

# Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

February 2018 Vol. 61, No. 1

## TBA Protests Design of Pedestrian Walkway at East 54th Street, Part of Plans for East River Esplanade

The Manhattan Waterfront Greenway embraces the island in an almost continuous path that runs from West 118th Street in Inwood, south along the Hudson, around the Battery, and north along the East River. The Greenway affords New Yorkers the pleasures of water views while walking, jogging, biking or just relaxing.

A gap in the Greenway lies along the

Thursday, December 21, 2017

### The Greenway Bridge Two Bridges: One Much Too Far, The Other Just Right!

One span pursues a tortuous, serpentine route from East 54th Street, looping skyward, destroying the Sutton Place Park in its haste to plunge back to earth at the FDR Drive in a double zig-zag. Gone is the privacy of those who live here. There has to be a better solution.

Another span, however, adopts a common-sense path. It starts inboard at 53rd Street, not 54th, taking a straight line thence to the FDR Drive, which it bridges directly. At the outboard side of the FDR Drive, it follows the Drive, serving both it and the Esplanade. Here is the ideal solution. The park is spared. Privacy is assured.

The Turtle Bay Association thereby supports the second design. It is simpler and does the job for which it was intended.

Bruce Silberblatt  
Chair, Zoning & Land Use Committee  
The Turtle Bay Association

*This resolution was emailed to Council Member Ben Kallos, Manhattan 5th District and Dan Garodnick, (former) Council Member, Manhattan 4th District. Copies sent to NYC Economic Development Corporation; NYC Council; Manhattan Community Board 6; Manhattan Community Board 8; Cannon Point/45 Sutton Place South, Sutton Area Community.*



East River between 38th and 61st streets. Called the “East River Esplanade” or “East River Greenway,” it is scheduled for construction in 2019 and the city has committed \$100 million to its completion.

Plans include a pedestrian walkway, or bridge, over the northern part of Clara Coffey Park at 54th Street and York Avenue. The TBA has protested the bridge’s design and location, and provided an alternative solution (see box at left).

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Community Board 6 and Sutton Area Community have protested the bridge’s proposed location as a hindrance to the park. In a letter to the New York City Economic Development Corporation, Maloney called on the NYCEDC to relocate the bridge to East 53rd Street, and to include the community in further planning.

The TBA will provide news on our website, in e-bulletins, and in future issues of the Turtle Bay News as this story continues to unfold.

## TBA Supports ERFA in Fight to Stop Mega-Tower on East 58th Street

The fate of the mega-tower currently being built at 430 East 58th Street is unclear. The story presents a tangled web of issues that typify community opposition to Big Real Estate, with the involvement of the city’s bureaucracy. The moral: prepare for a long, hard fight, expect the unexpected, and don’t give up.

In early December, the East River 50s Alliance (ERFA) announced success in rezoning the Sutton area to exclude out-of-scale development. Despite a Stop Work Order (SWO) from the Department of Buildings (DOB),

Gamma Real Estate, continued constructing a super-tall building based on the original plans, which are not compliant with the new law.

Rather than submit new plans as required, Gamma has appealed to the city’s Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) holding that it began work on the foundation prior to the new zoning, and so the project should be grandfathered – allowed to be built according to the original plans. Among the considerations is the extent of progress on the foundation at the time the new law was adopted on November 30, 2017, an issue

*continued on page 4*

## Event Calendar

### Love Thy Neighborhood Valentine Party

Monday, February 12, 6:30 pm  
Pescatore  
955 Second Avenue (50/51)  
\$45, Members Only

## Newsworthy Notes

### New Bill Adjusts Rent Tax for Small Businesses

The city recently announced a new bill that makes changes to the Commercial Rent Tax (CRT) aimed at helping the city's small businesses succeed.

Effective July 1, 2018, the threshold for Manhattan's CRT for businesses with income up to \$5 million will increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 annual rent, with the benefit provided on a sliding scale for businesses with income between \$5 million and \$10 million or paying \$500,000 to \$550,000 in rent. In total, the move reduces taxes for 2,700 small businesses, including 1,800 that will no longer pay the tax at all. Under this move, the average business owner will receive between \$11,300 and \$13,000 in annual tax relief.

