

# Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

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## 'Turtle Bay South' Gets Go-Ahead

The big residential and office development to be built on the site of the former Con Edison Waterside plant has gained unanimous City Council approval, after developer Sheldon Solow, in response to community demands, agreed to scale back the project considerably. The seven-tower complex, which Solow's management company plans to call "Turtle Bay South," will have some 3,700 residential units and is tentatively scheduled to open by 2015.

The TBA and other community groups had fought the project for years, on the basis that its buildings were too high, too dense and that it lacked adequate public amenities. Now, the overall project, located on land between 35th and 41st Streets, has been reduced by over 500,000 square feet.

Its tallest building will be 595 feet (266 feet shorter than Trump World Tower), and the project will include affordable housing, better public space, waterfront access and a new 630-seat elementary school. The developer also agreed to an easement to build a waterfront park in the future and committed \$10 million toward that goal.

City Councilman Dan Garodnick, a strong critic of the earlier plans and leader in the move to get it modified, says the development will now be a "vibrant, mixed-use community, with ground-level retail and ample public space."

Meanwhile, Turtle Bay residents first learned that the project would be named for its neighbor to the north when a full-page ad for the complex appeared in a New York Times magazine supplement in early April. The "Turtle Bay South" ad was illustrated with a bright red logo, a stylized turtle.

As the saying goes: "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!"

## TBA: Too Much Construction With No Coordinated Plan

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

**T**he neighborhood is about to be "swamped" by new construction, and with it, more tower cranes. Coming right after two fatal collapses – one at 303 East 51st Street here in Turtle Bay and the other just two miles north at 91st Street and First Avenue – as well as reports of alleged malfeasance and bribery at the Department of Buildings' Cranes and Derricks unit, that is unwelcome news.

The contractor at 250 East 49th Street at the corner of Second Avenue – while planning to pump concrete to the full height of the building – nevertheless will deploy a tower crane there. Also expected are tower cranes at 823 United Nations Plaza at 46th Street, 315 East 46th Street and 959 First Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Streets. A tower crane is currently operating at the new U.S. Mission to the U.N. at First Avenue and 45th Street, but it may be gone before the others appear. Nevertheless, that leaves Turtle Bay with the specter of four of these unstable, hazardous machines, all crammed into a 6½-block stretch of First and Second Avenues, and four more expected within a year.

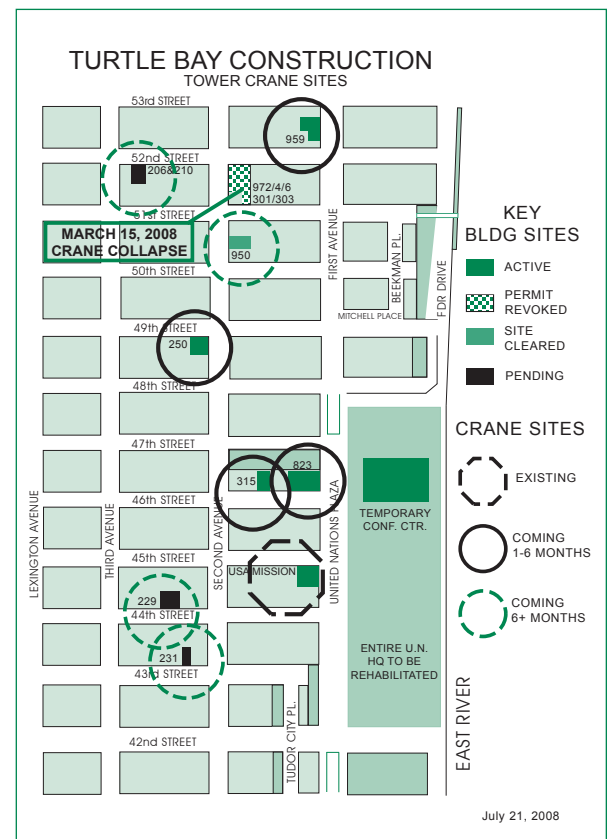
This count does not include 303 East 51st Street, where the Department of Buildings withdrew the developer's construction permit on June 18. The contemplated building had, prior to the March 15 disaster, been found to be in noncompliance with New York City zoning regulations.

