MIDTOWN REZONING: THE MAYOR'S FULL-COURT PRESS

By Bruce A. Silberblatt, Vice President & Chairman, Zoning/Land Use/Transportation

t's been an ill-advised rush to an unjustified deadline by the New York City Department of City Planning. Late August and September demonstrated that the department is making unwarranted haste to get the East Midtown Study approved by year-end, 2013. Ignoring objections from CBs 4, 5 and 6, and City Councilmembers Jessica Lappin and Dan Garodnick, City Planning is moving full speed ahead.

On August 27th, the department issued a preliminary draft of the study and scheduled a hearing for September 27th, a mere month later (one that included Labor Day, the Jewish holidays, and the annual opening of the U.N. General Assembly). With a very short deadline for written testimony set for October 9th (just 12 days later), the Turtle

Bay Association acted quickly. On October 1st, we adopted a unanimous Resolution and Statement, which we submitted the very next day, affirming our stand and worded as follows:

- We categorically reject any study or scoping plan that includes the annexed area...
 as part of the special midtown district or increases in the building sizes therein, this annexed area shall remain unchanged, as is.
- We reject the establishment of the east boundary of the Grand Central Sub-District to any point beyond a north-south line drawn 125 feet east of Lexington Avenue.
- We reject any study or scoping plan that

does not resolve, in a manner equitable to all parties concerned, including the Turtle Bay Association, all of the remaining issues listed in our September 10th, statement.

 We join Community Boards 4, 5, and 6, and Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin in seeking an extension of the approval process of at least six months. Let's get this right the first time.

A Uniform Land Use Review is expected to begin in early spring, 2013. The City Planning Department will try to bulldoze its way through to a December, 2013 approval, including its push to the east, mistakes and omissions notwithstanding.

City Council Passes New Bicycle Safety Standards

EXCERPT FROM AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY NYC COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN

he NYC Council passed a package of legislation on October 11, 2012, aimed at strengthening enforcement and creating tougher safety standards for commercial bicyclists. Council Speaker Christine Quinn announced the four new laws and expressed the hope that they will help protect all New Yorkers, especially seniors.

The first bill, Intro. 783-A, sponsored by Councilmembers James Vacca, is named after Stuart Gruskin who was tragically killed by a commercial bicyclist traveling the wrong way down a city street in 2009. Stuart's Law requires businesses employing commercial bicyclists to mandate that these employees take a bicycle safety course prior to their riding a bicycle on behalf of the business. The NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) must also post the contents of the course on its website, which will include safe bicycle practices and the

rules of the road.

The second bill, Intro. 896-A, sponsored by Councilmembers Gail A. Brewer, James Vacca, Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin, gives DOT the power to enforce the commercial bicycling laws, along with the New York City Police Department, which already has this power. Better enforcement of these laws will mean safer streets for all New Yorkers.

The third bill, Intro. 683-A, sponsored by Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer, requires commercial cyclists to wear reflective vests, making them easier to see and identify, especially at night, when many deliveries occur.

Finally, Intro. 910-A, sponsored by Councilmembers Vacca, Brewer, Garodnick and Lappin, will provide for tougher enforcement by setting civil penalties for any businesses that violate commercial bicycle laws.

This includes businesses that fail to provide helmets and retro-reflective vests for their workers; that fail to provide proper bicycle and bicyclist identification; and that fail to post signs at the business site explaining the necessary laws and rules related to commercial bicyclists.

NOTE THE DATES

TBA Annual Meeting

November 12, 6:30 pm Vanderbilt "Y" 224 East 47th Street (5th Floor Conference Room)

TBA 25th Annual Toy / Gift Drive and Holiday Party

December 9, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm (location to be determined)

From The Editor

As we move into Fall there's a lot happening in Turtle Bay. Having celebrated the TBA's 55th Anniversary with members and friends, the board continues to work for the good of the neighborhood.

Our most pressing issue is the fight against the mayor's Midtown rezoning plan: if it goes into effect, key portions of Turtle Bay will become part of the Midtown business district, which, in turn, will allow the addition of much larger buildings in the area. In this, we share the pain of many other city neighborhood that have suffered similar incursions, as presented in our article about Google Maps.

We also have some good news about the variety of services available from the staff at Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh's district office. And you might work up an appetite just reading about the beautiful, locally grown foods on sale at the Dag Hammarskjold Greenmarket which graces the neighborhood every Wednesday.

Since our last issue, we've been fortunate to welcome several new merchants to our roster, two of them offering member discounts. You'll find the list inside.