This represents the first change to the CRT since 2001 and specifically targets Manhattan's mom-and-pop shops and small businesses with 99 percent of the benefit going to businesses with only one or two taxable locations. Former Council Member Dan Garodnick actively supported the bill prior to leaving office at the end of 2017.

### TBA Congratulates Hollister, New Board Chair of CB6

At the December 2017 Full Board meeting, a special election for a new Board Chair was held in which Molly Hollister was unanimously elected, following previous chair Rick Eggers. Claude L. Winfield, who stepped in as Acting Chair, will return to his position as First Vice Chair.

### Applications Available to Join Community Board 6

The Manhattan Borough President's office is now accepting applications for Community Board membership. New Yorkers living, working or studying in one of Manhattan's 12 Community Board districts are encouraged to apply. Commu-

nity Boards are the most grass roots form of local government, each composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and they work to enhance and preserve the character of their neighborhoods. Apply online at [manhattanbp.nyc.gov/CBapply](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/CBapply).

### 31st Annual Holiday Toy Drive a Success

The TBA's Toy Drive and Holiday Party was a great success. Old and new friends arrived with toys and winter clothing to benefit The Single Parent Resource Center, Inc. Donations were also made to the Vanderbilt Y Scholarship Fund and God's Love We Deliver. Guests enjoyed drinks and appetizers served in style at Parnell's Bar and Restaurant. We thank our members and neighbors for their generosity.

### Turtle Bay Featured in The New York Times

The New York Times ran an inclusive report about Turtle Bay, online on January 10, and again in print on January 14. Reporter Julie Lasky covered all facets of the neighborhood, from its history to its landmarks, ambience, diversity, celebrities, housing prices, restaurants and parks. The TBA was featured prominently in its successful mission, since 1957, to keep the neighborhood as a desirable, friendly and convenient place to live.

The article, headlined, "Turtle Bay, Manhattan: The Convenience of Midtown, at a Relatively Affordable Price," was upbeat and realistic. It should help boost business in the neighborhood and, possibly, position Turtle Bay as even more of a magnet than it already is.

#### Welcome New Business Member

**Marjorie Borell**  
Associate Broker  
Akam Sales and Brokerage  
Mobile: 917-837-3761  
Office: 646-329-1169 x1195  
[mborell@akam.com](mailto:mborell@akam.com)

#### Editorial Team

**Editor:** Lee Frankel  
**Layout:** Hilary Black  
**Photographs:** Lee Frankel

## TBA Who's Who

### Turtle Bay Association

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New York, NY 10017  
Phone: 212-751-5465  
Fax: 212-751-4941  
Email: [office@turtlebay-nyc.org](mailto:office@turtlebay-nyc.org)  
Website: [www.turtlebay-nyc.org](http://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

#### Officers

President: William E. Curtis  
Secretary: Mary Marangi  
Treasurer: Dick Irwin  
Vice Presidents: Millie Margiotta  
Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt

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Ethel Bendove, Bunny Blei,  
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Mark P. Markowski, Dolores Marsh,  
Pat McDougald, Michael Resnick,  
Carol Rinzler, Bruce Silberblatt

#### Honorary Emeritus

Jonathan Bing,  
Barbara Connolly

#### Ex Officio

Gale Brewer, Ben Kallos,  
Liz Krueger, Carolyn Maloney,  
Keith Powers, Dan Quart

### 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  
Now live online at  
<http://wp.cbsix.org/live>



## Fraud Prevention Tips from the NYPD

Criminals have figured out how to defraud individuals and their financial institutions using blank checks taken from check books, canceled checks found in the garbage, or checks mailed to pay bills.

Here are steps you can take to block criminal actions.

- Use a Gel pen, like the Uni-Ball 207. The gel ink contains tiny particles of color that are trapped by the paper, making check washing much more difficult.
- Do not mail bills through your mailbox at night. Criminals can remove checks from mailboxes. The post office is the best place to mail checks.
- Secure your checks. Never leave your check book in your vehicle or out in the open.
- Limit the amount of personal information when you fill in a check. For example, do not include your Social Security

Number, driver's license or telephone numbers on your check.