Apart from the threat to public and private safety and property, there are concerns that the local infrastructure will be sorely taxed to accommodate the 1,100 apartments and 500 hotel rooms added in 2007-2009. Construction ties up the city streets and

*Related story on crane accident appears on page 5*

avenues, creating traffic back ups, snarling buses, and preventing emergency vehicles – police, fire and ambulances – from completing their missions. Add to this the dirt, noise, unwarranted overtime work

*continued on back page*



# U.N. Breaks Ground; Commits To More Trees for Turtle Bay

A groundbreaking ceremony in early May officially marked the start of the long-awaited renovation of United Nations buildings. The first phase of the \$1.9 billion project will be the most visible to neighbors – construction of a temporary three-story building on the U.N.’s North Lawn to serve as office and conference space while the Secretariat, General Assembly and Conference Building are vacated and overhauled.

Already, some 25 trees – including many of the North Lawn’s cherry trees – have been cut down to make way for the 175,000-square-foot temporary structure. They will be replaced after 2013, when the renovation is complete and the temporary building disassembled. At that time, the re-planting will be done with “careful consideration to the Gardens’ original design of 1954,” says U.N. spokesman Werner Schmidt.

The re-landscaping will also include 125 new trees that will be planted around the U.N. campus of buildings. Schmidt says the U.N. will work with the City Parks Department, New York Botanical Garden, and neighborhood associations to select the appropriate species and locations.

The entrance to the temporary building will be directly across from 47th Street, site of the large “St. George and the Dragon” sculpture, which – like other sculpture on the lawn – will be

relocated during renovation.

Michael Alderstein, U.N. Executive Director in charge of the project, recently briefed TBA representatives and managers of nearby residential buildings. He said all construction work will be done in accordance with New York City building and safety codes, and he noted that pilings for the temporary building’s foundation would be installed using a process called “augering,” quieter than the more typical method of driving piles into the ground. The temporary structure, which will be approximately 60 feet high, is scheduled to be completed by mid-2009.

For employees not accommodated in the temporary structure, the U.N. has leased offices at 380 Madison Avenue, 305 East 46th Street, and in Long Island City.

Neighbors can keep up with renovation news on the U.N.’s web site, [www.un.org/cmp](http://www.un.org/cmp).



U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon with rendering of the U.N. North Lawn as it will appear after a temporary building on the site is disassembled in 2013. (U.N. Photo/Paulo Filgueras)

## MacArthur Park Gets a Needed Facelift

MacArthur Park, the small children’s playground at 49th Street and the FDR Drive, is closed for the summer while it undergoes a \$280,000 renovation. Included in the improvements are all-new pavement and new landscaping, including plantings placed around the perimeter to screen the park from the Drive. The park will also get new slides and swings, and a new and larger spray sprinkler. Benches will be replaced,

and there will be a new bicycle rack, drinking fountain and trash receptacles.

The City Parks Department says the project is being done during the summer months because much of the work requires mild temperatures, such as plumbing and pavement replacement.

The project is scheduled to be completed by Labor Day.

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Saturday, August 30**  
Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
Street Fair  
Second Avenue, 45th-55th Streets  
212-826-8980
- **Saturday, October 4**  
Octoberfest and  
Children’s Jamboree  
Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza  
Afternoon hours  
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

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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

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Pamela Hanlon, 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

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Contributors: Terri Heveran,

Olga Hoffmann, Bill Huxley,

Millie Margiotta, Patricia Q. McDougald,

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Photography: Vivian Gordon

# Nine Lives of a Cat: Good News Amid Tragedy

In a neighborhood that needed a little good news after last spring's tragic crane accident, it fell to two cats, Mr. Gloves and Googsie, to provide it – with a little help (well, a *lot* of help) from neighbors Gini Otway, Valerie Foley and cat-lovers throughout the area.

