

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Spring 2013 Vol. 56, No. 2

Bike Share Is Coming to Turtle Bay, Soon!

By BRUCE SILBERBLATT

The Department of Transportation has announced that a partial start-up of its Bike Share program to make rental bicycles readily available in many parts of the city, including Turtle Bay, will begin in May 2013. The announcement followed several delays that pushed the inaugural back by more than a year.

The Bike Share project is a marriage between the DOT and a private company with profits to be shared. The DOT (at least in theory) will be exempt from any liability arising from its part in the operation. City Bike will supply the bicycles, docks, and fee collection machines.

CitiBank will pay Bike Share \$41 million to display the bank's logo on the new system, including all bicycles, to be dubbed

"Citibikes." Additionally, Mastercard will spend \$6.5 million on developing Bike Share's payment system.

Designed for Short Rides

There are three plans: an annual \$95 fee will buy unlimited 45-minute trips. Each trip must be completed within the allotted time, or overtime fees will accrue and compound. Bikes can also be rented on a daily basis for \$9.95, or a weekly unlimited basis for \$25, with a trip time of 30 minutes, after which overtime charges apply. The extra fees can rapidly escalate rental prices, and even City Bike suggests that local private bike rental shops be used instead if cyclists need longer rides. Payments will be made at collection machines attached to each Bike Share stand. All fees will be subject to sales tax.

The TBA has objected to the length of all the bike stands; the DOT has replied that the stands are designed for a "100% overcapacity," which, when translated, means that, on average, they will be half empty!

The TBA has, along with the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza park, also objected to the presence of the bike stand located next to the park. The DOT had

originally planned for two stands, but then relocated one to the other side of Second Avenue.

Stands Not Well Situated in Turtle Bay

It appears that the DOT did not really study our neighborhood, since two of the stands block building entrances. One obstructs nearly the whole north side of the 300-unit Buchanan apartment building, at 48th Street on the southwest corner of Third. The other is located much too close to a fire hydrant at 351 East 51st Street – a 20-story building on the northwest corner of Second. The DOT had previously promised never to block a building entrance and certainly must give priority to such safety issues as fire hydrants. The TBA has protested against both locations.

Thus far, the TBA has not heard from the DOT, and the month of May is here.

Bike Share Stations in Turtle Bay

Location	Number of Bicycles	Length in Feet
43rd N/E corner Second Avenue	21	51
44th S/W corner First Avenue (UN Plaza)	39	93
45th S/E corner Third Avenue	32	77
47th S/W corner First Avenue (next to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza)	39	93
47th N/W corner Second Avenue	47	112
48th S/W corner Third Avenue	47	112
51st N/W corner First Avenue	35	84
52nd N/E corner Second Avenue	34	82
53rd N/E corner Lexington Avenue	35	84

Garodnick and Lappin Named OTTY East Siders Of The Year

Our Town, the East Side's free newspaper, has honored City Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin as East Siders of the Year. The annual "Our Town Thanks You" ("OTTY") awards also recognize extraordinary community service in the clergy, community-building, culture, education,

entrepreneurship, health care, and real estate.

Dan and Jessica have been staunch supporters of Turtle Bay and the Turtle Bay Association; we're lucky to have them as our representatives. No one could deserve this honor more than they do.



Local Event Calendar

17th Precinct Explorers Block Party May 5, 11 am - 4 pm

East 43 Street between Third and Lex.
Come join the fun

Katharine Hepburn Garden Party Saturday, May 11, 1 - 3 pm

Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (2nd/47th)
Katharine Hepburn lived in Turtle Bay for many years. Join us to celebrate the Hollywood legend's birthday with free entertainment, coffee and birthday cake.

Meet Your Neighbor

Sunday, June 9, 3 - 5 pm

Masq Restaurant & Lounge
306 East 49th Street

You are cordially invited to Masq, a local restaurant of magic and mystery. Enjoy free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar while making new friends

TBA Spring Street Fair

Sunday, June 16, 10 am - 6 pm

Lexington Avenue (42nd/57th)
212-751-5465

Homeless Shelter To Open On East 53rd

By MARK MARKOWSKI

Samaritan Village will operate a 127-bed shelter at 225 East 53rd Street, for working men who have no homes of their own. The shelter will have round-the-clock security, and 58 cameras will be stationed throughout the facility. The Department of Homeless Services is in the process of completing the paperwork for the shelter, which is expected to open in the next two or three months. Previously, the building served as the location for a medical treatment center also run by Samaritan Village.