We appreciate our members and we love our community. It's a pleasure to keep you informed of what's going on in Turtle Bay. Lee Frankel

Editor

Board At Work

- Fighting Mayor Bloomberg's plan to rezone Midtown to allow for the construction of bigger buildings by annexing parts of Turtle Bay.
- Continuing to monitor the status of construction projects, such as the demolition of the old and construction of the new residential buildings at 51st Street and Second Avenue.
- Collecting donations for our annual Toy Drive in December.
- In touch with Community Board 6 regarding the safety of traffic signals at key intersections in the neighborhood.

The Turtle Bay Tree Fund Thinks Of Spring As Fall Arrives

By BILL HUXLEY, PRESIDENT, TB TREE FUND

Although the summer flowers that were planted last May were still blossoming at the time of this writing, the Turtle Bay Tree Fund is already looking ahead to November, when we will plant tulip bulbs in our 286 curbside tree beds.

We have ordered several thousand "Angelique" bulbs, described in the catalog as "a double soft pink, touched with white on the edges of the petals." Look for them next year on the cross-streets from 48th to 51st Streets, between Third Avenue and Beekman Place.



Angelique tulips to grace tree beds in spring.

Distinct from the Turtle Bay Association, the Tree Fund raises money through grants from our local elected officials and donations from neighbors who live on the Tree Fund blocks.

If you would enjoy more trees and flowers in Turtle Bay, please send donations and suggestions to Turtle Bay Tree Fund, 208 East 51st St., #238, New York, NY 10022.

For more information we invite you to our website: www.turtlebaytreefund.org.

Editorial Committee

Editor: Lee Frankel

Contributors: Gail Chamot, Marie Louise Handal, Dee Howard, Bill Huxley, Pascale Longuet, Millie Margiotta, Dolores Marsh, Todd Plummer, Karen Schlendorf, Bruce Silberblatt, Stan Szaro, Jo-Ann Winnik

TBA Who's Who

Turtle Bay Association

224 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 751-5465
Fax: (212) 751-4941
Email: office@turtlebay-nyc.org
Website: www.turtlebay-nyc.org

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

Board of Directors

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Barbara Connolly Helen Shapiro

Community Calendar

17th Precinct Community Council

Open Meeting Last Tuesday every month, 6 pm Sutton Place Synagogue 225 East 51st Street (212) 826-3228

(No meetings July, August, December)

Community Board 6

Full Board Meeting Second Wednesday every month, 7 pm NYU Medical Center 550 First Avenue (212) 319-3750

Elected Officials And Their Roles

The District Office of Brian Kavanagh 74th District Assemblymember

Our district office staff provides a variety of services for constituents, who should feel free to call, email, or come to our office with any issues, questions, or concerns, including, but not limited to:

Assistance with State Agencies: District office staff can assist you with problems you might encounter applying for or renewing professional licenses, addressing tax and insurance matters, or filing an unemployment claim. These are only a few of the many state issues where we can intervene.

Referrals: If your concern is a federal or local matter, our office will refer you to the appropriate government office or community agency that can help.



Recognition: We can request a variety of official Assembly recognitions or proclamations for organizations or individuals to commemorate your special achievements.

These include anniversary celebrations, graduations and special awards to groups, businesses and individuals.

Legislative Information: We can provide information for you when you have questions, comments or concerns regarding a piece of legislation or the state budget. You can also refer to the Assembly website as a resource for legislative information at www.assembly.state.ny.us.

Letters of Support: We can write letters

of support for worthwhile projects looking for grant assistance from federal or state agencies, or private foundations.

Brochures: We have informational brochures regarding various state agencies, programs, and issues that may be helpful.

Internships: We offer internships for high school students and undergraduate, graduate, and law students. These opportunities are available not only in the district office, but also in Albany. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who want to gain firsthand knowledge of how state government works.

District Office for Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh 237 First Avenue, Suite 407 New York, NY 10003 Phone: (212) 979-9696

Email: kavanagh@assembly.state.ny.us

Greenmarket Report

By Ashley Rafalow, Market Manager, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Greenmarket Hello Turtle Bay.

As we savor the cool, crisp autumn weather, Dag Hammarskjold Greenmarket is thriving with an abundance of farm-fresh, local fruit, vegetables, baked goods, fish, turkey, beef, cheese, milk, and more! Our farmers are bringing their best to market: from tart and sweet Honeycrisp apples, to savory smoked turkey breast, to hearty winter squash of all shapes and hues. We've got corn galore, beautiful beets, fresh caught fish, creamy yogurts and cheese, artisan breads, apple cider and yes – cider donuts!