Mr. Gloves and Googsie lived on the top floor of the town house at 305 East 50th Street that was demolished when the crane came crashing down on it, turning the house into a pile of heavy debris. The two black-and-white “tuxedo” cats belonged to Jean Squeri, who owned the town house, and her husband, Kerry Walker. Neither Ms. Squeri nor Walker was in the house at the time of the accident, but a young woman in a third floor apartment was killed in the accident and two others were critically injured. The fate of Mr. Gloves, a nine-month-old male, and Googsie, a six-year-old female, was uncertain.

## Neighbors to the Rescue

Shortly after the accident, Phil Wilson, who lives on 50th Street, spotted a cat huddled in front of the First Reformed Episcopal Church a few doors east of the town house. He contacted neighbor Valerie Foley, who alerted Gini Otway, a resident in her building and a volunteer with the animal rescue group City Critters.



Jean Squeri today, reunited with her cat Googsie

Without delay, Otway set off with a carrying case to rescue the cat.

“He looked like a piece of wood,” says Otway,

“When I picked him up around the ribs, he was so traumatized he didn’t move a muscle.”

A local veterinarian suggested that the cat, who turned out to be Mr. Gloves, see a specialist at the ASPCA. There, Mr. Gloves had to be tranquilized before a veterinarian could even examine him. But within a couple days, Mr. Gloves was reunited with Squeri and Walker, who by now had moved in with Mrs. Squeri’s son, John Viscardi, on the West Side.

## Posters and a Reward

Googsie was still missing. Fire fighters had reported seeing a cat run out from the rubble early Sunday morning after the Saturday accident. It headed down Second Avenue, they said. Otway spread the word. She put up posters with an image of a black-and-white cat, and City Critters offered a \$500 reward.

But for nine days, Googsie’s whereabouts were a mystery. Then, on March 24, a neighbor spotted a black-and-white cat going into the old Martell’s site on Second Avenue between 50th and 51st Street. The next day, Joy Brown, who lives in a town house on 50th Street with her husband Michael, was in their basement when she noticed something scoot by. “I peered under the work table, and I saw some eyes staring back at me,” says Mrs. Brown.

Brown called Otway, who – feeling certain it was Googsie – asked Squeri’s son to meet her at the Brown’s. “When we realized it was indeed Googsie, we both started to cry,” says Otway.

Today, Googsie is happily back with Jean Squeri, Kerry Walker and her younger pal, Mr. Gloves. For now, they are living in a rental apartment on the West Side.

And Gini Otway has a long list of neighbors who helped to find them – too many to include here. “People were so united in trying to find these cats,” she says.

A nice story, indeed, in the midst of a neighborhood’s sorrow.

## TBA Thanks Local Merchants

TBA thanks local businesses that contributed raffle prizes for the Turtle Bay Street Fair held on Sunday, May 4:

The Vanderbilt YMCA donated a one-year membership, with a value of \$1,080. In addition, a \$125 gift certificate was donated by Salon Amici, and \$100 gift certificates came from De Grezia, San Martin Restaurant, Smith & Wollensky and the World Bar at the Trump World Tower, as well as an \$80 certificate from Pescatore. Four gift certificates worth \$50 each came from Blackfinn, and single \$50 certificates were donated by Beekman Liquors, Come Again Emporium and

Parnell’s. Other prizes: Affinia 50 Hotel, a one-night stay in a junior suite; Lia Shorr, a massage and manicure, and a facial and pedicure; Benjamin Hotel Spa, a massage; WCBS-AM Radio, two Yankees tickets; WQXR-FM Radio, two theatre tickets; Destino’s, dinner for two; Country Bank, \$100 savings bond; and Buttercup Bakery, two dozen cup cakes.

The Fair attracted a number of new TBA members. Some 50 residents of Turtle Bay signed up to join the TBA on the day of the Street Fair. Dolores Marsh and Barbara Connolly co-chaired the Street Fair and Francine Irwin organized the raffle.



