

Turtle Bay News



A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Summer 2007 Vol. 50, No. 2

Neighborhood Building Boom: What's Up

BY BRUCE A. SILBERBLATT

Nationwide, the housing market has definitely pulled back from the highs it set in 2005. Oversupply and relatively high interest rates are the principal culprits. That's not the situation in New York. Housing at all levels is in short supply as ever; the city, for the moment, is prospering. Demand propels prices, and there are plenty of customers who are willing to pay top dollar for the new luxury apartments and houses (despite incentives, only a small part of the new construction is affordable housing). Turtle Bay sits right next to the commercial engine of New York – Midtown – and thus it is no surprise that the unprecedented building boom in our community, which began last year, continues full blast:

U. S. Mission to the United Nations, at East 45th Street and United Nations Plaza: This is 27 stories of architectural concrete, with slitted windows that become wider higher up, a fortress designed with security uppermost. It is now some eight floors up, slow going since architectural concrete requires nearly zero tolerances.

823 United Nations Plaza at East 46th Street: The old Anti-Defa-

mation League building is nearly gone. It will be replaced by a condominium tower, probably 40 stories high. Both the Turtle Bay Association and the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza are closely monitoring this job, particularly as it may affect the adjacent Katharine Hepburn Garden.

313-315-317 East 46th Street: Three existing houses were razed. Plans have been approved for an 18-story condominium building. The next-door Albano Building may become temporary swing space for United Nations staff displaced during renovation of the Secretariat building.

865 United Nations Plaza between East 48th and 49th Streets: Conversion to condominiums in the existing 16-story building is under way.

250 East 49th Street: After a year and a half of delays, punctuated by damage to next-door buildings and site flooding, plans for a

continued on page 5

Neighbors View Vision For East Side Waterfront

More than 300 East Side residents gathered recently to view a preliminary architectural concept for what could eventually be a waterfront esplanade running from 38th Street to as far north as 63rd Street.

The public session, held June 10, was the brainchild of the Municipal Arts Society, Community Board 6, City Councilmember Dan Garodnick and other East Side elected officials. During the previous week, they had sought community input in a preliminary session and then on June 8, brought together six of New York City's top landscape architects for a "charrette" – an intensive design workshop. The result was an architectural design concept, a vision, for an East River waterfront esplanade.

Garodnick, whose district covers much of the waterfront area, explained that the fate

continued on page 3



TBA President Bill Curtis (second from left) is presented a City Council Proclamation commemorating the TBA's 50th anniversary. Making the presentation at a celebration for neighborhood volunteers were Councilmembers Dan Garodnick and Jessica Lappin. Joining them, far left, was Luxembourg Consul General Georges Faber, who graciously helped in arranging the event at the Luxembourg House, former Beekman Place home of Irving Berlin. (More photos, page 3)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Tuesday, August 7**
Annual "Night Out Against Crime"
5-9 p.m.
Sponsored by the 17th Precinct
Community Council
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
212-826-3228
- **Saturday, September 1**
Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
Street Fair
Second Avenue, 45th-57th Streets
- **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

TBA Contacts:

Phone: 212-751-5465

Fax: 212-751-4941

E-mail: tbaoffice@mindspring.com

Web Site: www.turtlebay-nyc.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: Barbara Connolly

Directors: Jed Abrams,
Ethel Bendove, Bunny Blei,
Orin Buck, Meryl Brodsky,
Barbara Connolly, William E. Curtis,
Denise Hamilton, Marie-Louise Handal,
Pamela Hanlon, Olga Hoffmann,
Bill Huxley, Richard Irwin,
Millie Margiotta, Dolores Marsh,
Patricia Q. McDougald,
Francine Irwin, Michael Resnick,
Carol Rinzler, Jeannie Sakol,
Helen Shapiro, Bruce Silberblatt

Turtle Bay News

Editor: Pamela Hanlon

Contributors: Terri Heveran,
Olga Hoffmann, Bill Huxley,
Millie Margiotta, Patricia Q. McDougald,
Rita Rowan, Bruce Silberblatt
Photography: Vivian Gordon

C'mon Along!