Stop by the market this fall and you'll find these local farmers from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Local farmers who sell at our Greenmarket

Dag Hammarskjold Greenmarket embodies the autumn holiday spirit – pick your Halloween pumpkin and fill your Thanksgiving table with the gifts of the season. Our farmers and bakers have everything you need for a beautiful, bountiful Thanksgiving meal, so don't forget to stop by Wednesday before the big day!

We're open year-round, Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Textile donations are accepted between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. We accept EBT/Food Stamps, WIC & FMNP checks, and Health Bucks are still

available through mid-November: For every \$5 spent in EBT, customers receive a \$2 Health Buck coupon to purchase additional fruits and vegetables. Visit the market tent to use your EBT card.

Wishing you the very best this season,

Ashley GrowNYC 51 Chambers Street, Room 228 New York, NY 10007 arafalow@greenmarket.grownyc.org http://www.grownyc.org/daghammarskjoldgreenmarket



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Toasting the TBA'S 55th Anniversary Celebration

By Jo-Ann Winnik

A mood of contagious excitement and enthusiasm greeted a capacity crowd of 100 community residents and guests as they gathered to celebrate the Turtle Bay Association's 55th Anniversary at the elegant Le Perigord restaurant, on Sunday evening, September 9, 2012. While feasting on an exceptional three—course dinner complemented with endlessly—flowing wine, the mingling of longtime members of the neighborhood with those new to Turtle Bay, created an atmosphere that defined what "community" truly means.

Greeting residents were Borough President Scott Stringer who presented a proclamation to the association documenting September 9th, as Turtle Bay Association Day. Also a part of the festivities, and in recognition of the Turtle Bay Association, were Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, State Senator Liz Krueger, City Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin, and N.Y. State Assemblymembers Dan Quart and Micah Kellner.

Listening to the nonstop conversation and laughter, it was clear that this celebration brought together people who live in a defined neighborhood, but relish the opportunity to reach out to fellow residents and explore new friendships. Rarely did anyone stay in their seat; people moved about the lovely room introducing themselves to local political representatives, chatting with groups of residents, and having a terrific time in the festive atmosphere. Could it have been the free-flowing wine or the attentiveness of an enthusiastic restaurant staff that propelled this exuberance? They might have added a highlighted glow, but there is no doubt that it was, and continues to be, the character of our neighborhood and the creative spirit of our residents that make Turtle Bay a neighborhood of soaring vibrancy.

Congratulations, Turtle Bay Association, on your 55th Birthday!











TBA board, members and guests mingle with elected representatives, Carolyn Maloney, Liz Krueger, Dan Garodnick, Jessica Lappin, Micah Kellner and Dan G

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Turtle Bay Disappears On Google Maps, Renamed "Midtown East"

By Karen Schlendorf and Lee Frankel

oogle Maps shows "Midtown East, Manhattan" and not a sign of Turtle Bay. The neighborhood's upper boundary also appears six blocks farther north at 59th Street. We are not alone in this situation, which is hardly new in New York City.

Maps are a small part of the story. New York itself has always been an ever-changing mosaic. The city's government has never codified neighborhood boundaries, and

experts say that no map can be truly accurate given the pace of change. As development raises property values neighborhoods grow or shrink and their names change by a process of public consensus. Parts of Chinatown are now in Tribeca, Little Italy has become NoLita, and Bedford-Stuyvesant is merging into Clinton Hill. Turtle Bay began to change rapidly after the Third Avenue "El" disappeared. Now our name and zoning are under siege.

Maps differ according to who draws them and when. Google Maps, through Google Map Maker, displays locations as defined by interested community contributors. Google Map Maker is a web-based tool that enables and encourages a collaborative group of more than 25,000 volunteers to share information and edit the map of any place on the planet. Anyone can log onto Google Map Maker and submit revisions. A more senior volunteer reviews and either accepts or rejects the suggested change. A check of Google Map Maker at the time of writing listed 10 approved edits of Midtown East since a bit over a year.



All neighborhoods change. Turtle Bay and Blackwell's Island, c. 1870 Credit: "New York's Turtle Bay, Old & New," by Edmund T. Delancey, Barre Publishers, 1965

Turtle Bay appears neither on Google Maps, nor on a fold-out map of Manhattan published by Global Graphics. Still, it is alive and well on Wikipedia, where the Turtle Bay Association and expert sources write and edit postings using authoritative historical sources. Type in "Turtle Bay" on Google, and the very first listing is a link to the Turtle Bay Association website. There's no doubt that people recognize and know our

neighborhood as Turtle Bay. Conduct a search on Twitter, and "Turtle Bay" brings up many listings; try "Midtown East," and very little useful information comes up.