TBA’s Millie Margiotta was honored as “Community Member of the Year” at the 17th Precinct Community Council’s annual awards dinner. At right is the Precinct’s Commanding Officer, Captain Ted Berntsen.



## Newsorthy Notes

**Nice Place to Live.** The New York Times featured Turtle Bay in its Sunday "Living In" feature in the March 30 issue. A "friendly, loving and homey neighborhood," was how resident Cynthia Fields described Turtle Bay to Times writer C.J. Hughes.

**Serious Collecting.** TBA member Glenn Roberts has been named one of the top 250 art collectors in the country by the prestigious Art & Antiques Magazine. Roberts collects antique Chinese dress accessories embroidered with zodiac animals. His extensive collection has been featured in many books and journals over the years and loaned to museums throughout the world, including New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and every Chinese New Year, to Toronto's Bata Museum.

**Preschool Update.** The guide to Turtle Bay preschools, featured in the Spring 2008 Turtle Bay News, prompted TBA member Erika Bach to recommend another preschool program just north of Turtle Bay, the Montessori School of New York International, at 347 East 55th. For information, visit [www.montessorischoolny.com](http://www.montessorischoolny.com). Also, the

Little Dreamers Preschool listed in the guide is no longer operating, and its site, at 336 East 53rd Street, will become the Chabad Preschool at Beekman Place this fall. [www.beekmanjewishpreschool.com](http://www.beekmanjewishpreschool.com), or call Director Raizy Metzger at 646-761-0021.

**Atlantic City Gamblers.** Some 35 neighbors took part in a TBA-sponsored outing to the Wild, Wild West Casino at Bally's in Atlantic City in early June. There were lots of gamblers among them, but no big winnings – just a good time – were reported upon their return to Turtle Bay.

**Outdoor Art.** Dag Hammarskjold Plaza was the site of an art show on Wednesday, May 28, when students from the nearby High School of Art and Design showed their works in the central Plaza. The annual show, at which the art is voted on by neighbors, is sponsored by the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. This year, Capital One Bank provided prizes for the winners.

**Blind Date.** It was "wedding bells" recently for City Councilman Dan Garodnick and Zoe Segal-Reichlin, two years after the couple met on a blind date. The bride is

an attorney with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton. Garodnick represents District 4, which covers Turtle Bay south of 49th Street.

**Best Deal in Town.** A reminder that a one-year membership to the East 54th Street Recreation Center is \$75 a year, only \$10 for seniors (55 and over), and free for youth under 17. Located between First and Second Avenues, the Center was renovated just three years ago, and offers a full range of sports facilities and a computer center. 212-754-5411.

**Greenmarket.** The ever-popular Dag Hammarskjold Plaza's Greenmarket is in full swing this summer, with stalls offering everything from wild-caught fish, to farmstead cheese and baked goods. Open every Wednesday.

**Remembering.** Janice Halley, longtime neighbor and TBA member, died recently. She was the widow of Rudolph Halley, who was City Council President in the early 1950s and also chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Crime Investigating Committee, known as the Kefauver Committee.

## Puppeteers Pull the Strings For Kids in the Park



It might as well have been Broadway, with the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre pulling the strings for the classic fairytale 'Cinderella Samba' for Turtle Bay kids at MacArthur Park recently. The show was followed by a puppet-making workshop. Presented by the City Parks Foundation and sponsored by the TBA, the event was coordinated for the TBA by Parks Committee Chair Marie-Louise Handal. Since the performance, MacArthur Park has closed temporarily for renovations. (see story, page 2)

## Community Leader Dies

Irene Peveri, who worked tirelessly for the community and led the 1980s effort to "downzone" many of Turtle Bay's mid-blocks, died recently. As co-chair of the East Side Rezoning Alliance (ESRA), Peveri spearheaded the move to assure a change in zoning laws so that buildings on many East Side mid-blocks are limited to the general height of the old structures around them. The Turtle Bay blocks that are beneficiaries of Peveri's efforts are between First and Second Avenues from 49th Street to 53rd Street, and between Second and Third Avenues from 48th to 53rd Street.