By PATRICIA Q. McDOUGALD

What better way to see Manhattan than from atop a Gray Line bus on its Downtown Loop tour – and have it start at the Waldorf with a personality-plus comedic guide named Mindy, who swung easily into a very professional, a capella rendition of a Broadway melody by Turtle Bay's own Stephen Sondheim. Unexpectedly, a little north of Times Square we had to change to another bus, which came with another guide, Robert. Though he didn't sing, he possessed an extraordinary amount of entertaining Manhattan information that he spouted from memory – not a note in sight.

Amid all the amusing tales, he managed to insert things of a bit more serious nature. For example, didn't you ever wonder about those low-hanging tree branches on 49th Street, between First and Third Avenues, and what a swat by one of them could do to somebody who was riding atop a double-decker and suddenly stood up to get that perfect camera shot... Well, by comparison with other hazards – not prunable – that's nothing. As we criss-crossed Manhattan toward South Ferry, our guide blithely mentioned again about not standing while the bus was in motion. To demonstrate, as he sat he held his arm straight up in the air, and at that moment the bus passed under a low-slung traffic light that missed his hand by scant inches – and one of those things has clout enough to make a person a whole head shorter!

Still, I could hardly wait to test his knowledge of Turtle Bay. Not that I had planned to pounce with a "HAH, GOTCHA!" – but I'm sure I was listening more intently than anyone as we approached 865 United Nations Plaza. Not a great many know that among other famous people, Thomas "You Can't Go Home Again" Wolfe lived there. No sooner had that crossed my mind when he pointed to the building; not only did he know, but he also knew the years he resided there, what floor he lived on, and that his apartment faced the avenue!

Then he focused on 860-870 United Nations Plaza and reeled off names of current and past residents that sounded a like a "Who's Who" list. And as we passed her



Pat McDougald boards a sightseeing bus to find out what tourists learn about Turtle Bay as they come whizzing through the neighborhood.

house on 49th Street, we were regaled with Katharine Hepburn lore and that of her next-door neighbors, Stephen Sondheim, Garson Kanin, Ruth Gordon, et al. And there was a little addendum about Thomas Wolfe and his drinking buddies who used to frequent a tavern at the northeast corner of 49th and Third, loooong before it was Smith and Wollensky.

A Gray Line tour, with its great guides, is special. You can live here all your life – and still learn something you didn't know!

A Greener Turtle Bay

Mayor Bloomberg's ambitious program to plant a million trees in the city over the next 10 years should mean a greener Turtle Bay. Turtle Bay Tree Fund President Bill Huxley says the neighborhood should see more and healthier trees, with dead trees replaced more quickly. And, he says, the City Parks Department will be creating new tree beds along the area's sidewalks.

Bill encourages neighbors with suggestions for new tree locations in Turtle Bay to contact him through the TBA office (212-751-5465 or tbaoffice@mindspring.com) to discuss their ideas.

Help assure that Turtle Bay keeps up with the greenest communities in the city!



Celebrating Volunteers. As part of the TBA's 50th anniversary year, TBA recently honored neighborhood volunteers at a reception held at the Luxembourg House. Top row, from left: Olga Hoffmann and Bridget Falco; Joan Levy; Stuart and Leithia Rogers; Helen Shapiro and Marty Wolf. Center photo: The Rev. Joseph Parrish, Ron Palau, Jacqueline Bourrud and Thomas La Barbera. Far right center: Barbara Faber-Mohr. Bottom row, from left: Claire Brabec and Harry Ursillo; Dominick and Rose Pistone; Dick and Francine Irwin and Denise Hamilton.

Waterfront *continued from page 1*

of three separate, but concurrent, development projects along the East River are to be decided shortly. First, New York State intends to rebuild the midtown segment of the FDR Drive. Second, the former Con Edison site is being redeveloped as office and residential space. Third, if the United Nations should expand with offices on Robert Moses Playground, a riverfront esplanade could be offered as replacement for the alienated parkland.

"Together they present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the vision of a green space along the East River shoreline a reality," Garodnick said.