- Review your bank statement within 30 days of receipt to detect any irregularities. Otherwise, you might become liable for any losses due to check fraud.
- Don't leave blank spaces on the payee and amount lines of your checks.
- Unless needed for tax purposes, destroy old canceled checks, account statements, deposit tickets and ATM receipts. A cross-cut shredder does the job.
- Don't make checks payable to "cash." If lost or stolen, the check can be cashed by anyone.

For more information contact the 17th Precinct Crime Prevention at 212-826-3224, or email [dennis.wyss@NYPD.org](mailto:dennis.wyss@NYPD.org).

### Donate Your Gently-Used Clothing, Suitcases, Small Appliances, Kitchen Utensils and Help Homeless Women Find a New Start

The New Providence Women's Shelter has assisted homeless women, since 1998. It supports 130 women, age 18 and over, with a safe place to live and the services needed to help overcome addiction and/or mental illness, and to secure and stabilize their lives.

The shelter is funded by the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), which manages 12 city-run and more than 200 privately-run shelter facilities in the city.

Help someone find a job, a home, and a good life. Donate your used clothing.

#### Bring donations directly to the shelter.

New Providence Women's Shelter  
225 E. 45th Street  
Maria Villanueva  
Recreational Therapist  
(212) 661-8934

## How to Dispose of Unwanted Medicines

### Go to a Take-Back Location



This is the safest and most environmentally protective way to dispose of unused drugs. The Duane Reade at 949 Third Avenue (57th Street) is a listed take-back location.

Many CVS Pharmacy, Rite-Aid and Walgreens locations offer the Sharps Compliance Inc. medication disposal system, which allows customers to mail their unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications to Sharp Compliance's Texas facility for disposal. Check at the pharmacy counter to purchase postage-paid envelopes or boxes for this mail-back. Controlled substances are excluded from the program.

### At Home

This applies both to prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Do not bring drugs such as Oxycontin and Fentanyl.

- Do not flush drugs down the drain or toilet, they contaminate the water supply.
- Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with material like dirt, used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
- Do not dispose of narcotic drugs (e.g., Oxycontin) and controlled substances in the trash. They can be retrieved and used, even after mixing with unpleasant materials.
- Place in a container such as a sealed plastic bag.
- Mark "Not Recyclable-Disposal Only."
- Discard with regular garbage.
- Scratch out all personal information on prescription labels of empty pill bottles and packaging to make it unreadable. Then dispose of the container. Many plastic pill bottles are recyclable in NYC.

### SAFE Disposal Events

At intervals throughout the year, the Department of Sanitation holds events where old medications are collected. Look for dates on the city's website.

There are many available sources for further information on the Internet.

### 17th Precinct Crime Statistics

Report Covering  
January 1 – 7, 2018

	Year to Date		
	2018	2017	% Chg.
Murder	0	0	--
Rape	0	0	--
Robbery	0	1	-100.00
Felony Assault	2	2	0.00
Burglary	1	0	--
Grand Larceny	7	12	-41.70
Grand Larceny Auto	0	2	-100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-41.18</b>
Transit	1	1	--
Housing	0	0	--
Petit Larceny	14	9	55.60
Misd. Assault	7	3	133.30
Misd. Sex Crimes	0	0	--
Shooting Vic.	0	0	--
Shooting Inc.	0	0	--

From 17th Precinct Website

Prepared by the NYPD CompStat Unit. Crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law definitions and differ from the crime categories to the F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reporting System. All degrees of rape are included in the rape category. All figures are subject to further analysis and revision.

## Spotlight on Local Business

### Éclair: A Genuine French Bakery in Turtle Bay

BY LEE FRANKEL

If you haven't yet been to Éclair, the cozy bakery and coffee shop, at 305 East 53rd Street, it's well worth a visit. Why wait when such delicious and authentically French baked goods are available here in our own neighborhood?



As I entered Éclair, I could see Chef Stephane Pourrez and his assistants at work in the spotless, open kitchen. I was welcomed with a cup of coffee, and soon Chef Pourrez joined me. His career began in a Paris suburb at the advanced age of eight, when he began



baking at home to the displeasure of his mother, who had to clean up.

Chef Pourrez opened Éclair four years ago, bringing with him extensive French culinary training and restaurant experience, including a stint as head waiter at the storied Moulin Rouge.

