

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Summer 2015 Vol. 58, No. 3

Tiny Lot Nation

BY LEE FRANKEL

One of the latest darlings in New York City developers' love affair with super-tall towers built on tiny lots is planned for Sutton Place, and residents, led by the East River Fifties Alliance and Sutton Area Community, are fighting back.

The Bauhouse Group has shelled out \$37.9 million to amass air rights and easements, and \$32.3 million for three contiguous walk-up buildings at 428-432 East 58th Street, between First Avenue and Sutton Place. The total assemblage has allowed Bauhouse to plan a 95-unit, 90-story, 268,000-square-foot condominium tower on the site, a development welcomed by no one but its investors.

The Daily News reported that, late last year when Bauhouse purchased air rights from the owner of 434 East 58th, it promised no taller than a 13-story building. By April 2015, with the acquisition of more air rights, the plan grew to 30 stories. Fi-

nally, enough was acquired to enable a 90-floor design. Residents felt duped as they watched the plan grow from a height matching the neighborhood to a \$1 billion mega-tower that would be one of the largest condominiums in the country.

Aimed at the ultra-wealthy and dubbed "3 Sutton," the building, designed by British architect Norman Foster, would offer 360-degree views of the city



Image courtesy The Bauhouse Group. Source: ny.curbed.com.

and an extreme degree of luxury. For those who live in and around Sutton Place (including Turtle Bay), it would intrude on one of the most desirable and civil of Manhattan neighborhoods – a community-busting presence that would block the sky, cast a long shadow and exclude ordinary New Yorkers who cannot afford to live there, even those who now afford the prices in well-off Sutton Place.

Our Town published an op-ed piece by Council Member Ben Kallos saying, "... cities have long sought to ensure zoning that [balances] affordability, growth, sunlight and quality of life. We cannot allow luxury developments to cast our parks and communities into shadow as neighborhoods become increasingly unaffordable.

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TBA Celebrates Landmarks Law Anniversary

TBA members celebrated the 50th anniversary of passage of New York City's Landmarks Law in mid-June with an illustrated talk highlighting the neighborhood's 13 designated landmarks and the people behind their creation. Sponsored by the



Speaker Pamela Hanlon author of "Manhattan's Turtle Bay."

TBA and presented by Pamela Hanlon, author of "Manhattan's Turtle Bay," the event was hosted by Japan So-



cety, itself a landmarked building.

The talk was one of a number of events being held throughout the city during the year in conjunction with "NYC Landmarks50 Alliance," a group committed to informing the public about historic preservation. The TBA is a member of the Alliance.

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Note the Event

UN Seventieth Anniversary

UN Headquarters, New York City
Opening of the 70th Session of the
UN General Assembly
Tuesday, September 15

Visit of Pope Francis to NYC

Prayers at Vespers Service
St. Patrick's Cathedral
Thursday, September 24

His Holiness Pope Francis

Will Address the General Assembly
Friday, September 25

Multi-religious Service at 9/11 Memorial and Museum and World Trade Center

Friday, September 25 at 11:30 am

Madison Square Garden Mass

September 25 at 6:00 pm

General Debate of the 17th Session of the General Assembly

Monday, September 28 to
Tuesday, October 6

Newsorthy Notes

TBA Brings Local Merchants Together

The TBA welcomed an enthusiastic group of merchants and organizations to a Business Members Breakfast on June 19. Reflecting the neighborhood's commercial and cultural diversity, concerns included clothing design and apparel, florists, hair salons, health care providers, restaurants, wellness consulting and the Catholic Church's UN Parish.

TBA President Bill Curtis welcomed the audience and expressed the TBA's goal to help make Turtle Bay a "destination." The audience heard from staffs of Assembly Member Dan Quart and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer; representatives from the 17th Precinct and the Sanitation Department; and Dan Miner, District Manager of Community Board 6. Elite restaurant supplied the excellent breakfast.

Please watch the calendar for news of our next breakfast meeting, and contact us with your ideas, questions and needs.

The TBA is committed to support the suc-

cess of businesses and organizations located in our neighborhood by bringing them together to collaborate for the greater good.

Grand Central Library Branch Continues with Garodnick's Help

The Grand Central Library's lease was extended for years to come, allaying community concerns about the branch's possible closing. Council Member Dan Garodnick took the reins with support from the TBA, and, once again, Dan came through for us. Neighbors and those who commute here for work will continue to enjoy the many services available at the Grand Central library branch, including programs for tots, teens and adults seeking career skills and book discussions. The library is located at 135 East 46th Street. Find out more at nypl.org or call 212-621-0670.