Further – making an extension as far north as 63rd Street potentially feasible – the temporary roadway created eastward of the FDR Drive from 54th Street to 63rd Street while the FDR was being reconstructed, could be reconfigured as a pedestrian esplanade. Elected officials have asked the State Department of Transportation to hold off demolishing the steel beams that secured the roadway until the city can study the possibility of converting the area to public parkland.

What the East Side residents viewed at the meeting was a preliminary concept focused primarily on the 38th to 42nd Street section fronting the Con Edison site, with a prom-

enade built up over a reconstructed FDR Drive and containing grassy parkland, seating and viewing areas. The plan is clearly at a preliminary stage and must cross many hurdles before it would become a reality. But Garodnick told the enthusiastic crowd of residents, "The most important thing that you can do to help move this forward is to make your voices heard."

Among elected officials joining Garodnick at the session were State Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblyman Jonathan Bing, Assemblyman Brian Kavanaugh, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and City Council Chair Christine Quinn.

Architecture: It's in the Details

Editor's Note: With camera in hand, TBA Land Use Chair Bruce A. Silberblatt recently took a sentimental walking tour of the area to check up on some of Turtle Bay's architecture of the past. Here is his report.

Forty years ago a story appeared in the Turtle Bay Gazette, ancestor of Turtle Bay News, with the headline, "Look Up and Love: Frieze-Gazing in Old Turtle Bay." The subject, besides friezes, was the decorative and historic embellishments gracing many of Turtle Bay's older buildings.

Here is a list and the current health of the places visited in 1967:

- 127-133 East 47th Street. Victorian townhouses with a different mask set under the roof of each. Alas, 131-133 are gone, replaced by a garage (ugh!). The others have suffered heavy-handed ground floor change. However, we can add nearby 147, with its fine sheet metal cornice and cast iron bay windows. It is in reasonably good shape.
- 120 East 48th Street. Apartment building, decorative panels, marble columns, cornice. O.K.
- 229, 231, 235, 237 East 48th Street. Part of the Turtle Bay Gardens Historic District, with zodiac signs and busts of Mercury and Jupiter. All O.K.
- 225-227 East 49th Street. The violin-bedecked Zimbalist House, now rental apartments. O.K.
- 142 and 150 East 49th Street; 135 and 147 East 50th Street. The 1920s apartment houses, lavishly embellished, are O.K. except for 147 East 50th Street, which has been stripped of virtually all embellishment. Too bad.
- 928-930 Second Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets: Two old-law tenements with rooftop "gazebo" are O.K. but facing an uncertain future.
- 50th Street houses and apartments, Second to Third Avenues. The varied architectural smorgasbord is O.K., but the fate of some is doubtful.
- 333 East 50th Street. A pair of marvelous carved doors are intact. O.K.



225-227 East 49th Street

There has been an incredible amount of new construction in the community since the old Gazette article of 1967 – nearly all unadorned. (There is, of course, some fine modern architecture in Turtle Bay.) Ornament has generally succumbed to cost-saving and the dictum "Less is More." Scores of former tenements and working class homes, particularly those in the 50s east of Second Avenue including Beekman Place, have been thoroughly transformed – extra floors, mansard roofs, trim, front stairs amputated – and bear little resemblance to what they once were. Some have become individual mansions, others "luxury" condominiums. Despite that, the great majority of those wonderful old buildings highlighted in the Gazette from the 1960s are amazingly, still here. Besides these, there are

many more fascinating, decorated, and original buildings surviving in Turtle Bay. More is More!

Lexington Avenue is a miracle dominated by that ultimate of Art Deco, the Chrysler Building with its octet of 60th story gargoyles and skyscraping spire. Much closer to the ground are:

- Graybar Building at 44th Street. Rats scamper up ship hawsers holding up its marquee.
- Grand Central Post Office at 45th Street. Beswastikaed friezes plus two majestic Doric columns.
- Hotel Lexington at 48th Street. Winged goblins bear a Byzantine colonnade. (Don't miss its vestibule.)
- The Romanesque-style Marriott at 49th Street. Imposing first floor Corinthian columns and, above, a phalanx of gargoyles worthy of Notre Dame.
- What are those sad elephants doing at second floor level of the W Hotel at 49th Street? Their trunks originally curled around suspension rods holding up a long-gone marquee.
- Go up one block where staid owls glower from the Benjamin Hotel second floor level. Then look up to its fantastic summit, an extraordinary convention of Byzantine columns and motifs!



