

# Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Summer 2010 Vol. 53, No. 2

## EXPRESS BUS STOP SURVIVES, CROSSTOWN SERVICE CUT

BY BRUCE A. SILBERBLATT, TBA VICE PRESIDENT, CHAIR LAND USE AND ZONING COMMITTEE

*Since writing this article, city agencies have agreed to keep the express bus stop between 49th and 50th Streets on First and Second Avenues. Cross-town service on 50th and 49th Streets has been eliminated or curtailed, as detailed below.*

In April 2010, the MTA confirmed that it would implement drastic cutbacks to the cross-town buses serving Turtle Bay. Proposed changes included:

- Eliminating the M104 making round trips between 129th Street and Broadway and 42nd Street and First Avenue.
- Eliminating the M27 running from First Avenue to the Port Authority Bus Terminal and back via 49th and 50th Streets.
- Eliminating the M50, which runs along 49th and 50th Streets from First Avenue



Rep. Carolyn Maloney addresses community in fight against bus cutbacks.

to the Hudson River, on weekends and late night on weekdays.

Completing the isolation of Turtle Bay, the MTA and NYCDOT decided to drop their original plan for express bus stops between

49th and 50th Streets along the new Select Bus Service (SBS) route running north and south on First and Second Avenues between Houston and 125th Street. That left a yawning 15-block gap between the nearest express stops on 42nd and 57th Streets.

Upon hearing the announcement, the Turtle Bay Association acted immediately. Together with Community Board 6 (CB6) we arranged a meeting with MTA and NYCDOT officials, attended by our elected representatives. We detailed our concerns, adding that a “perfect storm” of service cuts and omissions had left our community bereft of adequate bus service connecting us to the rest of the East Side as well as Midtown, Lincoln Center and the Theater District. The agencies promised to review

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## Report from Turtle Bay Tree Fund

### Begonias Flourish Helped by Stringer Grant

BY WILLIAM HUXLEY, TBA BOARD MEMBER

This year, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer awarded the Turtle Bay Tree Fund a grant for “Summer Planting of Begonias.” The funding, coupled with favorable weather, has produced a flourishing display in the many treebeds that host the plants. Tulips and impatiens have also enjoyed a good season.

On a pleasant mid-June afternoon, Lisa Felstein of Stringer’s office, came by to view the results of the funding. Accompanied by TBA board member Bill Huxley and neighborhood resident Olga Hoffmann, Ms. Felstein remarked on the pleasure of this outdoor tour of our treebed gardens with their colorful blossoms.

We are also extremely grateful to Doe Fund workers who are helping us supple-

ment the seasonal rainfall. They have been bringing their tank truck to water all 280 tree beds, and will continue doing so three times a week throughout the summer into early fall.

TBA board members who also serve on the Tree Fund board are: TBA President Bill Curtis, Bill Huxley and Jeannie Sakol.

We wish to thank the generous donors who contributed to the Tree Fund in 2009. They include, Daniel Garodnick, City Council Member; Samuel Goldfinger, Fourth Wall Restaurants; Emmet Hegarty, Rose Associates; Ruth Kuhlmann, Greenacre Foundation; Liz Krueger, New York State Senator; the Turtle Bay Association; the Beekman Place Association; Barbara Slifka, Turtle Bay resident; Stephen Sondheim, Turtle



Orange Flair Tulips at 311 East 50th Street.

Bay resident; and Mabel and Leon Weil, Turtle Bay residents.

If you would like to see more trees and flowers in Turtle Bay, please send your donations and suggestions to: Turtle Bay Tree Fund, 208 East 51st Street, #238, NYC 10022 or visit [www.turtlebaytreefund.org](http://www.turtlebaytreefund.org).

The Turtle Bay Tree Fund is unrelated to the Turtle Bay Association.

## Bus Service *continued from page 1*

the situation; however, their commitment to report back by May 12 was delayed. During the following days we circulated petitions, flyers and e-mails notifying our membership and the community of the impending bus cutbacks.

The CB6 Transportation Committee prepared a resolution conditioning approval of the SBS system on the reinstatement of both the 49th-50th Street express stops and all of the cross-town routes. The TBA pushed for combining the two issues, believing that an omnibus resolution would carry more force. Nevertheless, on May 23, CB6 overwhelmingly approved two separate resolutions: the first tied approval of the SBS system to the reinstatement of the 49th-50th Street express stops. The second was an independent demand to maintain existing cross-town bus service.

