the required approval process. He must seek zoning variance OK from the City Board of Standards and Appeals.

The next step is the Board of Standards and Appeals, which would then pass the matter to Community Board 6 for its views before making a final decision. The entire process will take several months.

A copy of TBA’s resolution is available by calling TBA at 212-751-5465.

### TBA MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Yes, I want to join the Turtle Bay Association to help support our community’s quality of life.

#### Annual Membership Dues

- Senior \$10     Individual \$25     Family \$30  
 Business \$40     Benefactor \$100     Pacesetter \$250



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to become more involved in TBA activities.  
Please make your check payable to Turtle Bay Association.

Mail to: Turtle Bay Association, 224 E. 47<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10017

### BOOK ORDER FORM

#### Manhattan’s Turtle Bay Story of a Midtown Neighborhood

A Contemporary History of Turtle Bay  
Arcadia Publishing • 160 pages; 50 photos

**\$15 for TBA members • \$20 for non-members**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ book/s,  
plus \$3 per book for postage/handling

Make check payable to Turtle Bay Association  
Mail to: Turtle Bay Association, 224 East 47th Street,  
New York, NY 10017

Sales Proceeds Benefit the Turtle Bay Association