Graybar Building



Marriott Hotel at 49th Street

Art-Deco, the 1920s-1930s skyscraper style, has several superb Turtle Bay examples.

- The Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, gracing East 44th Street between First and Second Avenues, displays colored terra-cotta panels and a stylized Egyptian main portal (It is, by happenstance, the Egyptian U.N. mission!).



Beaux-Arts Institute

- Five blocks uptown, First Avenue at Mitchell Place, reigns the magnificent Beekman Tower. Intricate lotus panels embellish its base, Greek letters hem the entrance (it began as the Panhellenic for sorority women), windows rise in deep, recessed vertical strips to a glorious rooftop culmination. Both it and Beaux-Arts are landmarked.
- In the Beekman Place enclave, 433 East 51st Street has Mayan Art-Deco motifs gracing its entrance, while nearby 30 Beekman and the original 931 First Avenue are Roman-



433 East 51st Street

esque, and 439 East 51st is Gothic! Talk about variety!

- The Grand Beekman, at the southeast corner of First and 51st Street, is a rare example of new building (2005) decoration; you need to look to its 28-story summit to espy its collection of Art-Deco style pillars and trim.
- A block north, the 52nd Street cul-de-sac is dominated by the Art Deco River House (Its cupola has an Oriental touch). The Southgate complex makes up most of its south side. Note the Art Deco entries, all different.



Beekman Tower Hotel

- At the very end, overlooking the East River, is the Gothic 450 (topped by an Art Deco penthouse!). Just inboard is 444, a startling surprise. It is not in any way Art Deco; it is Germanic with a peak surmounted by a trio of mysterious cloaked figures. Who they are is anybody's guess. Being 16 floors up, they are, as perceived from the street, foreshortened. They look north into River House and present their backsides to anybody trying to find them from a high place to the south.



River House

Explore Turtle Bay's streets, keep a sharp eye, look up. There is much to seek out. Once upon a time architects and owners decorated their buildings, creating variety and interest. A few of these works are gone but it is incredible how much has survived. Enjoy!

Building Boom *continued from page 1*

24-story, semi-circular apartment tower have been approved. Demolition is finished and a new builder has been selected.

343 East 50th Street: This conversion of three existing four-story townhouses into a new seven-story condominium, called The M, is completed and being tenanted.

211 East 51st Street: An existing 14-story apartment house set on a split zoning lot (50 percent high-rise commercial, 50 percent low-rise residential) adjacent to Greenacre Park is to be converted into condominiums. As dictated by code, a seven-story tower addition is limited to the western, commercial-zoned half. Plans have been approved. This work is being coordinated with the Greenacre Foundation.

303 East 51st Street: The city granted partial approval for a new 31-story, 99-apartment condominium tower, the shape of which is not as yet set. Foundations are complete.

952 Second Avenue between East 50th and 51st Streets: Demolition is complete. Conversion of two existing four-story buildings to six floors of apartments had been approved, but with the original houses now gone, what may appear here is an unknown.

955-957 First Avenue between East 52nd and 53rd Streets: Former Metropolitan Café. Size and height is not yet determined. Demolition is complete.

210 East 52nd Street: This office block may

be converted into a transient hotel.

252 East 53rd Street, the Veneto: New 32-story condominium is enclosed and in final stages.

310 East 53rd Street: A 30-story condominium was recently completed and is

being occupied.

The TBA continues to keep close watch on construction and a wary eye on so-called "soft spots," sites developers consider worth assembling expecting to put up still more luxury condominiums.

Newsworthy Notes

House Exchange. When Ellen and David Wixted, of Newport, R.I., visited Turtle Bay recently, they were so taken with the neighborhood that they would like to arrange a "house – or apartment – exchange" with a Turtle Bay resident who might like to try out Newport for brief periods of time. Anyone interested should contact the TBA office at 212-751-5465 or tbaoffice@mindpring.com.