Peveri was an active member of Community Board 6 and its Land Use Committee and was an influential force in zoning matters throughout the city. Most recently, she worked to modify development proposals for the former Con Edison Waterside site.

For many years, Peveri lived on East 52nd Street in Turtle Bay, but since the 1980s, she had been a Murray Hill resident. She was 81.

# Leading Up to the Crane Disaster: A Look Back

BY BRUCE A. SILBERBLATT

**Editor's Note:** As Chairman of the TBA's Zoning and Land Use Committee, Bruce Silberblatt has been scrutinizing the site of the March 15 crane accident for the past two years. This is his account of what led up to the accident, and beyond.

It is April 17, 2008, a little more than a month after the calamitous crane crash at 303 East 51st Street. The Housing and Building Committee of the New York City Council is conducting a hearing into the disaster. The chamber is crowded with community residents and the media. The then Department of Buildings (DOB) Commissioner, Patricia Lancaster, is under intense questioning. Councilmember Jessica Lappin demands documentation of the DOB approval and issuance of the developer's building permit.

Lancaster: (The building was approved) "not in accordance with the zoning regulations."

Lappin: "Wow! You're telling me this building should never have been approved in the first place?"

Lancaster: "That is correct."

To make matters far worse, this egregious non-compliance had been found out by DOB *well before the March 15 collapse*, but kept under wraps. Work that should have been stopped right then and there was permitted to proceed as if nothing wrong had transpired.

## Initial Plans

Backtrack to October, 2006. Kennelly Development has ambitious plans – an out-of-scale 215,000-square foot, 43-story sheer condominium tower at 303 East 51st Street. The firm is merging a 20,400-square foot zoning lot that will not be complete for another six months (the transferred air rights triple what otherwise could have been built). It confidently submits its plans to the DOB for approval on October 16. TBA questions the appropriateness from the very "get-go" – the plans violate the New York City Zoning Resolution. So begins an 18-month-long Turtle Bay Association struggle to ascertain what is to rise here and to insure that it complies with the law.

The project immediately gets into trouble. The DOB plan examiner turns it down. Kennelly resubmits, DOB rejects – nine more times through March 8, 2007. An architectural rendering on Kennelly's web site is withdrawn, never to appear again. No on-site sales office exists. Outsiders have not even the slightest hint as to what 303 East 51st Street might look like. A curtain of secrecy descends. Contrary to normal procedure, DOB switches plan reviewers. The new man does a swift "about-face," partially approving Kennelly's submittal, including the 43 floors, on April 5, 2007. Foundations begin. It is time for the TBA to see the actual plans and zoning calculations, but DOB refuses, claiming that partial approvals are not made public. Only after final approval will DOB be ready to have the documents shown. That final approval will not come until December 28.

## Asking for Answers

TBA will not wait that long. By late November, foundations are nearly done; Kennelly is ready to launch his 43-story superstructure. TBA writes twice to Lancaster, on November 26 and December 6, protesting the secrecy surrounding 303 East 51st Street and asking that the Kennelly application be scrutinized for zoning non-compliance. A routine answer belatedly comes back December 24, "...the application complies with all legal requirements," without explanation or details. Meanwhile, the concrete framework rises higher and higher. Frustrated, TBA turns to Jessica Lappin and Assemblyman Jonathan Bing for help. They arrange a meeting with DOB Commissioner Christopher Santulli on February 19, 2008, to get knowledgeable, precise, in-depth replies. For all that it produces, it is a waste of time. Santulli has

no answers to offer. He promises detailed data and plans within two weeks. That never happens ... and then comes March 15 ... and then April 17, 2008.

Within a few days, Lancaster resigns. Her replacement, Acting Commissioner Robert LiMandri loses little time in doing what Lancaster should have done. In early May, he orders the plans released. On May 21, he sends Kennelly a 10-day notice demanding that 303 East 51st Street be modified to comply with over two dozen zoning violations or face permit revocation. A "Stop Work" order is issued atop one imposed after the crane disaster. Kennelly's response is inadequate. On June 17, DOB revokes the building permit – an unusually rare action. A third "Stop Work" order follows.