17th Precinct Crime Statistics January Through August 2nd

	Year to Date		
	2015	2014	% Chg.
Murder	1	0	--
Rape	2	7	-71.4
Robbery	23	37	-37.8
Felony Assault	38	30	26.7
Burglary	55	63	-12.7
Grand Larceny	395	354	11.6
Grand Larceny Auto	23	13	76.9
Total	537	504	6.6
Transit	32	20	60.0
Housing	0	0	--
Petit Larceny	352	394	-10.7
Misd. Assault	121	151	-19.9
Misd. Sex Crimes	32	27	18.5
Shooting Vic.	0	0	--
Shooting Inc.	0	0	--

From 17th Precinct Website
Prepared by the NYPD CompStat Unit



Sign Up for TreesCount 2015

Join the Counter Culture: volunteer for TreesCount 2015 and play a key role in the future of our urban forest. The city began counting trees once each decade beginning in the mid-1980s. This is the third count, and NYC Parks needs tree-loving citizens to help collect data.

Volunteers will be trained to identify and assess street trees using simple site surveying tools and software to map them block by block. Visit treescount.nycgovparks.org to learn more and register.

Editorial Committee

Editor: Lee Frankel
Layout: Hilary Black
Photographs: Sanae Buck, Vivian Gordon
Contributors: Pam Hanlon, Mary Marangi, Anne Saxon-Hersh

TBA Who's Who

Turtle Bay Association

224 East 47th Street
 New York, NY 10017
 Phone: 212-751-5465
 Fax: 212-751-4941

Email: office@turtlebay-nyc.org
 Website: www.turtlebay-nyc.org

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

Board of Directors

Officers

President: William E. Curtis
 Secretary: Grace L. Perry
 Treasurer: Dick Irwin
 Vice Presidents: Millie Margiotta
 Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt

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Barbara Connolly
 Helen Shapiro

Community Calendar

17th Precinct Community Council

Open Meeting
 Last Tuesday every month, 6 pm
 Sutton Place Synagogue
 225 East 51st Street
 212-826-3228
 (No meetings July, August, December)

Community Board 6

Full Board Meeting
 Second Wednesday every month,
 7 pm
 NYU Medical Center
 550 First Avenue
 212-319-3750
 Now live online at
<http://wp.cbsix.org/live>

Makeover Defines New Era for Katharine Hepburn Garden in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza

REPORTED BY FRIENDS OF DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD PLAZA

A little collaboration goes a long way in New York City, where greenery, especially in our parks, needs all the help it can get. In June, the Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (FDHP) found that help when it commissioned The Horticultural Society of New York, “The Hort,” to design and install new border plantings. The project was made possible with generous funding from the Greenacre Foundation, Ford Foundation and Zeckendorf Development, LLC.

“I finally said, ‘enough, let’s install fencing and bring in the experts,’” says Anne Saxon-Hersh, FDHP’s Director of Development and Garden Chair. “Now everyone is admiring the plantings instead of using the border behind the seating wall as a dog run and playground. This defines a new era for the Katharine Hepburn Garden, as a whole.”

The front border is a viewing garden, whereas the woodland behind is a strolling garden with a nature trail. Accessed through a gate near the cafe, the naturalized landscape was designed by NYC Parks architect George Vellonakis and dedicated to Katharine Hepburn in 1997. The leafy habitat is representative of the Connecticut woods the actress described in her autobiography as a favorite haunt. Visitors can enjoy stepping stones engraved with quotations from the four-time Oscar winner.

While the naturalistic landscape offers a sanctuary with plant collections that bloom in spring before the tree canopy creates dense shade, the sunnier front border promises a showier floral palette. Although the floral display winds down by August, the hypericum’s yellow flowers and the hydrangea’s blue and pink “mop heads” bloom until frost.

FDHP will continue to consult with The Hort, an institution with more than 100 years of experience in urban gardening, both private and public. The recent removal of scaffolding along the park’s boundary line with 50 UN Plaza reveals a green hedge, an attractive backdrop for the garden’s entrance and café area. Next on the agenda is the woodland garden.

It’s a new



Before the renovation.



After the renovation.

era, and FDHP is developing a long-term plan for sustaining the garden. FDHP would like the Turtle Bay community to feel invested in the garden, and will be offering sponsorship opportunities at all levels. “Gardens are always a work in progress, but with Kate looking over our shoulders, we’re sure to get it right,” says Saxon-Hersh with a wink and a smile.

Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza is a nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Please visit the website at hammarskjoldplaza.org to learn more.