Enter our U.S. congressional representative Carolyn Maloney, who took up the cudgel on our community's behalf. On June 4, she announced her success in persuading the MTA and NYCDOT to reinstate the 49th-

50th Street express stops, since confirmed by the DOT. Maloney also promised to continue fighting against the cutbacks to our cross-town service.

Between now and October, the MTA and NYCDOT will be readying First and Second Avenues for the SBS system: repaving and adding painted lines and surfaces to mark bus and protected bicycle lanes. There will be no parking weekdays, 7 am to 10 am and 2 pm to 7 pm. Truck deliveries will be permitted only between 10 am and 2 pm, and general metered parking between 7 pm and 7 am.

Within Turtle Bay there will be a single bus lane along the right-hand curb. It remains to be seen whether this can deliver true express service, since both express and local buses will occupy the one lane, lagging behind each other unless traffic permits them to swing out into the adjacent lane to pass.

Despite attempts to preserve cross-town service, the M27 and M104, and M50 late night and weekend service were eliminated as of 12:01 am, June 27, 2010.

## Vanderbilt YMCA to Host U.S. Diabetes Prevention Program

Beginning at the end of July, the Vanderbilt YMCA will offer a free Diabetes Prevention Program aimed at helping those at risk fight the development of type 2 diabetes. The program is part of a U.S. government initiative and has been proven to cut participants' chances of developing the disease by more than half.

The program is conducted in a group setting. The goals are to help pre-diabetics achieve and maintain weight loss of at least seven percent via healthy eating and physical activity of at least 150 minutes a week. A trained lifestyle coach will work with participants for 16 core sessions to help them change their lifestyles. After the sessions, participants will continue to meet monthly for up to a year for added support

in maintaining their progress.

The program is scheduled to begin the last week of July. To enroll, participants must be diagnosed as pre-diabetic and must present a signed referral form from their primary care physician. For more information, or to begin the enrollment process, please call or email Judy Ouziel at 212-912-2524 or [jouziel@ymcanyc.org](mailto:jouziel@ymcanyc.org).



The National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC) offers free facts and publications about Type 2 Diabetes at <http://diabetes.niddk.nih.gov>.

### Small Business Owners !!!

The City of New York is conducting a confidential online survey for a clearer picture of retail corridors, issues, and how to address them. To respond go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nycretailsurveycc>.

### Correction

The telephone number for new business member Muriel Siebert & Co. Inc. was incorrectly listed in the Spring 2010 issue. The correct numbers are 800-872-0711 or 212-644-2400.

## Community Calendar

- **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

### Turtle Bay Association

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New York, NY 10017  
Phone: 212-751-5465  
Fax: 212-751-4941

E-mail: [office@turtlebay-nyc.org](mailto:office@turtlebay-nyc.org)  
Website: <http://turtlebay-nyc.org>

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

### Board of Directors

President: William E. Curtis  
Vice Presidents: Millie Margiotta,  
Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt  
Treasurer: Francine Irwin  
Directors:  
Ethel Bendove, Bunny Blei,  
Orin Buck, Meryl Brodsky,  
William E. Curtis,  
Denise Hamilton,  
Marie-Louise Handal,  
Bill Huxley, Francine Irwin,  
Richard Irwin, Millie Margiotta,  
Dolores Marsh,  
Patricia Q. McDougald,  
Ginny Otway, Ron Palau,  
Michael Resnick, Carol Rinzler,  
Jeannie Sakol, Bruce Silberblatt  
Emeritus:  
Barbara Connolly, Helen Shapiro

### Turtle Bay News

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Bill Huxley,  
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Patricia Q. McDougald,  
Bruce Silberblatt  
Photography: Vivian Gordon

## Free Fun in the Park

Sponsored and supported by Senator Liz Krueger

**General Douglas MacArthur Park**  
FDR Drive, 48/49  
Tue.-Sat., 7/3 - 8/28, 10 am-6 pm

**Supervised activities** run by Parks Play-ground Associates. Board games, arts and crafts, sports, more.

**Queensboro Oval**  
Sutton Place, 59/60  
Tue. & Thu., 7/3 - 8/17, 11 am-12 pm

**Little Parkie Sports.** Guided play & instruction: T-ball, soccer and other games. Ages 6 & under.

**Queensboro Oval**  
Sutton Place, 59/60  
Thurs., July 29, 11 am-3 pm

**Children's Sports Festival.** Have fun competing in different sporting events, carnival games and using inflatables.

**East 54th St. Recreation Center**  
54th, bet. 1 & 2 Aves.  
Thurs., Aug. 12, 1 pm-1:45 pm

**BubbleMania!** One-of-a-kind bubble show only a true bubble artist could perform. Ages 6 and older

**Sutton Park**  
E. 57th East of Sutton Place  
Sat., Sept. 18, 12 pm-1 pm

**Christopher Agostino** shares his "living art". Includes face painting and more.

**Sutton Park**  
E. 57th East of Sutton Place  
Sat., Oct. 30., 11 am-3 pm

**Spooky Halloween Costume Party.** Join in to play games, create ghoulish arts & crafts, and have your face painted.

For more information call (212) 408-0256 or email [joseph.capitummino@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:joseph.capitummino@parks.nyc.gov).