The story of our neighborhood is a fascinating one. If you enjoy history and a good read, we recommend "Manhattan's Turtle Bay," by Pamela Hanlon, available using the coupon on the back page of this issue.

This article is based on the story, "Amateur Mapmakers Redraw Boundaries, Working Online," by Michael M. Grynbaum, which appeared in The New York Times on September 9, 2012.

Greenmarkets Collect Textiles For Recycling

The average New Yorker tosses 46 pounds of clothing, towels and other textiles into the trash each year, a colossal 193,000 tons that make up 5.7% of the city's residential waste stream.

But we're making a dent with the help of GrowNYC, the organization that runs neighborhood greenmarkets. Since 2007, the public has dropped off more than 1.5 million pounds of textiles at greenmarkets around the city, saving tax dollars and the environment. Upon donation textiles are sorted and graded as usable clothing, cotton scrap, cotton blend scrap and synthetics. These commodities are then sold for reuse in clothing and linens, or to recycling markets that turn materials into wiping rags, fiber for car seats, and insulation.

Acceptable contributions include clean and dry clothing, paired shoes, bedding and linens, hats, handbags, belts, and fabric scraps 36"x36" and larger. Rugs, carpeting and commercial waste are not accepted. Contributions are tax deductible and you can order a textile recycling bin for your building.

GrowNYC is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of life in New York City. Besides greenmarkets and recycling, the group champions programs for community gardens, public and youth education and noise awareness.

Don't wait for spring cleaning. Bring your



From Dag Hammarskjold Greenmarket website

old textiles to the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Greenmarket at East 47th Street and Second Avenue, any Wednesday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. It's an easy way to do good and feel good.

For more information visit grownyc.org/clothing.

Keep An Eye On Your Dog

A neighbor in Turtle Bay recently left a restaurant forgetting to take her dog, which she had tied up out front. Returning soon after, she found the dog gone.

We often see dogs waiting for their owners outside supermarkets and restaurants where pets are not allowed. If you must leave your dog while you shop, please take care. Though it's hard to imagine taking someone's beloved pet, it happens. It seems we don't need guard dogs, we need dog guards!

Goings-On in Turtle Bay By Jo-Ann Winnik

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

619 Lexington Avenue at 54th Street (212) 935-2200 www.saintpeters.org

Midtown Jazz At Midday Wednesdays, 1:00 pm Midtown Arts Common

TURTLE BAY MUSIC SCHOOL

224 East 52nd Street (212) 753-8811

November 9, 7:00 pm

Artist Series: Matthew Graybill,

Pianist, Faculty

Debussy themed program to celebrate his 150th birthday.

FREE. Reception to follow performance.

November 30, 7:00 pm

Artist Series: Faculty Member Cory Ramey and Friends

Program of chamber music.guest musicians include; Nate Barthey, violin, Paul Wolfram, cello and Manon Hutter-DeWys, piano. FREE. Reception to follow performance.

December 1, 3:30 pm

Family Program: Hansel and Gretel

Kid-friendly, interactive concert and performance of an operatic version of Hansel and Gretel, sung in English. A treat for the whole family. FREE.

December 12, 7:00 pm Messiah Sing-a-long

Bring your score and join in song with the Turtle Bay Music School Community Chorus. FREE. Reception to follow.

INSTITUTO CERVANTES

211 East 49th Street (212) 308-7720 www.newyork.cervantes.org

November 15 - December 15 Exhibition: Xavier Montsalvatge

Within the context of the composer's music emerges a review of the history and art and aesthetics within the second half of the 20th century in Spain. Exhibition includes documents directly related to the composer such as art pieces, photographs, manuscripts, letters and articles, as well as a video that combines

art with biographical elements. FREE.

November 16, 6:00 pm

New Literature from Europe Festival 2012: Artistic Fictions/Fictional Artists

Group reading with several European authors, among them Spanish writer Ramon Menendez Salmon. The Festival asks why European writers are writing about art, about artists, and about the art world today. FREE.

GRAND CENTRAL LIBRARY

135 East 46th Street (between Lexington & Third Aves.) (212) 621-0670 http://www.nypl.org/locations/grand-central

Saturdays and Mondays, 11:00 am - 12 noon

YOGA: Begin or continue yoga practice. Open to all levels, beginners to experienced and everything in between. Bring your own mat. FREE. Registration Required.