The energy and dedication needed by a pastry chef and bakery owner is clear as he moves around the kitchen. His days begin at five o'clock in the morning; he has had almost



no vacation since he launched Éclair. "This is my destiny," he says, "I love it."

And you can taste the love when you eat his wonderful pastries. My first problem was choosing from the wide array of perfectly baked and finished goods on display, some finely decorated and filled, others "plainer," like beignets, turnovers, chocolate chip cookies and many more.

I was snapping pictures, when a customer ordering a variety of items, told me, "I am French, and I guarantee this is good." Now I, too, can make this guarantee: I just finished two inexpressibly delicious jam-filled beignets. Stop by Éclair, meet Chef Pourrez, and indulge a little. New Yorkers deserve as much enjoyment as the French.



*Stop Mega Tower* continued from page 1 that ERFA believes will be central to the BSA's finding.

In a further twist, ERFA discovered that, despite the zoning change, the DOB has partially rescinded its SWO and has given Gamma permission to perform additional work on the 58th Street building's foundation. In response to questions, the DOB explained to Council Member Ben Kallos that the additional work was authorized in order to stabilize the buildings next to the construction site, but that the new foundation work was unlikely to help Gamma with its BSA appeal.



Image from ERFA website.

The story will not end anytime soon. Gamma's BSA appeal has just begun and has a long way to go. In evaluating requests for grandfather-

ing, the BSA generally requires a great deal of information to be provided by the applicant and conducts public hearings before making a decision.

Community opponents, however, will not be backing down. ERFA, supported by Council Member Ben Kallos of Manhattan's 4th Council District, Community Board 8, Sutton Area Community and the Turtle Bay Association are will work to stop Gamma and achieve a building compliant with the new zoning and with the community's desire for a livable and pleasant neighborhood.

In an update on December 31, ERFA President Alan Kersh stated that "ERFA will be a very strong voice for this neighborhood in opposition to BSA approval of Gamma's request."

Look for continuing coverage of this story on the TBA's website and in future issues of the Turtle Bay News. Readers can find further details at [erfa.nyc](http://erfa.nyc).

*This article is based upon reports by Alan Kersh, President of ERFA.*

## Grand Central Library Thanks TBA

Recently, the TBA was pleased to receive a thank-you from the Grand Central Library, which we support as a keystone public cultural resource in Turtle Bay.

Library Manager Will Hall wrote telling us how our support helped the library enhance its offerings with additional paid programs: adult crafts, the return of a Mixed Media Art workshop and popular sing-alongs.

The library was also able to expand healthy living programs, including meditation and mindfulness, Tai Chi, Jujitsu and Reverse Gravity Training. The TBA also assisted with a presentation at the Greenmarket in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza of "Naked Nutrition – Eating Healthy on a Budget."

We thank the Grand Central Library in turn, for the timely and varied programming it provides for neighbors of all ages.

## Arts & Culture

### Turtle Bay Music School

244 East 52nd Street  
212-753-8811 [tbms.org](http://tbms.org)

**Free Artist Series Concerts**  
**Fridays, 7 - 8 pm**  
Em Lee Concert Hall

#### March 2

**Deborah Auer, Jazz Vocals.** Faculty member Auer and her band of NYC jazz greats present their annual "Jazz and Cocktails" performance, an evening of swinging and heartfelt jazz from standards to bebop, including readings of texts by Jim Neu, Shakespeare and Keats. Free.



#### March 23

#### Ribeiro Folkloric Traditions of Brazil.

Faculty members Nick Birmelin, percussion and composer, and Quenia Ribeiro, dancer and choreographer perform. Beloved ensemble Grupo Ribeiro present the folkloric traditions of Brazil with a program of new compositions and choreography. Free.



#### April 20

#### Larry Weng, piano.

Faculty member Weng presents an explorative program of composers' later works with his performance of "The Late Style." Free.



### Japan Society

333 East 47th Street  
212-832-1155 [japansociety.org](http://japansociety.org)  
Call or visit website for Box Office and Gallery hours. Gallery Admission: \$12; students and seniors \$10; members and children under 16 free. Free to all on Friday nights, 6 pm - 9 pm.

