



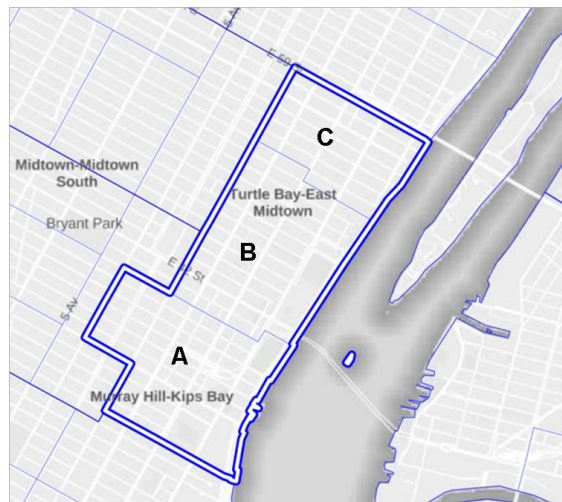
TURTLE BAY ASSOCIATION

Neighborhood association for New York City's
Turtle Bay, East Midtown, home of the United Nations

Turtle Bay News, November 2018

[VIEW AS WEBPAGE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Build-The-Block Meetings, 17th Precinct

Sector B

Thursday, November 15, 6:30 pm

Sutton Place Synagogue

225 East 51st Street (Second/Third)

Sector C

Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 pm

St. Peters Church

619 Lexington Avenue (54th Street)

If you live within Sectors B or C on the map above, here's your chance to meet and talk personally with the officers assigned to your sector. Let them know your concerns and the day-to-day issues you've observed, so they can do a more focused job of protecting the neighborhood.

[Learn about Neighborhood Policing](#)



Norwegian Christmas Fair

Thursday, November 15 - Sunday, November 18

Norwegian Seamen's Church

317 East 52nd Street (First/Second)

The church will be filled with Christmas decorations. Stop in for gifts of ornaments, candles, clothing and baked goods – everything that will transport you to Scandinavia.

[Learn more](#)

SAVE THE DATE



Annual TBA Holiday Toy & Gift Drive

Sunday, December 2, 3 - 5:30 pm

Parnell's Bar and Restaurant

First Avenue and 53rd Street

The TBA will welcome you at our 32nd annual holiday celebration, where the gifts and funds you contribute benefit the Vanderbilt YMCA Scholarship Fund, God's Love We Deliver, and the Single Parent Resource Center, Inc.

Enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar with friends and neighbors at this lively party. The price of admission can be toys for young children, miscellaneous items for teens, or hats, gloves and scarves to help families and individuals through the winter. Please leave gifts unwrapped for display at the party.

To contribute tax-deductible funds please make your check payable to one of the organizations listed above and mail it to the Turtle Bay Association, 224 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017. We will record the contributions and send them on to the organizations.

RECENT EVENTS



TBA Annual Meeting Updates Members on Activities and Issues

The 2018 Annual Meeting on October 23, at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, presented TBA members with important information on the past year's events and activities, and key current issues.

TBA President William E. Curtis welcomed attendees, followed by the election of Officers for 2019, and Directors of the Class of 2020. The chairs of the TBA committees then reported on their activities during the year.

Captain Conor Wynne, Commanding Officer of the 17th Precinct, spoke about conditions in the neighborhood and the newly-launched Community Policing Program. Molly Hollister, Chair of Community Board Six, then discussed how community boards function and interact with their districts. She also reviewed the proposed revisions to the New York City Charter that will appear on the November 6 ballot, and how the outcome of the vote could negatively affect the operation of community boards in the city. The TBA has taken a stand as to **Ballot Proposal Question 3**, which would introduce term limits for citizen volunteers on the community boards. We believe that, if passed, this proposal would lessen the direct power of citizens to affect city policy. This is especially of concern for the approval process of development projects, especially given the recent spate of unaffordable residential mega-towers that have gone up in low-rise neighborhoods. **We advocate voting "No."**

Council Member Keith Powers, District 4, spoke in detail about current events in the District. He reported that the City Council's Participatory Budgeting program is now available for the first time in District 4. The initiative will give residents input into the allocation of \$1 million for improvements in the area. He has invited district citizens to volunteer and to submit ideas for funding projects such as park upgrades, school improvements, transportation innovations and more. [Read more.](#)

Following the meeting, guests enjoyed excellent refreshments provided by Amish Market.

Above: Council Member Keith Powers addresses meeting.



Oktoberfest a True Community Day Out

This year's Oktoberfest, in Dag Hammar skjold Plaza, was a hive of activity as happy children decorated pumpkins, had their faces painted, and played tennis for the first time. Parents proudly watched, helped and took pictures.

Other neighbors relaxed with brats and brews from Dag's Patio Cafe, purchased raffles for prizes generously donated by local business owners, and strolled with canines in tow.