## The Turtles of New York

Is Turtle Bay named for the turtles that lived here in earlier days? Though no one is sure, we do know that many different turtle species inhabited the neighborhood long before we arrived.



Green sea turtle. Photographer: Michael Lusk, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at <http://www.fws.gov/digitalmedia>.

Meet the Green Sea Turtle, aka *Chelonia mydas*. This turtle is actually olive-brown to black above and yellowish-white below. Its nesting cycle may

be two to five years apart, often requiring long-distance migration between foraging and nesting grounds. Several clutches of eggs hatch after 48-70 days, and send the hatchlings racing towards the ocean. They are thought to live for 20+ years.

Once abundant in the oceans and along the eastern and southern U.S. coasts, green sea turtles have drastically declined due to commerce, pollution, sand mining, degradation of nesting and feeding areas, and trawl net fishing. Both New York State and the Federal government list them as "threatened." Learn more at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/>.

## TBA President Curtis Honored by 17th Precinct Community Council

William Curtis, President of the Turtle Bay Association, was honored at this year's 17th Precinct Community Council Award Ceremony and dinner held on June 4. The awards recognize precinct members for outstanding service during the past year, and residents for their service to the community.



Bill Curtis (center) accepts service award from Jay Litwin, President of the 17th Precinct Community Council (left) and Ted W. Berntsen, Deputy Inspector of the 17th Precinct (right).

## Event Calendar

- **Tuesday, August 3**  
**17th Precinct Annual Night Out-Against Crime**  
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (2nd/47th)  
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
212-836-3211
- **Sunday, October 3**  
**Trip to Foxwoods**  
Details to follow

## Happy Birthday, Kate!

Each year, neighbors and friends gather in the park at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza to remember the great Katharine Hepburn in celebration of her birthday. This year's party, on June 5, continued the tradition with entertainment provided by singer Beth Sacks and keyboardist David Pellegrino, a guided tour of the park's garden, and birthday cake for all.

The event was jointly sponsored by the Turtle Bay Association and the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

Katharine Hepburn was a longtime resident of Turtle Bay.



## Neighborhood Turns Out for Turtle Bay Street Fair

The weather was fine as neighbors visited our annual street fair on June 20. We are grateful to the generous merchants and organizations in the community who donated this year's raffle prizes.

**Vanderbilt YMCA:** 1 adult membership

**Country Bank:** A \$200 savings bond

**Roundabout Theatre:** Pair of tickets

**Bio Fitness:** 6 training sessions

**Jubilee Restaurant:** Gift Certificate

**La Mangeoire Restaurant:** Gift Certificate

**Pescatore Restaurant:** Gift Certificate

**San Martin Restaurant:** Gift Certificate

**Wollensky Grill:** Gift Certificate

**Le Relais de Venice – L'entrecote:** Gift Certificate

**Hands On, a Musical Experience:** Gift Certificate

**Lia Schorr:** Gift Certificate for a facial/manicure

**Salon Amici:** Gift Certificate

**Parnell's Pub:** Gift Certificate

**Elite Food Bar:** Gift Certificate

**Come Again:** Gift Certificate

**Buttercup Bake Shop:** Gift Certificate

Raffle proceeds are donated to community service organizations in Turtle Bay.



Assemblyman Jonathan Bing and daughter.



Visitors sign up for raffle at TBA booth.

## Build Your Community: Join the Livable Neighborhoods Program

The Livable Neighborhoods Program (LNP) brings together New Yorkers who want to team up for their communities' improvement. A project of the Municipal Art Society, the LNP provides residents with the resources needed to transform local vision into effective plans.

Since the LNP's launch in 2007 at Hunter College, more than one-third of the city's community boards have participated, and the program is now reaching out to all residents who would like an active voice in the future of their neighborhoods.



The program's components are a resource guide on a variety of planning topics relevant to New York City neighborhoods; a series of training workshops; and an on-going, web-based "practitioners network" designed to facilitate an exchange of information and ideas among people who go through the program.