What lies ahead? At present, the 18-story skeleton of 303 East 51st Street, with two sagging balconies damaged when the crane pulled away on March 15, stands idle, naked, exposed to the elements, slowly deteriorating day after day. Kennelly can submit revised plans, but is there any solution that would permit the framework to be salvaged, or are the zoning issues so profound that the only out is demolition? He can seek a zoning variance to legitimize the design, or appeal the DOB revocation to the Board of Standards & Appeals, an entity within DOB. He can even walk away and let the lawyers fight it out. Only time will tell.

## Report Your Construction Concerns

Complaints should be filed *both* at 311 and the 17th Precinct (weekdays 212-826-3228; 212-826-3211 on weekends and evenings); also Community Board 6 (212-319-3750); and the Turtle Bay Association (212-751-5465, email: [tbaoffice@mindspring.com](mailto:tbaoffice@mindspring.com))

In addition, they can be filed with:

- State Senator Liz Krueger (212-490-9535), e-mail: [liz@lizkrueger.com](mailto:liz@lizkrueger.com)
- Assemblyman Jonathan Bing (212-605-0937), e-mail: [bingj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:bingj@assembly.state.ny.us)
- Councilmember Jessica Lappin (212-535-5554), e-mail: [lappin@council.nyc.ny.us](mailto:lappin@council.nyc.ny.us). (north side of 49th St. and above)
- Councilmember Dan Garodnick (212-818-0580), e-mail: [garodnick@council.nyc.ny.us](mailto:garodnick@council.nyc.ny.us). (south side of 49th St. and below)

**Be Alert! Be Concerned!**

## Summertime 'Escapes' Just Minutes Away

**D**o the hot, humid days of summer have you yearning for cool breezes along waterfront shores? Well, no need to head to the Hamptons, Cape Cod or the coast of Maine. A couple of inexpensive waterside "escapes" are just minutes away, and offer breathtaking views of Manhattan's Midtown skyline.

**Gantry Plaza.** Just one stop from Grand Central on the No. 7 subway line, Gantry Plaza is a pretty 2½-acre park located directly across from Turtle Bay on the Queens side of the East River. Opened just 10 years ago, Gantry Plaza is designed around two historic Long Island Rail Road gantries (used to hoist cargo from ships to waiting railway cars). The park hugs the river and has four new piers, each with a different "theme." One is for fishing, another has tables and seating for enjoying a coffee or "brown bag" lunch, and two others are for sunning, where chaise lounges recline at just the right angle to offer the best views of Turtle Bay and passing river traffic.

If "brown bagging" isn't your thing, you can also lunch at the Riverview Restaurant, just a block inland from the piers. Its outdoor seating offers the same great views as the piers themselves.

**Getting there:** Gantry Plaza is at 48th Avenue and the East River. Take the No. 7 at Grand Central and get off at the first stop, Vernon Boulevard/Jackson Avenue. Then walk two blocks west and you're on the waterfront! (At press time, New York Water Taxi also had

plans to start service from 34th Street; check [www.nywatertaxi.com](http://www.nywatertaxi.com) for updates.)

**Roosevelt Island.** The tram ride alone is worth the visit. The 4½-minute trip offers extraordinary views as it surfs some 250 feet above the East River, at times traveling slightly above the Queensboro Bridge. Once on the island, stop at the Island's recently opened visitor kiosk to view historical photos and memorabilia. The kiosk itself is historic. One of the five original kiosks for the Queensboro Bridge trolley, the cast iron and terra cotta structure was secured by the Roosevelt Island Historical Society and moved to its present location near the tram stop, where it opened as a visitor center last summer. From the kiosk, walk south along the riverfront to enjoy spectacular views of Turtle Bay, stopping to relax on one of the park benches under big shade trees. To see more of the island, hop on the bright red bus (simply called "Red Bus Service") that shuttles throughout the island at 15-minute intervals for a grand total of 25 cents.