This annual occasion embodies New York City community life at its best: neighbors young and old, from many national and cultural backgrounds, at play and at ease.

Oktoberfest was sponsored by Friends of Dag Hammar skjold Plaza in cooperation with the NYC Department of Parks, the Vanderbilt YMCA, and Dag's Patio Cafe. The day's many volunteers typified what neighbors do for each other in NYC.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

by Michael Zullo



Norwegian Seamen's Church: A Place Like Home for Norwegians in NYC

The Norwegian Seamen's Church in New York City began in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, in 1984. It merged two townhouses and relocated to its present site in Turtle Bay, on East 52nd Street, in 1992. Senior Pastor Oyvind Kvarstein tells of how neighbors believed the church would be a haven for drunken sailors until he opened the doors displaying the church symbol of a seagull. "The seagull," he explains, "follows ships at sea, so this is appropriate because Norwegians love to travel and wander around cities like New York."

Pastor Kvarstein typifies the wandering Norwegian. After 16 years of service spent in

Norway Japan and Singapore, he was excited to come to the U.S. He wanted to see everything our nation has to offer. Since then, he has visited 48 states and recorded thousands of walking miles, including every street in Manhattan from south to north and east to west.

Partly funded by the Norwegian government, the church is a busy place. It is one of 28 around the world belonging to Sjømannskirken – Norwegian Church Abroad, a non-profit organization with a commission from Norway's Parliament to serve Norwegians in foreign lands.

The parish more than fulfills its mission, providing a social and cultural meeting place for Norwegians who live and visit here. Morten Sohlberg, farmer, chef and owner of Blenheim Restaurant in the West Village, is a member on the board of directors, Honorable Harriet E. Berg, Consul General of Norway, resides a block away, and Norway's Consulate General is located close by in Turtle Bay. Each September, the church becomes a home away from home for the Norwegian delegation attending the U.N. General Assembly. During the Hurricane Sandy crisis, the church was the focal point for distribution of food, water and shelter for ex-pat Norwegians.

Pastor Kvarstein, also welcomes many of the thousands of Scandinavian tourists who come here on vacation. Every Saturday at 1:00 p.m., the church's cafeteria is open for all to enjoy open-faced sandwiches, Norwegian rice pudding, baked goods and other treats. Every May, since 2014, the church has sponsored a 52nd Street block party offering fine home-made Norwegian cuisine.

Beginning on November 15, the church will sponsor a four-day Norwegian Christmas Fair where candles, clothing, food and everything else you need to get a feel of Scandinavia will be on sale.

Norwegian Seamen's Church
317 East 52nd Street
212-319-0370
[Sjomanmskirken](#)

(Senior Pastor Oynd Kvarstein, above right.)

NEWSWORTHY NOTES



Wear Your Neighborhood Proudly

Purchase your Turtle Bay tee shirt before they're gone. Only \$10. Sizes available: Small, Medium and Large. Call the TBA office to arrange a time for pickup.

Turtle Bay Association
224 East 47th Street
Room 301
212-751-5465

Calling All Southpaws

If you're a senior, left-handed woman, TBA member Doris Flint is forming a club for you. Are lefties special? Join in and find out.

Call Doris Flint at 212-758-3092 to learn more.

ARTS & CULTURE

Happening in November

Japan Society

333 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017
212-832-1155

[November Calendar](#)

Grand Central Library

135 East 46th Street
212-621-0670
Activities for toddlers, children, teens and adults

[November Calendar](#)

Saint Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue (55)
212-935-2200

[St. Peters Website](#)

St. Bart's

325 Park Avenue
212-378-0222

[Great Music, 2018-2019](#)

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
For location, visit [CB6 Meeting Calendar](#)

TBA Board of Directors

Officers: President, William E. Curtis; Secretary, Mary Marangi; Treasurer, Dick Irwin; Vice Presidents, Millie Margiotta, Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt | **Directors:** Ethel Bendove, Bunny Blei, Meryl Brodsky, Paul Crawford, William E. Curtis, Phyllis Gitomer, Vivian Gordon, Denise Hamilton, Marie-Louise Handal, Bill Huxley, Dick Irwin, Mary F. Marangi, Millie Margiotta, Mark P. Markowski, Dolores Marsh, Pat McDougald, Michael Resnick, Bruce Silberblatt | **Emeritus:** Jonathan Bing, Barbara Connolly | **Ex Officio:** Carolyn B. Maloney, US Representative; Liz Krueger, NY State Senator; Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member; Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President; Keith Powers, NYC Council Member Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member.

Editorial Committee

Editor: Lee Frankel

Online layout: Lee Frankel

Contributors: Michael Zullo

Photographs: Vivian Gordon, Michael Zullo

Renew your TBA membership or join online [here!](#)

Turtle Bay Association
224 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017
Tel.: 212-751-5465 | Fax: 212-751-4941
[Email](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