225 East 53rd Street

The East Midtown Neighborhood Coalition, Sutton Area Community, and Turtle Bay Association were united in opposing the plan. The TBA protested in writing, and its executive committee voted unanimously against the shelter's location in Turtle Bay. The shelter might add more pedestrian traffic on an already very busy and narrow street.

Chairman of the TBA's Homeless Committee Mark Markowski voiced the TBA's strong objections to the new shelter at a February meeting of the Community Board 6 Homeless Committee. Despite a unified neighborhood protest on February 12, 2013, CB6 ratified a "no objection" resolution authored by the CB6 Homeless Committee.

The TBA will continue to cooperate with the East Midtown Neighborhood Coalition and the Sutton Area Community in monitoring the location and the street. We are also working to gain a presence on the Community Advisory Board for the new shelter to make sure that the TBA's voice is heard.

If you are interested in joining and participating with the TBA's Homeless Committee, please reach out to Mark Markowski through the Turtle Bay Association at 212-751-5465 or office@turtlebay-nyc.org.



Bicycles and subway grates impede a narrow sidewalk along 53rd Street.

Newsorthy Notes

In Memory of Geraldine Rhoads

Longtime Turtle Bay resident Geraldine Rhoads passed away on January 26, 2013, three days short of her 99th birthday. Ms. Rhoads was editor of Women's Day from 1966 to 1982. During her tenure, the magazine's circulation increased from five million to eight million. She refocused the magazine to meet the changing roles and interests of women, while continuing to publish traditional homemaking advice.

Once A Neighbor, Still A Fan

Recently, we received a note from a re-newing TBA member who lived in the neighborhood for 40 years and actively fought for the community. She now lives elsewhere and writes: "I really enjoy the newsletters." That's the kind of mail we love to receive.

Coming in August

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 5,

5 - 9 pm

Dag Hammarskjold

Plaza (2nd/47th)

212-836-3211

The 17th Precinct

Sponsors The 30th Anniversary of America's National Night Out Against Crime.



Editorial Committee

Editor: Lee Frankel

Layout: Hilary Black

Contributors: Lois Avery Gaeta, Vivian Gordon, Dee Howard, Bill Huxley, Millie Margiotta, Mark P. Markowski, Karen Schlendorf, Bruce Silberblatt, Jo-Ann Winnik

TBA Who's Who

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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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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

Cupid Came to Turtle Bay

BY JO-ANN WINNIK

"It might have been the superb surroundings," thought Cupid, as he flew through the air with his love-laden arrows on Monday evening, February 11, at the enchanting Seafire Grill, the new, exquisitely elegant Turtle Bay restaurant. "Perhaps," he mused, "it was the welcoming and attentive staff," who, from planning the event until the last guest went home, assured that no detail of fine dining was overlooked. It might have been the glow of the fire in the hearth, the glass of wine offered to every guest, or the abundant culinary delights of rack of lamb, organic Scottish salmon, and cinnamon ice cream with chocolate chip cookies.

But, by the end of the evening, Cupid and all the guests at the TBA's 29th annual "Love Thy Neighborhood" Valentine party realized that, although venues, menus and a wonderfully caring staff highlighted the event, the main attraction was the residents of Turtle Bay. Sitting at tables covered with valentines, red ribbons, candies and elaborate menus, the vibrant gathering once again shared bonds with each other at an event that embodied what Valentine's Day and community are all about.

Local representatives were there enjoying the festivities with the community. After an introduction by TBA President Bill Curtis,



Councilmember Dan Garodnick welcomed guests and visited each table to chat. Erik Bottcher, Special Assistant for Community Affairs, joined us from Governor Cuomo's office. We heard from Liz Brown and Robert Attenbury, representatives from the offices of N.Y. State Senators Liz Krueger and Brad Hoylman, as well as Jane Swanson from Councilmember Jessica Lappin's office.

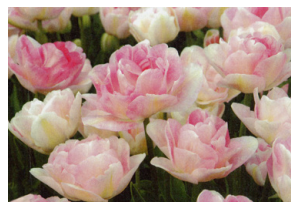
The pinnacle of the fun was the suspense about who would win the fabulous door prizes, among them: gift certificates from Salon Amici on 50th Street, signed copies of "Manhattan's Turtle Bay – Story of a Midtown Neighborhood" by Pamela Hanlon, two tickets to a Broadway show, and two generous gift certificates from our gracious host, The Seafire Grill.

After Cupid packed up his arrows and the guests donned their coats, all flew home on a "high," hearts filled with neighborly love.

