

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

April 2017 Vol. 60, No. 2

Greenacre Park Fights for Light Against Current Version of East Side Rezoning Plan

The Greenacre Foundation has mobilized the “Fight for Light” on behalf of Greenacre Park to preserve the park’s sunlight. The goal is to prevent the onset of shadows that would darken the space in the afternoon if development of several taller buildings is permitted, to the south, through adoption of



the proposed Midtown East Side Rezoning plan.

Greenacre Park is situated on 51st Street between Second and Third Avenues and is one of only three “vest-pocket” parks in New York City. The singular outdoor space – about the size of a tennis court – was designed for maximum beauty and function by internationally acclaimed landscape architects Sasaki Associates. It has become a beloved haven for those who live and work in Turtle Bay.

First opened in 1971 through the efforts of the late Mrs. Jean Mauzé, the former Abby Rockefeller, the park features a 25-foot-high waterfall sculpted from huge granite blocks, honey locust trees, lush plantings, sunny seating areas with



moveable tables and chairs, and an outdoor cafe. The space even accommodates nature; the sight of sparrows indulging in a daily bath where water runs into a granite basin is a delight. Today, the care of the park remains “in the family” in that Ms. Mauzé’s granddaughter, Gail

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Jay A. Litwin, 40-Year Chairman of 17th Precinct Community Council, Retires

A celebratory crowd of police officers and community residents gathered at the 17th Precinct, on March 23, to celebrate Jay A. Litwin’s achievements as Chairman of the 17th Precinct Community Council. After a record, event-filled 40-year term of service in the post, Jay has officially retired. The gathering coincided with Jay’s birthday and afforded the opportunity for tributes and walks down memory lane by those who know Jay and have worked with him over the years. A custom-made bench with a plaque was dedicated to Jay and now sits in the 17th Precinct where it will be seen and put to good use every day.

The NYPD’s Community Councils were established in 1943. Today, there are 86 councils throughout the five boroughs that act as conduits of information between the



Jay Litwin accepts plaque from TBA Director Bunny Blei.

police and community residents and leaders, clergy, and business owners. As part of the NYPD’s Community Affairs Bureau their mission is to establish and maintain relationships and open lines of communication with the community; address questions

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Event Calendar

Katharine Hepburn Birthday Party

Saturday, May 13, 1 - 3 pm
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
(47/Second)

Entertainment and Garden Tour
Free Coffee and Birthday Cake

Sing For Hope Piano Painted by Artist

June 7 through June 27
Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
(47/Second)

TBA Spring Street Fair

Saturday, June 24, 10 am - 5 pm
Proceeds go to charity.
Lexington Avenue, 42nd - 54th Streets
Rain or Shine



Newsworthy Notes

Sing For Hope Piano Coming to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

A unique artist-painted piano will reside in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, watched over by a “piano buddy,” and available for visitors of all ages to play. The piano will be one of 50 to 60 such pianos placed in public spaces throughout the city and individually painted by a professional and emerging artist. The piano will stay in the park from June 6 through June 27 and will then be donated to a city school.

Sing for Hope’s programs aim to bring the power of the arts to under-resourced communities, including schoolchildren, health care patients, veterans, seniors and the disabled. This year, Sing for Hope is working with the New York City Department of Education.



To learn more and help make this an annual city event visit singforhope.org

Sing-Along Leader Wanted by Grand Central Library Branch



Would you enjoy leading a regular informal sing-along?

A recent sing-along at the library left participants wanting more.

If interested, please contact:

Laura Stein
Adult Librarian
Grand Central Library
135 E. 46th St.,
New York, NY 10017
212-621-0670
Email: LauraStein@nypl.org

Editorial Committee

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Layout: Hilary Black
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Recent News from Elected Officials

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney

Introduced a bill designed to increase loan opportunities for small businesses in developing communities. If passed as drafted, the Investing in America’s Small Businesses Act of 2017 would provide grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to establish loan-loss reserve funds for small business loans under \$50,000. President Trump’s recent budget proposal would cut all grant funding from the CDFI Fund. **“This is not the time to cut funding for CDFIs; it’s a time to expand,” Maloney said.**



Senator Liz Krueger

Co-sponsor of an initiative to enact a reproductive health act and to create a new article of the Public Health Law (PHL) that revises existing provisions relating to abortion.