**Getting there:** The tram operates every 15 minutes from 59th Street and Second Avenue. \$2 each way (\$1 for seniors with a Metrocard). There is also subway service, but most agree the tram is the way to go!

## Friends from Turtle Bay's Past Join Book Talk

John Detmold, the brother of Peter Detmold – a prominent Turtle Bay community leader until his death in 1972 – joined Turtle Bay neighbors and friends in early June for a book talk and signing of the recently published history, "Manhattan's Turtle Bay: Story of a Midtown Neighborhood." Two other longtime community leaders, Marion and Archibald King, also attended the talk.

The Kings moved to the neighborhood in the mid-1950s and, along with Peter Detmold and James Amster, were among the founders of the TBA in 1957.

More than 100 guests attended the talk, co-sponsored by the TBA and the Cervantes Institute and held at Amster Yard, the Institute's New York headquarters on 49th Street. The presentation was followed by re-

freshments in the courtyard. Pamela Hanlon, who wrote the book, pointed out that the setting was particularly fitting since Amster Yard was originally the home of James Amster, who – as chairman of the TBA until he died in 1986 – hosted many Turtle Bay gatherings in its courtyard. The book tells the story of Turtle Bay since the mid-20th century. Available through the TBA (order form, back page), proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the TBA.



Left to right: John Detmold, Marion King, Pamela Hanlon and Archibald King at Amster Yard. Detmold and the Kings, with their long association with Turtle Bay's history, were helpful to Hanlon in her research for the book.

### 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 with local elected officials and Community Board 6 to have a voice in determining the outcome of the site of the 51st Street crane accident, and is monitoring other ongoing neighborhood construction for safety and other concerns.
- is monitoring progress of the Con Ed Waterside development and United Nations renovation, as well as East River waterfront possibilities.
- has joined with other 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 recent Turtle Bay Street Fair, children's puppet show, book talk and signing, Atlantic City outing, and Katharine Hepburn Garden Party.





## Hepburn Party Adds New Flair

The Annual Katharine Hepburn Garden Party added a new dimension this year, with the unveiling of three oversized banners telling of Ms. Hepburn's life in the movies and at her home here in Turtle Bay. The banners were produced by the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, which, along with the TBA, co-sponsors the annual event, a celebration of the anniversary of Ms. Hepburn's birthday. Clockwise, from top right, Joan and Allan Levy; George Vellonakis and Tina Louise; singer Bonnie Lee Sanders and pianist Joel Diamond; Andreas and Mary Adams, Catherine Ponte (left) and Meryl Brodsky; Nadine Schramm (left) and Sherrill Kazan; and (left to right), Colleen Curtis, Elinor Jay and Cindy Fanelli.



### Briefly in Business:

- **Moonsoup**, an early childhood development studio and store for babies and tots, offers TBA members one free trial class, \$50 off a birthday party and a 15 percent discount on any retail purchase of more than \$20. A TBA member, Moonsoup is at 1059 Second Avenue between 55th and 56th Streets. 212-319-3222; [www.moonsoup.net](http://www.moonsoup.net).

Businesses that have recently joined the TBA include:

- **Caterina's Restaurant**, at 316 East 53rd Street. Caterina's specializes in Hungarian and Italian cuisine and offers TBA members a 10 percent discount

on Monday-Thursday dinner. 212-355-5360.

- **Elite Food Bar**, at 325 East 48th Street. 212-207-4000. Free delivery and catering services available.
- **Islero**, a new Spanish bistro, at 247 East 50th Street. 212-752-1414. [www.isleronyc.com](http://www.isleronyc.com).
- **Petaholics**, a dog-walking and pet-sitting service located at 320 East 54th Street. 866-910-5430.
- **Continental Finance Corporation**, developer of the new Alexander condominium at 250 East 49th Street.