Exceptional Tulip Blossoms Expected

BY BILL HUXLEY

The cooler-than-usual temperatures in late winter and early spring we've been experiencing this year are exactly what we and our tulip bulbs were hoping for. Planted in the fall, bulbs require cold winter temperatures in order to "set" and be ready to bloom in the spring.



"Angelique" tulips deserve their name.

"Angelique" bulbs, described in the bulb catalogue as "candy for the eyes." They are double-petal blossoms, so be sure to look at them closely.

Impatiens Threatened

Because of a worldwide blight that attacked impatiens plants, the future of this beloved summer flower is bleak indeed. According to the Cornell Horticultural Research Center, "An entire species was

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Yesterday and Today

BY KAREN SCHLENDORF

The year is 1939 and you're living on East 48th Street. You may be living in a tenement or one of the brownstones that lined the street at the time, and you could hear the Third Avenue "El" rumbling by, day and night. The El added to the gloom and grime of Third Avenue and the shabby neighborhood.



East 48th Street, showing Third Avenue El, 1938

In 1956, the El came down, the last elevated subway train to be demolished in Manhattan. Soon, Third Avenue would be widened, lighted and landscaped, and Turtle Bay would be in the middle of the monumental changes taking place in this part of the city at that time.

This street would see tenements torn down and replaced by taller apartment buildings and refurbished brownstones. Perhaps more important, it would see residents, old and new, who found their voice and fought hard to protect our ever changing neighborhood and way of life in this "small town" of Turtle Bay.



East 48th Street, today

New Traffic Lights Meant To Improve Pedestrian Safety

The 17th Precinct reports pedestrian safety as one of its biggest concerns. Improvement has come with new traffic lights, but New Yorkers also have to do their part.

Split-Phase Traffic Lights

The Department of Transportation has installed "split-phase arrow" traffic lights at many pedestrian crossings. Drivers in the turn lane are delayed by a red light to allow more time for pedestrians to cross.

Traffic Lights That Count Down

New countdown traffic lights let pedestrians know how much crossing time they have before the light turns red.

Curb Your Dog and "Scoop The Poop"

The beauty and health of our community depend on all of us. Dog feces spread disease, especially among children and park workers, and dog urine destroys plants, trees and granite. The Turtle Bay Association and Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza ask that dog owners in the neighborhood curb and clean up after their pets and keep their dogs leashed. City laws require it, and violations can result in fines up to \$1,000.

Spotlight on Local Businesses

Turtle Bay is home to many small businesses, the kind that are the backbone of the city's economy and are, collectively, its largest employers. The TBA is committed to supporting our local merchants, their services, and the enjoyment and color they bring to the neighborhood and its visitors.

This is the first in a series of articles that will spotlight the TBA's merchant members, beginning with two popular and outstanding restaurants.

Le Périgord

405 East 52nd Street (FDR Dr./1st Ave.)
Open for dinner seven days a week. Open for lunch Monday - Friday
212-755-6244 leperigord.com

With TBA Membership Card: 20% discount

Many are the neighbors and famous visitors who have celebrated friendships and personal milestones, in Turtle Bay, at Le Périgord, which will mark its 50th Anniversary



Georges Briguet (left) and son Christopher Briguet

in 2014. The Turtle Bay Association celebrated its own 55th Anniversary, in 2012, with a fabulous dinner at this elegant and gracious French restaurant.

The wonderful cuisine, service and ambience at Le Périgord reflect the love and care rendered by the Briguet family who own and operate the restaurant. Presiding over all is Georges Briguet, the Swiss-born owner and maitre d', assisted by his son Christopher, who will inherit his father's position. Wife and mother Marie Therese hails from Brittany and excels at floral arranging – an art passed on to her sons. Another son, architect and designer Jean-Luc, recently redecorated the graceful main dining room in shades of peach.

The menu is prix fixe, although many people choose to order à la carte. The most popular dishes are the English Channel

Dover sole and the whole roast duckling served for two at tableside. A favorite dessert, among the choices presented on a two-tiered tray of sweets, is the Floating Island with vanilla "crème Anglaise."

Georges Briguet recalls the year when Le Périgord opened, and Liz Taylor and Richard Burton came in. When a photo, showing the couple under the awning, appeared on the front page of The New York Post, Le Périgord instantly became known as the most romantic restaurant in New York City.

The Briguet family describes the restaurant as "classic French with contemporary



The dining room

accents," and looks forward to celebrating its 50th year with special events to be held throughout 2014. We wish them another 50 years of success!