The bill in its current form upholds “... comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion, [a] s a fundamental component of a woman’s health, privacy and equality. The proposed bill declares that it is the public policy of New York State that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy and equality with respect to their personal re-

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Welcome New Business Member

♦ **Shih Lee Good Eats**
311 East 45th Street
Tel: 917-903-2888
www.shihlee.com
20% Discount with TBA card

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: Mary Marangi
Treasurer: Dick Irwin
Vice Presidents: Millie Margiotta
Dolores Marsh, Bruce Silberblatt

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Mary F. Marangi, Millie Margiotta,
Mark P. Markowski, Dolores Marsh,
Pat McDougald, Michael Resnick,
Carol Rinzler, Bruce Silberblatt

Honorary Emeriti

Barbara Connolly

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>

Greenacre Park Continued from page 1
Caulkins, oversees its operations as the President of the Greenacre Foundation.

“Greenacre Park has provided innumerable moments of welcome serenity and escape for residents, families, visitors, and local workers,” says Ms. Caulkins.



“The sunshine makes an indispensable contribution to the park’s unique appeal.”

Fight for Light is focusing on building public awareness of the issue, and includes the launch of a website, the unveiling of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram channels, outreach to local media, and ongoing communications with city officials.

The campaign is making an impact. Through the efforts of park supporters, Community Board 6 adopted a resolution on March 8 calling upon the City Council to modify the rezoning plan so that the park’s sunlight could be preserved. Advocates also attracted the support of a prominent ally when they were joined by the Municipal Arts Society in pushing for mitigating measures. In a March 7 letter to Community Board 6, the Society said that the neighborhood



“cannot afford to allow development under the East Midtown rezoning proposal to cast such an important resource as Greenacre Park in additional shadow.”

And while it is premature to predict the final outcome of the rezoning plan, the message seems to be getting through.

More information about Greenacre Park and the Fight for Light is available at GreenacrePark.org, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Jay Litwin Retires Continued from page 1
and concerns; and work to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. The Community Councils gather intelligence, dispel rumors, disseminate accurate information and collaborate with other city agencies and community-based organizations. They help raise awareness and ensure that the needs of the community are reported and addressed. Those who serve on Community Councils are volunteers who give their time and effort, and are committed to the betterment of their communities.

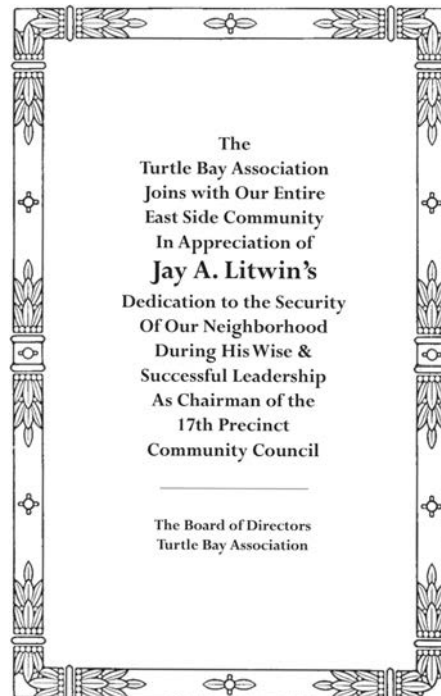
Matt Roberts is the incoming Chairman of the 17th Precinct Community Council.

The TBA has a longtime, active relationship with the precinct. A number of our members are involved and regularly attend council meetings. We encourage neighborhood residents to attend and become in-



Matt Roberts, incoming Chairman of the 17th Precinct Community Council, presents gift of crystal decanter to Jay Litwin.

involved. Open meetings take place on the last Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December), at 6 p.m., at Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st Street. The precinct is comprised of Beekman Place, Kips Bay, Midtown East, Murray Hill, Sutton Place, Tudor City and Turtle Bay. The 17th Precinct is located at 167 East 51st Street, 212-826-3211.



Design of plaque presented to Jay Litwin by the TBA.

Board at Work

- Working with advocacy groups for the preservation of Turtle Bay in light of the proposed East Side Rezoning Plan.
- Tracking development plans and construction at building sites in Turtle Bay and in nearby Manhattan.
- Maintaining connections with the federal, state and city elected officials who represent us.
- Collaborating with local representative agencies, such as Community Board 6, to support community initiatives.
- Working with the 17th Precinct and 17th Precinct Community Council on safety and quality-of-life issues.
- Raising funds for nonprofits that serve the neighborhood.
- Bringing neighbors together at events throughout each year.