To learn more about the LNP, please contact Sideya Sherman, Senior Planner, Municipal Art Society Planning Center, 212-935-3960 ext. 1259 or [ssherman@mas.org](mailto:ssherman@mas.org). Also find more information on the web at [www.mas.org/lnp](http://www.mas.org/lnp).

## Art & Culture

### Young Dancemakers Company

**Performance.** Original dances created and performed by 17 New York City teens, 15th Season. Also featuring Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Repertory and post-concert lively dance-making with the audience, on-the-spot. Thursday, July 22, 5 pm. Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (2nd/47th). Free. Visit [www.ecfs.org/ydc](http://www.ecfs.org/ydc). asp for information.

### St. Peter's Lutheran Church

619 Lexington Avenue, 212-935-2200

#### Jazz on the Plaza

Thursdays, July 8 - August 26, 12:30 pm

#### New York Jazz Academy Summer Classes

[www.nyjazzacademy.com](http://www.nyjazzacademy.com)

**Jazz Notation Made Easy** covers core fundamentals of music notation and chordal harmony. Saturdays, June 26 - July 31, 11 am-12 pm, Music Room E. Tuition: \$100 for 6 sessions (6 course hours) Walk-ins welcome, \$20 cash.

**Jazz Improv Made Easy I** for instrumentalists looking to improve their skills in playing standard jazz compositions. Complete beginners should not enroll. Saturdays, August 7 - 28, 12 pm-2 pm, Music Room E. Tuition: \$120 for 4 sessions (8 course hours). Walk-ins welcome, \$35 cash.

### St. Bartholomew's Church

325 Park Avenue, Entrance Park/51  
212-378-0222, [www.stbarts.org](http://www.stbarts.org)

#### Summer Festival of Sacred Music.

Series of choral works features New York's finest choirs and instrumentalists, and the city's largest pipe organ in the splendid (air-conditioned) sanctuary. Sun., June 27 - Sept. 19, 11 am service. Free and open to the public.

### Japan Society

333 East 47th Street, 212-832-1155  
Box Office: 212-715-1258  
[www.japansociety.com](http://www.japansociety.com)

#### Karate to Tea: A Hands-On Approach to Teaching Japan.

30-hour professional development course for K-6 teachers. Activities provide an overview of Japanese culture and ideas for introducing Japan to young learners. In cooperation with the NYC Dept. of Ed. Mon., Aug. 2 - Fri., Aug. 6, 9 am-4 pm. For tuition and credit details, see website or call 212-715-1275.

**Japanese Cuisine 101: Washoku.** High school students are invited to participate in an 11-day immersion workshop on Japanese cuisine and culture. Mon.-Fri., Aug. 9-13 and 16-20. Check website for times.

**Student Cooking Demonstration & Reception.** Sat., Aug. 21, 10 am-3:30 pm (for students) and 12:30-2:30 pm (for guests).

## Elected Officials at Work

### Garodnick Co-Hosts Meeting on Future of East Side Waterfront

Along with Senator Liz Krueger and Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, Council Member Garodnick hosted a town hall forum on June 6 to discuss the future of the East Side waterfront and parks. The Parks Department and the Economic Development Corporation introduced a proposal to develop a tower for the UN on a portion of Robert Moses Playground, and to use funds from the development to construct new open space along the waterfront. Garodnick noted that Community Board 6 has the least open space in the city and kept the way open to additional community discussion.

### Garodnick Confronts Google on Data Privacy

In a letter to Eric Schmidt, Chairman and CEO of Google, Council Member Dan Garodnick asked for an explanation of Google's collection of personal information from Wi-Fi servers over the past three years. Google has acknowledged that its "Street View Van," which captures images for its Googlemaps "Street View" feature, was collecting personal information from unsecured Wi-Fi connections around the world, including e-mails, instant messages, and what websites a person had visited. Garodnick is Chair of the City Council's Committee on Technology.

### Lappin Appointed to Two Posts

Council Member Jessica Lappin has been named Chair of the Women's Caucus in the City Council. She will work with Co-Chair, District 2 Council Member Rosie Mendez to tackle the wide array of issues important to women in the city.

Lappin has also been appointed to sit on the City Council's Budget Negotiating Team.

### Lappin Introduces Legislation to Expand Recycling in New York

New legislation introduced by Jessica Lappin will double the number of recycling bins available to the public over the next three years and more than triple the number over the next 10 years. The legislation will

also create New York's first-ever program for recycling textiles, such as clothes and towels, which can be resold, producing revenue for the city.