Art Show in the Park. Neighbors enjoyed art work of students from the High School of Art & Design, shown at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on June 9. It was the third year of "art in the park," at which neighbors vote for winning art.

More than Milkshakes. The Milkshake Company, the café concession at the east end of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, recently received its liquor license and is now offering a full bar menu of wine, beer and cocktails. The café has also added summertime salads and fruit plates to its dining menu.

New Book on Kate. A book by the daughter of Norah Moore, housekeeper for Katharine

Hepburn for over 30 years, is a sweet story with many tales – and recipes – associated with Ms. Hepburn's life on East 49th Street. "At Home with Kate: Growing Up in Katharine Hepburn's Household," by Eileen Considine-Meara, is published by John Wiley & Sons.

Proposed Landmark. The dark blue glazed brick house at 219 East 49th Street has been proposed as a New York City landmark. The house, built as an entirely new structure by architect and designer Morris B. Sanders in 1935, is a fine example of the Modernist style. The TBA has passed a resolution supporting the designation.

United Nations Update. The schedule now calls for preparatory work to begin shortly on a two-story building that will go up on the U.N. North Lawn, with actual construction to start early next year. The building will serve as temporary conference space during the seven-year renovation of U.N. buildings. It will be torn down and the lawn restored after the refurbishment is complete.

Annual Garden Party Honors Katharine Hepburn at the Plaza



On May 12, Turtle Bay neighbors joined thousands of Katharine Hepburn fans around the country in commemorating what would have been the 100th birthday of the celebrity actress. Held at the Katharine Hepburn Garden, the celebration has become an annual event since the opening of the Garden back in 1997.

Clockwise, from top left, Friends of Dag Hammarkjold Plaza President Sherrill Kazan addresses guests; Norah Moore, Ms. Hepburn's housekeeper for many years, is flanked by Ms. Hepburn's correspondence secretary Christiane McCloskey on her left, and family friend Emily King to the right; the party's raffle winners pose with their prizes; left to right, Manhattan Parks Commissioner William Castro, TBA's Bill Curtis, Hepburn Garden architect George Vellonakis, and TBA's Millie Margiotta; City Councilwoman Jessica Lappin addresses the gathering while her newborn son Lucas takes a snooze; and Friends' director Anne Saxon-Hersh does a little tree-pruning before the festivities begin.

Briefly in Business:

- Welcome aboard. **Pisacane Fish and Seafood** is a new TBA business member. Pisacane is located at 940 First Avenue between 51st and 52nd Streets. Phone: 212-752-7560.
- New TBA business member **Moon-soup**, at 1059 Second Avenue between 55th and 56th Streets, is a play center and store for babies and tots. Through September 1, TBA members are entitled to a 15 percent discount on merchandise with a \$20 value or more. 212-319-3222. www.moonsoup.net.
- In August, **L. Simchik Prime Meats**, TBA business member, is moving uptown a couple blocks, to 988 First Avenue between 54th and 55th Streets. 212-888-2299.
- Apologies to **Bridge Kitchenware**. The TBA's 2007 Directory of Business Members misstates the store's address. Bridge is located at 711 Third Avenue at 45th Street. Phone: 212-688-4220. www.bridgekitchenware.com.

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 monitoring, with Community Board 6 and as part of the East Midtown Coalition for Sensible Development, plans for the Con Ed Waterside development, United Nations renovation project and East River waterfront opportunities.
- is closely watching neighborhood construction sites for safety and other concerns.
- has joined other neighborhood interests in opposing MTA's planned utility building on East 50th Street, which has now been modified.
- has joined with other neighborhood groups to demand stronger laws regarding news-rack 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 and Katharine Hepburn Garden Party.
- produced a pocket guide and walking tour of Turtle Bay historical and architectural sites.