MOVING ALONG MTA Bus & Van Schedule

At MetroCard buses and vans you can apply for or refill a Reduced-Fare MetroCard, buy or refill a regular MetroCard, and get answers to MetroCard-related questions.

57th & First	First Friday	9-10 am
57th & Third	First Friday	10:30-11:30 am

Elected Officials *Continued from page 2*

productive decisions.” Krueger has stated that *“Complex and personal decisions about reproductive health care are the sole right and responsibility of a woman and her medical providers.”*

Assembly Member Dan Quart

Joined 34 fellow assembly members in supporting the New York State Council on the Arts’ proposal to revive the Governor’s Award for Arts and Culture. The award, established in 1966 and ending in 2001, honored individuals and institutions who made extraordinary contributions to the cultural life of New York State. In a letter to Governor Cuomo, assembly members said, *“New York’s arts sector supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across the state and has an economic impact of millions of dollars flowing through our coffers each year.”* We strongly support the New York State Council on the Arts’ proposal to revitalize the Governor’s Award for Arts and Culture and ask you to reinstate it in 2017.



Spotlight on Local Business

Morning Star Café

949 Second Avenue (50/51)
 New York, N.Y. 10022
 Tel: 212-588-1050
 Fax: 212-355-6069
 Email: morningstarcafe949@gmail.com
 Web: <http://morningstaronsecond.com>
 Open 24 hours, Sundays until 10 p.m.

10% discount with TBA member card

Morning Star Café: A Favorite Neighborhood Destination

BY LEE FRANKEL

There are good reasons why family-owned Morning Star Café has been a favored destination for almost twenty years. This classic Greek (and thoroughly New York-American) diner attracts a crowd of residents, nearby workers, tourists, and late-night and early-morning diners who count on freshly prepared and delicious food, generous portions, friendly service and a huge menu to choose from at any hour when hunger strikes.

The family Vavilis is a classic New York immigrant success story. Steven Vavilis came here from Greece when he was 17, with no English and no restaurant skills. Joining relatives already in the restaurant business, Steve learned the trade. In 1998, he and his brother Michael opened Morning Star Café, naming it after their sister Ploumou whom Steve had always called his “Morning Star.” Steve Vavilis passed away in 2015, and his son George is now at the helm, upholding the tradition of good food and good service launched by his father and uncle.



If you’re not yet a Morning Star regular, I recommend becoming one. In the morning, choose from time-honored breakfast dishes. At mid-day, lunch features six fresh soups, classic burgers, sandwiches, salads, French fries and home fries that deliver



satisfaction, as do the full dinners of fish, steak, roast chicken, pasta and Greek specialties. At Sunday brunch you can select from a list of 40 omelets, or design your own. If you like a drink with your meal, Morning Star also offers a selection of beer and wine. Personally, I like the desserts. I recently enjoyed the happily not-too-sweet apple pie with a cinnamon-scented crumb topping. And you don’t need to look at the clock; you can have whatever you want, at any hour – eat in, take-out, or order for delivery.

Morning Star Café has been featured in Time Out New York, and on the websites Yelp and Facebook, where happy customers have posted many positive reviews.



17th Precinct Crime Statistics

Report Covering the Week
 4/3/17 through 4/9/17

	Year to Date		
	2017	2016	% Chg.
Murder	0	0	*** **
Rape	1	0	*** **
Robbery	0	0	*** **
Felony Assault	0	1	-100.0
Burglary	0	0	*** **
Grand Larceny	12	11	9.1
Grand Larceny Auto	0	0	*** **
Total	13	12	8.33
Transit	0	0	*** **
Housing	0	0	*** **
Petit Larceny	13	6	116.7
Misd. Assault	9	3	200.0
Misd. Sex Crimes	0	0	*** **
Shooting Vic.	0	0	*** **
Shooting Inc.	0	0	*** **

From 17th Precinct Website

Arts & Culture

Turtle Bay Music School

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

Free Artist Series Concerts Fridays, 7 - 8 pm Em Lee Concert Hall

Concerts followed by meet-the-artist receptions catered by Whole Foods Market. RSVP to info@tbms.org or call 212-753-8811.

May 12

Deborah Auer, jazz

vocalist. Auer returns with an all-star ensemble for her popular evening of "Jazz and Cocktails."



June 2

Charles Jones, piano.