Ashtons Alley

825 Third Avenue (E. 50th St., 2/3 Aves.)
Open seven days a week, Sat. until 4 am
Take-out and delivery is popular
212-688-8625 ashtonsalleysportsbar.com
With TBA Membership Card: 20% discount on dinner, 10% on lunch

Ashtons Alley, with its upscale lively sports bar, restaurant and colorful sidewalk café, has a double header year-round appeal to local business people, neighborhood devotees, and out-of-town visitors referred by nearby hotels.

Owner and operator Patrick Heraty attributes Ashtons' popularity to its great drinks and amazing bar food, and its versatile American/Continental cuisine. The restaurant appeals especially to people ages 23 to 45, and attracts customers including sports celebs like the Ravens running back Ray Lewis; former Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy; Kevin Long, hitting coach of the New York Yankees; and third



Patrick Heraty, owner of Ashtons Alley

base Yankee coach Rob Thomson.

Bar manager Alicia Bowling says, "Our 10 flat screen TVs go from 80, 70 and 60 inches to normal sized ones that accommodate viewing access for everyone. But only one set has sound on at a time:

the one playing the 'premier' game.

"We feature Kobe beef sliders thick enough to get a temperature on them, filet mignon and fresh tuna sliders, Buffalo wings – any temperature – Cajun salmon, and salads to die for. We also work with a bakery that makes fabulous chocolate desserts."

Scully, the bartender, is from Cork, Ireland. He first tended bar at the Green



Derby and John Barleycorn, and has been with Ashtons for 17 years. Scully refused to be photographed, joking, "There are too many people out there looking for me!" He noted that the most popular drinks are martinis, vodka drinks, and beers such as Stella Artois and the Belgian "Trappist beer," Chimay.

The TBA Welcomes New Merchant Member



♦ **Masq Restaurant & Lounge**
306 E. 49th Street (1st/2nd)
212-664-8294

masqnyc.com/menu.html

♦ **TBA Member Discount 10%**

Art & Culture

St. Bart's

325 Park Ave., <http://mmpaf.org>

Orchestra Modern

Mon., May 13, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Debut concert with conductor Steven Fox, known for work with the Clarion Music Society. Program contrasts two expressions of ardent love from Verdi's "Overture to La Forza del Destino" and Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll." Also features the charming first orchestral suite of Igor Stravinsky in four movements.

Free Weekly Early Music Concerts

Thursdays, 1:15 - 2:15 pm

May 2

Rebecca Pechesky Harpsichord Music of Johann Ludwig Krebs in his 300th birthday year.

May 9

Summit Ensemble - Sound the Trumpet Music from the era of William and Mary, including works of Henry Purcell and John Blow.

May 23

Trefoil - Fleur de Valeur: Medieval Flower Songs Program to include Trouvere melodies and assorted vocal and instrumental works from the 13th century Ars Antiqua through the early Burgundian style of Dufay and Binchois.

May 30

White Sparrow - La Musa, La Musica Music of John Dowland, Bartolomeo Tromboncino, and Etienne Moulinié.

June 6

New Comma Baroque - "Tous les Matins du Monde" Works from the French Baroque period will include Marin Marais' "Sonnerie" for violin, viola da gamba, and harpsichord.

June 13

Lizzie and the Theorboys - Bizzarie Poetische Poste in Musica Program of music from Niccolò Fontei's 1636 second book of songs; also Monteverdi, Castaldi and Barbara Strozzi.

Japan Society

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

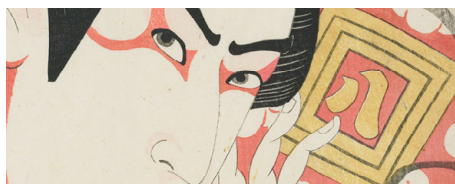
Art Exhibit

Through Sunday, June 9

Edo Pop: The Graphic Impact of Japanese Prints

Playfully juxtaposes classic ukiyo-e prints from such masters as Katsushika Hokusai and

Utagawa Hiroshige with contemporary works inspired by these artists and their works.



Gallery Hours: Tues. - Thu., 11 am - 6 pm; Friday, 11 am - 9 pm; Sat./Sun., 11 am - 5 pm; Closed Mon./major holidays.

Admission: \$12; students & seniors \$10; members & children under 16 free. Admission free to all on Fri. nights, 6 - 9 pm.

Family Programs

Sunday, May 5, 2 pm

Celebrating Japan's Children's Day Through Performance & Crafts-Making: Kodomo no hi

Activities include a fun theater performance, songs and dances by Theatre Banana. Kids will make their own samurai helmets (kabuto) and carp streamers. (Boys and girls welcome.) *Ages 3-10 and accompanying adults.* **Tickets:** \$15/\$8 J.S. members; children ages 2 and under free.