KNOW YOUR GREENMARKET'S FARMERS

Since it first opened in 2000, the Greenmarket at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza has become one of the busiest in the city. Neighbors can count on getting their weekly supply of fresh produce, fish, meat, baked goods, dairy products and flowers at the “Dag Market,” open each Wednesday all year round. Here are the farmers you will find at the Greenmarket this summer, starting with the stall at the corner of 47th and Second Avenue and moving east toward First Avenue.

Samascott Orchards, from Kinderhook, N.Y.

Ron and Gary Samascott's grandfather started growing apples in 1901 and by 1960, the family had 100 acres of trees. Today, the Samascotts grow dozens of varieties of orchard fruit, berries and vegetables.

S & SO Produce Farms, Goshen, N.Y.

The Oszczepinski family emigrated from Poland in the early 1900s and bought a black-dirt farm that Stanely Sr. and Jr. still farm today. They were one of the city's founding Greenmarket farms in 1976. The Oszczepinskis grow many varieties of vegetables.

Rexcroft Farms, Athens, N.Y.

Ted King is the sixth generation to farm Rexcroft Farms, established in the late 1700s. Rexcroft grows vegetables, plants and flowers, and raises cattle for meat and chickens for eggs. “I like to plant things, see them grow – to work at it,” he says.

Newfield Farms, Newfield, N.J.

Ana Tudorof, originally from Romania, has been growing flowers, herbs, plants and vegetables since coming to the United States. “Farming is beautiful work,” she says. Her flowers change with the seasons, but her favorite is the tulip.

Yuno's Farm, Bordentown, N.J.

Nevia Yoo was a dancer when she married Kwang, a fourth generation farmer. Now she's in the farming business too. Yuno's grows 100 varieties of vegetables, including Korean heirloom varieties. “I've taught non-Korean people to love my ethnic vegetables,” she says.

Tribeca Oven, Brooklyn

Alan Cohen offers a wide variety of breads, including some “signature” breads: Swiss health, olive, sourdough, rustic and rosemary. Tribeca Oven uses old-fashioned baking techniques and tests their breads repeatedly until the flavors and textures are just right. KOK-K kosher certified.

Maxwell's Farm, Chagewater, N.J.

A journalist turned farmer, Bill Maxwell grows vegetables. “Everything except celery,” he says. “Growing and selling vegetables to appreciative customers is very satisfying.”

Not Just Rugelach, Kearney, N.J.

Like the name says, Thomas Halik sells “not just rugelach” but all

kinds of sweet and savory baked goods.

Elysian Fields Farm, Sloansville, N.Y.

Among the newest purveyors at the city's Greenmarkets, Laurent and his wife Debra raise 100 percent grass-fed Galloway cows and pastured heirloom pigs. They sell beef, pork, sausages and nitrate-free bacon.

Pura Vida Fisheries, Hampton Bays, N.Y.

Captain Rick Lofstad's grandfather, a whaler from Norway, immigrated to Long Island where today Rick carries on the family business. From his 55-foot dragger, he catches everything from flounder to cod to sea bass. “I love the peace of the sea alone with the combination of selling what I just caught in the bustling city,” he says.

Ronnybrook Farm, Ancramdale, N.Y.

The Osofsky family raise dairy cattle on their Hudson Valley farm, named for their eldest son Ronny. They sell milk, butter, yogurt, ice cream and crème fraiche.

DiPaolo Turkeys, Hamilton, N.J.

The DiPaolas have been raising turkeys for two generations. Today, Artie DiPaola sells turkeys, smoked meat and hot and sweet sausage. “Farming's not an occupation; it's a lifestyle,” he says.

Valley Shepard Creamery, Long Valley, N.J.

Eran Wajswol raises 300 Friesian sheep for cheese, lamb and wool. He started New Jersey's first sheep cheese creamery using traditional European methods for making the cheeses sold at the market.

Terhune Orchards, Salt Point, N.Y.

Rich Czech grows a variety of fruit, and over the course of the season offers peaches, pears, cherries, plums, apples, fruit tree blossoms and some vegetables.

Note: Not all markets are year-round at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.



Shayna Lewis is the new manager of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Greenmarket. This summer, 14 farmers have stalls at the Greenmarket.