Lovely summer blooms include hydrangea, hypericum and the variegated leaves of hostas.

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Light and air should be the right of everyone, not the privilege of a few.”

In May, Community Board 6 drew up a resolution, “East 58th Street Tower,” calling among other things for a governmental moratorium on construction of super-high towers and rezoning of the Sutton Place area. Council Member Kallos soon after hosted a public forum pushing for zoning changes to cap the height of towers on the Upper East Side where, presently, there are no limits. Dan Garodnick, Turtle Bay’s Council Member, commented, “We want to make sure these buildings are [planned] in the context of what we have and what we want [our neighborhoods] to be.”

Other community groups involved in the fight include CIVITAS and the Municipal Arts Society. The Turtle Bay Association joined the coalition in June, bringing with it prior experience from the fight against the Trump World Tower, which rose to 72 stories on the strength of its aggregation of air rights.

Websites that feature information about this critical issue include: ny.curbed.com; DNAinfo.com; crainsnewyork.com; and therealdeal.com. Council Member Kallos will come to your building for a meeting if you gather and organize 10 or more neighbors. Please email scheduler@benkallos.com to set up a time.

Welcome New Merchant Members

Hotels

Marshall Hotels & Resorts

145 East 47th Street
917-312-6755
dlopez@marshallhotels.com

Health Services

Arbonne

Jodi Jackson Consultant for
Health and Wellness
145 East 81st Street
917-887-5568
Jackson.jo22@gmail.com

Medrite Urgent Care

919 Second Avenue
212-935-3333

Restaurants

Fuel Grill & Juice Bar

133 East 45th Street
212-808-0100

Gente Restaurant

153 East 45th Street
212-557-5555

Corrections & Changes

Madison Jewelers (in Turtle Bay)

805 Third Avenue (49-50)
212-319-8899

Organize with Care (new email)

organizeease@gmail.com

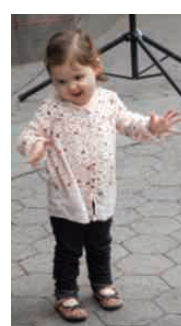
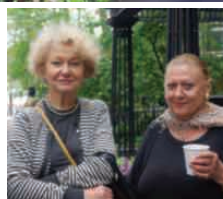
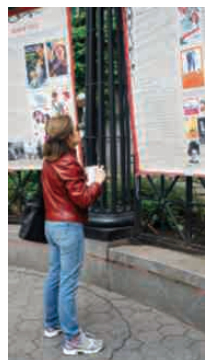
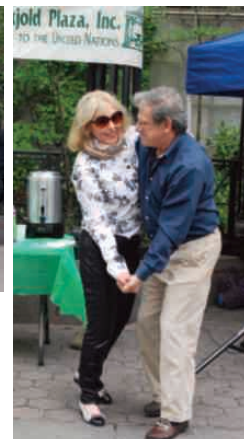
Neighbors Celebrate Katharine Hepburn's Birthday

Cloudy skies did nothing to deter a good turnout for the Katharine Hepburn Garden Party at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in early May. The garden in the park is dedicated to the screen legend, a longtime resident of Turtle Bay and an avid plant lover.

Birthday cake and coffee hit the spot on this very social occasion as couples danced to live music by Norman Curtis. Others

read about Hepburn's life on large information boards and still others toured the recently redesigned garden with Anne Saxon-Hersh, Director of Development and Garden Chair of Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

The party is an annual event co-sponsored by the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and the Turtle Bay Association.



Arts & Culture

Turtle Bay Music School

244 East 52nd Street
212-753-8811 tbms.org

Free Artist Series Concerts

Fridays, at 7 pm, Em Lee Concert Hall.

September 25

Music of the Americas. Featuring Jason Cutmore, piano and Antoine Pierlot, cello.

St. Bart's

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

Summer Festival of Sacred Music

Sundays at 11 am

August 30

Great Anglican Choral Works for Children's Voices. Malcolm Archer's Christ-church Mass.

September 6

Sacred Music for a Cloister. Works by Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, 17th Century composer, singer and Benedictine nun, including her Missa á 4 for women's voices and period instruments.

September 13

The Celebrated Prodigy. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Missa in C Major (The Organ Solo), K. 259. St. Bartholomew's Choir, Singers and Boy and Girl Choristers perform with an orchestra of period instruments.

Japan Society

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

Box Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 11 am - 6 pm, Weekends during exhibitions, 11 am - 5 pm

Gallery Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 11 am - 6 pm, Fri., 11 am - 9 pm, Sat. and Sun., 11 am - 5 pm
Closed on Mondays and major holidays.