December 1, 2:00 pm Come, Sit, Read

Wilbur, a specially trained assist therapy dog will join with literary mentors to improve literacy skills of children. Ages 5 and up. FREE. Registration required.

JAPAN SOCIETY

333 East 47th Street (212) 832-1155 www.japansociety.org

November 10, 2:00 pm Family Fun – Nature & Beauty Art Cart for Kids

Children and their families participate in a gallery lesson focused on themes in the Silver Wind exhibition (see below), including the seasons, nature, beauty and storytelling. In the hands-on portion, participants create painted miniature screens employing motifs found in the exhibition. Recommended for children ages 8+, \$12/\$5 Japan Society Members.

December 8, 8:00 pm Bang on a Can All Stars: Rimpa Reimagined

World Premiere of Japan Society-commissioned works by Vijay Iyer & Mamoru Fujieda.



Painting by Sakai Hoitsu

Through January 6

Silver Wind: The Arts of Sakai Hoitsu

Exhibition of one of the master painters of the Rimpa School.

\$28/\$23 Japan Society Members.

LENOX HILL SENIOR CENTER at St. Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue at 54th Street (212) 935-2200 www.saintpeters.org

Saturdays, 11:00 am: Ongoing Yoga and Meditation - Plaza Room

ST. BART'S

325 Park Avenue at 51st Street 212-378-0222 www.stbarts.org

December 11, 7:30 pm
The Joyous Christmas Concert

St. Bartholomew's Choir, Boy and Girl Choristers, a string orchestra, percussion and NYC's largest pipe organ join forces for this concert of Christmas favorites. Visit website for ticket prices and ordering.

December 21, 7:30 pm, in the Chapel Adoration of The Magi

Baritone, Jeff Morrissey and Pianist, William Trafka return this season with their popular Christmas program inspired by the elegant paintings found in the South Chapel of St. Bart's. Morrissey, whose voice The New York Times calls "a ringing baritone and first rate," will highlight the artwork weaving passages from the Bible with Polish carols, spirituals and ballads from his own Southern Appalachian Mountains to present a visual and musical telling of the Christmas story. Purchase tickets online or at the box office, (212) 378-0248. \$25, \$15 for students and seniors.

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The Joys of Living In Turtle Bay

there as it is each

vear to meet our

form them about

the work we do

for the neighbor-

hood, and invite

them to join us.

neighbors,

TBA Attends Night Out Against Crime

The NYPD's 17th Precinct sponsored the 29th Annual National Night Out Against Crime, on August 7, 2012, at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Local police and elected officials were there to meet the public and raise awareness about crime prevention and related city services. Community members were treated to an evening of fun featuring music, free food provided by Ali Baba restaurant and free water from Whole Foods. The TBA was



Elvis impersonator brings back the good old days



TBA volunteers, from left: Ethel Bendove, Gail Chamot, Jo-Ann Winnik, Bunny Blei and Millie Margiotta



From left: Dan Garodnick, Jessica Lappin, Dan Quart and Brian Kavanagh

Everyone's A Kid At The **Pumpkinfest**

It was a beautiful day as families arrived in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza for the The Ninth Annual Pumpkinfest, on October 13, 2012. Kids enjoyed lots of different activities: decorating pumpkins, face painting, and jumping around in the inflatable castle, among others. They also got to meet The Cat In The Hat and strolling magicians and clowns. The event's sponsors were Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and The Haley Foundation, along with support from the Department of Parks, the Vander-

bilt YMCA, and Moonsoup Art & Music For Kids. The Pumpkinfest is one of the many events that make Turtle Bay a great neigh-



New Merchant Members

Fitness

+Aerial Arts NYC

235 East 49th Street, www.aerialartsnyc.com Discount: \$5 off your first class (code: Turtle613)

Restaurants

Brabant Belgian Brasserie 316 East 53rd Street (212) 510-8588

Jubilee (note new address) 948 First Avenue (52nd) (212) 888-3569

+Le Perigord

405 East 52nd Street (212) 755-6244 Discount: 20%

◆Participant in discount program

TBA MEMBERSHIP COUPON Yes, I want to join the Turtle Bay Association to help support our community's quality of life. **Annual Membership Dues** ☐ Family \$30 ☐ Senior \$10 ☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Business \$40 ☐ Benefactor \$100 ☐ Pacesetter \$250 Name_. _____ Apt____ Address City/State/Zip Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ ☐ 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. 47th St., New York, NY 10017

BOOK ORDER FORM

Manhattan's Turtle Bay

A Contemporary History of Turtle Bay Arcadia Publishing • 160 pages; 50 photos \$15.00
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

www.turtlebay-nyc.org