Turtle Bay Remembers a Dear Friend

With writer Kurt Vonnegut's death in April, Turtle Bay lost a loyal, supportive and much beloved neighbor. Mr. Vonnegut always was ready to help the community. He served as a spokesman for the neighborhood in its 1980s fight to downzone neighborhood mid-blocks, twice served as membership chairman of the Turtle Bay Association, spoke at numerous TBA member events, and generously supported programs to keep the neighborhood green.

Mr. Vonnegut came to Turtle Bay in 1975 when he bought his house, an 1860s brownstone on 48th Street, from his friend, editor Robert Gottlieb, who moved across the street to Turtle Bay Gardens. "I like my house," Mr. Vonnegut said in a conversation just a few months before his death. "We have our own garden in the back, and the windows in our house are beautiful."

Neighbors recall frequently seeing Mr. Vonnegut on the front stoop of his house, or more often, at a favorite park bench at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza with his dog Flour. He enjoyed the Plaza and called the 1990s

renovation and expansion of the Plaza "a very nice 'event.'"

"Once a foreign film crew was doing a documentary at the Plaza, and they asked me for a suggestion for music to accompany it," he recalled. "I immediately said 'Mozart' because the Plaza is so European feeling."

For Mr. Vonnegut, one of Turtle Bay's greatest appeals was its proximity to the United Nations. "I like the United Nations, the idea of having the international community here," he said.

Kurt Vonnegut died April 11. He was 84 years old. He is survived by his wife, the author and photographer Jill Krementz, who along with the couple's daughter Lily, asked that contributions in memory of Mr. Vonnegut be made to the Turtle Bay Association.



Kurt Vonnegut and Flour in their favorite park bench at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Photo © by Jill Krementz; all rights reserved. Reprinted courtesy of the photographer, Mr. Vonnegut's wife.

Community Board 6 has passed a resolution calling for East 48th Street between Second and Third Avenues, the home of Mr. Vonnegut for more than 30 years, to be named in his honor.

Thanks to Fair Donors

Many thanks to all who helped make this year's Turtle Bay Street Fair another success. Proceeds of the fair, held May 6, were \$10,000, all of which is given back to the community through grants and donations. In addition, thanks to the following local merchants who donated raffle prizes for the event:

Gift certificates included: \$100 each from Smith & Wollensky, San Martin, La Mangerie, De Grezia, Smorgas Chef and the Benjamin Hotel Restaurant; and from Pescatore, \$80; Come Again Emporium, \$75; Salon Amici, \$65; Beekman Liquors, \$50; Blackfinn, \$50; Parnells, \$50; Children's Athletic Training Center, \$40; World Bar, \$25; and Buttercup Bakery, \$25. Affinia Fifty Hotel contributed a one-night stay; Country Bank, \$100 savings bond; Lia Shorr, manicure and pedicure; WLTW, theatre tickets; WCBS, baseball tickets; and the Vanderbilt YMCA's prize was biggest of all: a one-year membership worth \$1,330.

Barbara Connelly was chair of the Street Fair. Francine Irwin organized the raffle.

Turtle Bay Happenings

Grand Central Terminal Tour. The Municipal Arts Society conducts a 1 1/2 hour tour of the Beaux-Arts landmark each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. Meet at the information booth, main concourse. \$10 per person.

Instituto Cervantes Art. Works by Dali, Picasso, Miro and others. July 5-Aug. 31. Free. 211-215 East 49th Street. Tues.-Fri., 12:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 212-308-7720,

www.cervantes.org.

Trygve Lie Gallery. Watercolor paintings by Claus Hoie. Through Sept. 9. Free. 317 East 52nd Street. Mon.-Thurs., noon to 7 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 1 to 5 p.m.

Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes. Concert at First Reformed Episcopal Church, 317 East 50th Street, Fri., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$10 seniors. Information: 212-755-0997.

- compiled by Rita Rowan

Art & Culture

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



Annual Membership Dues

- ☐ Senior \$10
- ☐ Business \$40

- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Benefactor \$100

- ☐ Family \$30
- ☐ 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