#### TALKS+

#### Wednesday, February 21, 6:30 pm

**Directing Godzilla: The Life of Filmmaker Ishiro Honda.** A long-overlooked talent, Ishiro Honda is now considered one of the most influential directors in Japanese cinematic history.

At this talk, Steve Ryfle, scholar of Japanese science fiction cinema and author of a biography of Honda, draws back the curtain on the man behind the monsters. Tickets: \$14/\$11 Japan Society members, seniors and students.



### St. Bart's

325 Park Avenue at 51st Street  
Purchase tickets at <http://mmpaf.org> or box office, 212-378-0248.

#### Great Music

#### Sunday, March 4, 2:30 pm The Apple Hill String Quartet.

**Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 pm**  
**Portals to the Divine Radiance from the North.** Choral music, by Northern European composers, offering a testament of faith and a glimpse into a transcendent world. The program will feature works by Eriks Ešenvalds, Edvard Grieg, Ola Gjeilo and Jan Sandström. Performed by St. Bartholomew's Choir, William K. Trafka, conductor. \$35 general admission; \$25 students/seniors.



#### Tuesday, April 17, 7 pm

#### The Dorian Wind Quintet, An Evening of Jazz.

The quintet will perform a compelling program of jazz works including Gershwin's Three Preludes, Gunther Schuller's Blues, Billy Childs' Fugue in Perpetual Motion, and Lalo Schiffrin's La Nouvelle Orleans. With Gretchen Pusch, flute; Gerard Reuter, oboe; Benjamin Finland, clarinet; Adrian Morejon, bassoon; Karl Kramer-Johansen, horn. \$25 general admission; \$15 students/seniors.



#### Sunday, May 13, 3 pm

**Patterns in a Chromatic Field (1981) by Morton Feldman.** This 80-minute odyssey offers an opportunity for contemplation, as cello and piano explore different degrees of stasis and patterns of harmony and color – a late work by Feldman, a composer associated with the New York School of John Cage and Christian Wolff. Performed by noted musicians, cellist Stephen Marotto and pianist Marilyn Nonken. \$25 general admission; \$15 students/seniors



### St. Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue/54th Street  
[saintpeters.org](http://saintpeters.org)

#### Wednesdays, 1 - 2 pm Sanctuary

#### Mid-day Jazz for the Midtown Community.

The church, in partnership with the Midtown Arts Common, hosts a popular weekly jazz concert featuring well-regarded artists. Programming is overseen by jazz pianist Ronny Whyte. Nominal donation requested at the door.



### Leave a Legacy to the TBA

Recently, we received a bequest from the trust of Irene Newton, a 50-year resident of Turtle Bay. Her trustee wrote, "It was [Irene's] hope that this will allow you to continue to [do the] work she believed was so important to the community."

Consider the TBA in making your plans.

**The Turtle Bay Association is Online**  
Visit for the latest news in the community at  
**turtlebay-nyc.org and on Facebook**

**Recent Achievements**

- Worked with our City Councilmember to revise the East Midtown Rezoning to prevent out-of-scale buildings along east Third Avenue, between 46th and 51st streets.
- Supported the passage of a new law that changed the Commercial Rent Tax to help small businesses succeed.
- Hired the Doe Fund Men in Blue to keep Second Avenue clean.
- Placed large, new trash cans on corners to prevent litter.

**What We're Doing Now**

- Fighting to redesign and relocate part of the planned East River Greenway to preserve a park and the character of the neighborhood.
- Collaborating with other neighborhood groups to prevent super-tall construction that blocks the sun and sky.
- Supporting public and neighborhood resources: Grand Central Library, Vanderbilt Y Scholarship Fund and Single Parent Resource Center, Inc.
- Sponsoring annual community events that bring neighbors together, including the Love Thy Neighborhood Valentine Party; Katharine Hepburn Garden Party; Street Fair; annual Holiday Toy Drive.
- Working with elected representatives, Community Board 6 and other citizen groups on public issues that affect our neighborhood.

**Join or Renew Your Membership**  
**Invite neighbors to join the TBA**



**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 \$15     Individual \$25     Family \$30  
 Business \$40     Benefactor \$100     Pacesetter \$250

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

- 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  
or apply online at [turtlebay-nyc.org](http://turtlebay-nyc.org)

**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.