With a celebrated performance career spanning decades, Jones takes the TBMS stage for the first time in an evening of solo works by Beethoven, Debussy, and Brahms.



June 9

Anna Povich de Mayor, flute. Povich de Mayor closes the spring season with a program of Latin American-inspired works for flute and string quartet, including works by Ginastera, arrangements of Brazilian Choros, and her own new compositions. She will be joined by virtuoso quartet Sweet Plantain known for their blend of jazz, Latin, and classical styles.



TBMS Community Chorus Spring Concert

**Wednesday,
May 31, 7 - 9 pm**

Evening of Song. The concert is free and open to all. A festive reception will follow.



St. Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue/54th Street
saintpeters.org

Mid-day Jazz for the Midtown Community Wednesdays, 1 - 2 pm, Sanctuary

Nominal donation requested at the door.

The church, in partnership with the Midtown Arts



Common, hosts a popular weekly jazz concert featuring well-regarded artists. Programming is overseen by jazz pianist Ronny Whyte.

Jazz on the Plaza Thursdays 12:30 pm, May through August

Free and open to the public.

Dates in May feature jazz groups from area colleges and performing arts high schools. Audiences enjoy a variety of well-regarded artists. Care is taken to present diverse ensembles and styles ranging from small trios to large bands. Concerts are a bit longer than an hour and take place outdoors on the plaza in good weather, and, in case of rain, in the sanctuary where food is not allowed.



Japan Society

333 East 47th Street
212-832-1155 japansociety.org
Call or visit website for Box Office and Gallery hours. Gallery Admission: \$12; students and seniors \$10; members and children under 16 free. Free to all on Friday nights, 6 pm - 9 pm.

Exhibition Through June 11

A Third Gender: Beautiful Youths in Japanese Prints. The first exhibition in North America devoted to the portrayal of wakashu, or beautiful youths, a "third gender" occupying a distinct position in the social and sexual hierarchy of Japan during the Edo period (1603-1868).

The show features more than

65 woodblock prints, and paintings, luxury objects and personal ornaments. It illuminates the richness of culture in Edo society, where complex rules governed gender constructs. Purchase tickets at the Welcome Desk or online in advance.



St. Bart's

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

Music at St. Bart's

Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 pm

The Dalton Chorale: *Carmina Burana*.

Under the direction of David Shuler, The Dalton Chorale will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a performance of Carl Orff's monumental *Carmina Burana*, in the version with accompaniment by two pianos and percussion. The concert will also include excerpts from *The Passing of the Year* by Jonathan Dove. The Chorale will be joined by St. Bartholomew's Boy and Girl Choristers. General admission \$30; students/seniors, \$20. Purchase advance tickets online, or call 212-378-0248.



Real Estate and Development Update

Construction is under way on a 63-story, 124-unit mixed-use tower at **138 East 50th Street**. The latest building permits indicate that the tower will encompass 253,222 square feet and rise to 803 feet. Completion is expected in 2018.

Gamma Real Estate paid \$86 million, plus \$12 million for air rights on its acquisition of the site at **428-432 East 58th Street**, in Sutton Place. Plans call for a 700-foot-tall residential tower, designed by Thomas Juul-Hansen's firm with Stephen B. Jacobs Group as executive architect.

The DOB has approved the plans for **249-253 East 50th Street**, which appear to comply with the split-lot zoning R10 and R8B for the site. The western part (approximately 25 feet wide) will be six stories high – R8B. The eastern part (approximately 30 feet wide) will be 17 stories high – C10. The original 17-story design throughout was rejected by the DOB. The TBA is satisfied with the solution.

Women's March NYC Begins Walk in Turtle Bay

The Women's March NYC chose Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and Turtle Bay as the meet-up and starting point where marchers gathered, on January 21, the day following the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. The high-spirited crowd, many carrying signs and wearing signature pink hats, snaked their way through Manhattan

streets, ending the protest at Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue and 55th Street.

The day's turnout, estimated by the mayor's office at 400,000, included women, men and children of all backgrounds who came together to uphold women's rights, equality of opportunity for all citizens, and the preservation of democracy seen

as endangered by the policies of the new administration and the conservative majority of legislators in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Follow the Women's March 2017 on Twitter and Facebook for updates on ongoing activities and those of sister groups across the country.



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 \$15
- Individual \$25
- Family \$30
- Business \$40
- Benefactor \$100
- 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.