Sunday, May 12, 2 pm

Edo Pop Art Cart

Two-hour children's workshop begins with a discussion of works in the Edo Pop exhibition and continues with an explanation of woodblock printmaking techniques. A workshop devoted to a variety of techniques follows, with time for show-and-tell with all participants. *Ages 8 - 12.* **Tickets:** \$12/\$5 J.S. members; children 2 and under free.

All tickets: Online or call J.S. Box Office, 212-715-1258, Mon. - Fri. 11 am - 6 pm, and weekends during gallery exhibitions, 11 am - 5 pm.

Turtle Bay Music School

224 East 52nd St.
212-753-8811 tbms.org

Free Artist Series

Thursday, 7 - 9 pm

May 3

Jai-Yi He Harmonica Virtuoso performs a selection of tunes highlighting the versatility of the instrument.

May 10

Nick Birmelin, faculty member, in an interactive performance that features music and dance of Brazil focusing on percussion and dance. Special guests: Quenia Ribeiro, Ze Mauricio, Marcos Vigio, Aerei Sekiguchi and Nao Yamada. Reception follows.

May 31

Sean Satin, faculty member, performs in concert. Reception follows.

June 7

Patti Onorato, faculty member, performs in concert. Reception follows.

Community Chorus Year-End Concert

Wednesday, May 29, 7 - 9 pm

Free

Rolf Kolz Memorial Scholarship Fund Concert

June 2, 4-6 pm

Bruce Potterton, Piano

Light supper served after concert; Free, although donations will be graciously accepted at the door.

St. Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue at 54th St.,
saintpeters.org

Midtown Jazz at Midday

Wednesdays, May 1 - July 31, 1 pm

Sanctuary (no concert on 5/15)

Weekly Jazz On The Plaza

Thursdays, May 2 - July 23, 12:30 pm

Outdoors (no concert on 7/4)



Lenox Hill Senior Center

At St. Peter's Church

9 am - 4 pm, Living Room

Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri, 5/1 - 6/28

(closed Thurs., 7/4, Independence Day).

Lunch served. Contact Tricia Spoto, 212-308-1959, tspoto@lenoxhill.org for info.

Board At Work

- Monitoring homeless shelters located in the neighborhood.
- Tracking the progress of construction at building sites throughout Turtle Bay.
- Maintaining a dialogue with the federal, state and city elected officials who represent us.
- Keeping an eye on traffic safety at hazardous intersections.
- Working with the 17th Precinct and 17th Precinct Community Council on key community issues.
- Holding events that bring neighbors together to build our community.

Join The TBA and Save Money

Join or renew your membership to get the TBA Business Directory, offering discounts at more than 30 local businesses, including:

- Accounting and Tax Services
- Chiropractic
- Eyeglasses
- Exercise and Workout
- Hair Salon
- Interior Design
- Picture Framing
- Restaurants
- Wines and Spirits



Receive the TBA Business Directory when you join or rejoin, and be sure to present your membership card when purchasing from those local businesses.

Cut out and mail the membership coupon below.

Membership Card Gets Local Discounts

Tulips continued from page 3

virtually wiped out in a single season by a specific downy mildew." As a result, the Tree Fund will plant begonias this summer, as we did in 2009 and 2010.

Also, during the hot summer months, workers from The Doe Fund will supplement seasonal rainfall with their visiting tank truck, and will water the begonias three times a week.

Contact us at Turtle Bay Tree Fund, 208 East 51st Street, #238, New York, NY 10022. Visit us at: www.turtlebaytreefund.org

No More Blinking Blue Lights On SBS Buses

It's hard to tell a Select Bus from a local these days, since the MTA turned off the blinking blue lights. State law permits flashing colored lights only on emergency vehicles. The MTA has presented no alternate solution.



SBS bus before ban on blue lights

As we wait for the next bus, local or Select, we can wonder how and when the MTA will solve the problem.

Volunteer with The TBA

The TBA office is seeking several part-time volunteers who are comfortable with computers and who can work from home, unsupervised, to update our database. Knowledge of Excel is a plus.

The Newsletter also needs people who can write, have facility with the Internet, and would interview local merchants. If you can take pictures that would also be very valuable.

Call the Turtle Bay Association office at 212-751-5465 and we'll call you back.



TBA MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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

Annual Membership Dues

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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. 47th 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
\$15.00

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