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

Fall Gallery Exhibition

October 9 - January 10, 2016

For a New World to Come: Experiments in Japanese Art and Photography, 1968-1979. During the late 1960s and 70s, Japanese artists and photographers began crafting a new visual language by embracing the possibilities of camera-based

practices. Their experiments would alter the cultural landscape, laying the foundation for contemporary art-making in Japan. This exhibit will present nearly 200 photographic and other works by Japanese modern art luminaries that spotlight this radical break with the past, within a global dialogue of the period, with visually arresting meditations on time, place, and self. *Organized by The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), co-presented in New York City with Grey Art Gallery, New York University.*

Grand Central Library

135 East 46th Street (Lexington/Third)
212-621-0670

nypl.org/locations/grand-central
Fully accessible to wheelchairs.
All programs are free unless noted.

Public Speaking Workshop

First and third Tuesdays, each month, 12:15 pm

A continuing series led by experienced public speakers in a supportive environment. All materials provided. For adults: businesspeople, college and graduate students, job seekers.

Career and Job Search

Friday, Aug. 28, 12:30 pm

Networking with LinkedIn for Job/Career Success: A Career Thinker Workshop with Tom Powner. Having a strong network is important for everyone, whether you're employed or in a job search. What is networking? Is networking really effective? What are some of today's tools to support building a network? What is LinkedIn, and why is it so powerful? Understanding the sections of a LinkedIn Profile. Tips on building a powerful LinkedIn Profile. Methods to connect to people and build a strong network. How to use your LinkedIn network for a job/career search or promotions.

Wed., Sept. 2, 12:30 pm

Preparing for Job Interviews: A Career Thinker Workshop with Tom Powner.

The more you prepare the less intimidating they become. Increase your chances of hearing the words "You're hired" by knowing how to prepare for an interview. A sure way to outshine the other candidates is by being more prepared than they are. Learn about all the elements that make for a

successful interview.

For Children

Friday, Aug., 28, 4 pm

Gustafer Yellowgold: A Summer Reading Celebration. Children meet Gustafer Yellowgold, the friendly creature who comes to Earth from the sun, in this multimedia program launched from the imagination of illustrator/singer/songwriter Morgan Taylor. For ages 4 to 12 years old.

For Teens

Mon., Oct. 5, 4 pm

Manga Drawing Workshop. Do you have the next manga series ready to pour through your fingertips? Join Ivan Velez and learn how to draw your own characters, plot your stories, and more. All materials will be provided. For ages 12 to 18 years old.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney Joins TBA Table at National Night Out

As it does each year in August, the TBA hosted a table at National Night Out Against Crime. This year was made special when Rep. Carolyn Maloney visited with members at our table and paused for a photograph. The event in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza was sponsored by the 17th Precinct and was an all-around success for the NYPD and the community.



TBA Street Fair Attracts City Dwellers and Tourists

On a relaxed Saturday in June, neighbors and visitors strolled along Lexington Avenue at our annual spring street fair. They browsed the goods on sale and snacked on multi-ethnic treats, sweet and savory. A number of new members signed on with the TBA. All proceeds were donated to nearby community non-profits. All-in-all, a very successful day.



Volunteer for the Newsletter

Write articles. Take photographs.
Meet people and have fun.

Call the TBA office at
212-751-4941

Landmarks Law *Continued from page 1*

The city's Landmarks Law, which established the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, was signed by Mayor Robert Wagner in April 1965. Its passage grew out of public outrage at the mounting losses of historically significant buildings in New York, most notably the Beaux Arts-style Pennsylvania Station, which was demolished in 1963 to make way for Madison Square Garden. The law protects the city's architecturally, historically and culturally significant structures.

Today in the five boroughs there are 1,347 individual landmarks, 114 historic districts and 20 historic district extensions, 117 interior landmarks and 10 scenic landmarks. The landmarks within the boundaries of Turtle Bay – from the north side of 43rd Street to 53rd Street, Lexington Avenue to the East River – include Turtle Bay Gardens Historic District, Amster Yard, two 1866 clapboard houses on 53rd Street, the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, Beaux-Arts Apartments, Panhellenic Tower, Lescaze House, Morris Sanders Studio & Apartment, Paul Rudolph Penthouse and Apartments, Summit Hotel, Rockefeller Guest House and Japan Society.

For more information about each landmark, visit the Landmarks Preservation Commission website, at www.nyc.gov.landmarks.



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 \$15 | <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 _____

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

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.