### Krueger Supports State's Chances for Federal Education Funds

On May 28, Senator Liz Krueger voted for a package of legislation that she believes will improve New York State's public education. This includes student improvement in teacher evaluation; increasing our chances of receiving Federal "Race to the Top" education funds; and raising the cap on the number of Charter Schools while increasing their accountability.

### Krueger Backs Sale of Wine in Groceries

Senator Liz Krueger is sponsoring legislation to allow wine sales in grocery stores as a way to rein in service cuts and raise revenues without raising taxes. Krueger estimates the state would gain \$300 million in new franchise fees, and has cited a Cornell study estimating that yearly sales of wine would increase by \$22 million.

### Bing Bills Passed that Expand Housing for Disabled

The Assembly recently passed Bing's legislation to give state agencies enforcement capability over the Federal Rehabilitation Act. The law requires that housing developments financed with federal money provide accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and make efforts to advertise available disability housing to relevant groups. In many cases, even those developers who have accepted federal funds and are in architectural compliance have not marketed these accessible units to eligible individuals with disabilities.

The Assembly also passed Bing's legislation to prohibit discrimination by landlords on the basis of a tenant's source of income. Currently, landlords may reject tenants with rental subsidies, such as Section 8 vouchers, merely because tenants intend to use them for payment of rent. Many people with disabilities rely on those subsidies and other assistance programs to live independently in the community.

## Government Contacts

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### Carolyn B. Maloney

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New York, NY 10017  
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212-319-3772 (fax)  
mn06@cb.nyc.gov

## Newsworthy Notes

**Ground broken for PS 59** and School of Art and Design. After months of delays, ground has officially been broken for the new state-of-the-art school facility at Second Avenue and 57th Street, adding desperately needed school seats to the East Side. The school is expected to open in the fall of 2012. The project is being built and paid for by a private developer

**Marine Transfer Station Project Delayed.** The Department of Sanitation has delayed its proposed Marine Transfer Station at East 91st Street, and now plans to bring it on-line sometime in or after 2014. Jessica Lappin views it as a good thing given the city's budget woes.

**Doe Fund Annual Gala Set for October 28.** This year's event, to be held at Cipriani 42nd Street, is titled "Our Team Work Makes the Dream Work." The honoree will be Ethan Hawke.

**Restaurants Must Post Health Department Grades.** Since July 1, restaurants, coffee shops, bars, nightclubs, most cafeterias and fixed-site food stands have been required to post letter grades that correspond to their sanitary inspection scores. New Yorkers will be able to tell at a glance whether or not a restaurant is making the grade in terms of maintaining a clean, healthy environment. To learn more visit [www.nyc.gov/health/restaurants](http://www.nyc.gov/health/restaurants).

**Pamela Hanlon Discusses Her Book,** "Manhattan's Turtle Bay: Story of a Midtown Neighborhood," Wednesday, August 11, 6:30 pm. Location: Mid-Manhattan Library (opposite the lions), at 40th Street and Fifth Avenue, 6th floor. After 6:00 pm, use elevators to access 6th floor. The talk is part of the library's "Authors @ the Library" series. Proceeds go to the Turtle Bay Association.

### Senior Town Hall Forum July 28

Learn about free and low-cost cultural events for seniors across the city.

Wednesday, July 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Sutton Place Synagogue

225 East 51st Street (Second/Third)

Light refreshments will be served.

To submit your ideas, please email [jswanson@council.nyc.gov](mailto:jswanson@council.nyc.gov).

### 2009 Hunter College Study Observation of 5,275 Manhattan Cyclists

#### Cyclist Behavior

37% did not stop for red lights

28% paused, but then went through the red light anyway

29% wore a helmet

73% didn't use a headlight at night

6% used an iPod or other hands-free device while riding

#### Violations in NYC

Running a red light: \$150-\$450

Riding the wrong way on a one-way street: Up to \$150

Riding on a sidewalk: Up to \$150

## City to Help Speed Business Start-ups

New business owners have been facing months-long delays in opening their doors owing to multiple inspections required by the city's different agencies.

Now the city has launched the New Business Acceleration Team (NBAT), as a one-stop-shop to assess needs, coordinate with the agencies, and speed-up inspections.

The pilot program will initially focus on

the approximately 3,200 small restaurants that open each year in the five boroughs. As this initiative grows and progresses, other small business sectors will be added into the program.

If you need help opening your business, you can contact NBAT by calling 311 and asking for the "New Business Acceleration Team."



#### TBA MEMBERSHIP COUPON

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

##### Annual Membership Dues

- Senior \$10     Individual \$25     Family \$30  
 Business \$40     Benefactor \$100     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

**\$15.00**

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