### Flower and Tree News

The Turtle Bay Tree Fund's Bill Huxley reports that heavy spring rains and unusually hot weather delayed this year's planting of begonias and impatiens in the 280 tree beds cared for by the Fund. But the flowers are now in bloom and doing well, with the help of Doe Fund workers who water regularly.

He also reports that trees will be pruned and tree bed enclosures repaired as needed, and four trees that have died will be replaced by the City Parks Department this fall. The Tree Fund can be reached at 208 East 51st Street, Apt. 238, New York, NY 10022.

## Turtle Bay Happenings

## Art & Culture

**Japan Society Gallery.** Exhibit of "Tapestry in Architecture," through Aug. 14. Opening Oct. 4, exhibit of bamboo works of art, "New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters." Through Jan. 11. 333 East 47th Street. Info: 212-832-1155. [www.japansociety.org](http://www.japansociety.org). (See item below for admission prices.)

**Complimentary Evenings.** Turtle Bay residents take note: Admission to Japan Society's gallery exhibits is free each Friday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. (Other times: \$12 and \$10 seniors and students)

**Trygve Lie Gallery.** Through Sept. 7, exhibit of works by eight Norwegian

artists inspired by the dramatic fjord landscape of Hardanger. Art works are for sale. Exhibit is free. 317 East 52nd Street. Mon.-Thurs. 12-7 p.m.; Fri-Sun. 12-5 p.m. [www.trygveliegallery.com](http://www.trygveliegallery.com). 212-319-0370.

**Midtown Tours.** A 1½-hour walking tour of the Midtown/Grand Central neighborhood departs each Friday at 12:30 p.m. from the corner of 42nd Street and Park Avenue (Sculpture Court at Altria Building). Free. No reservations needed. Sponsored by Grand Central Partnership. Info: 212-883-2420. [www.grandcentralpartnership.org](http://www.grandcentralpartnership.org). Another nearby tour is offered each Wednesday

at 12:30 p.m. The Municipal Arts Society conducts a 1½-hour tour of Grand Central Terminal. \$10. Meet at the information booth, Grand Central main concourse.

**Midtown Jazz at Midday.** The long-standing Wednesday jazz sessions at St. Peter's Church have been suspended over the summer due to renovations to the Church. They will resume in October. Check [www.saintpeters.org](http://www.saintpeters.org) for start-up and program news. Or 212-935-2200.

**Turtle Bay Music School.** Chamber Music Soiree, Wed., Oct. 1, 7 p.m.; Jazz Community Soiree, Wed., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. 244 East 52nd Street. Call 212-753-8811 for more info.

- compiled by Rita Rowan

**Construction** continued from page 1  
permits, and confusion surrounding each job site. And once completed, there is a question of whether below-ground utilities – water, electricity, steam, gas, sewers – will be up to the task, not to mention our already inadequate parkland and public school facilities. Top it off with an irrevocable loss of small local businesses that have given a special character to Turtle Bay in

past years, now to be replaced by a phalanx of high-rise towers.

It is the TBA's position, which the TBA has communicated to Turtle Bay's elected officials, that there is simply too much construction going on at the same time in the neighborhood, with no cohesive, rational plan that takes into account both the rights of the developers and those of the community. The TBA believes that safety and compliance with the law – and respect for the right of those who live and work here to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and places of business – must be placed above the needs of developers to hurry more and more new "luxury condominiums."

## Watching the Neighborhood

The TBA continues to coordinate a "neighborhood watch" with a group of Turtle Bay residents who are keeping a close eye on local construction sites for signs of dangerous or unsafe conditions. In addition, TBA is working closely with the Community Board 6 Development Task Force, which reviews neighborhood construction sites in an attempt to resolve issues before they occur. And Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer has formed a Borough Construction Watch, a task force to educate the public on monitoring construction site safety.

Neighbors can learn more about the TBA program by contacting the TBA office.

To receive e-mail reminders about community events, send your e-mail address to TBA at [tbaoffice@mindspring.com](mailto:tbaoffice@mindspring.com).

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

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Sales Proceeds Benefit the Turtle Bay Association