

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

September 2016 Vol. 59, No. 3

Turtle Bay Is Endangered!

By BRUCE A. SILBERBLATT, TBA VICE PRESIDENT, ZONING/LAND USE CHAIRMAN

The modified East Midtown rezoning plan is out there now and the effects of it upon Turtle Bay are horrifying. While it is designed to improve rapid transit, it spells a drastic change for the worse to Turtle Bay.

The new rezoning plan would allow for increased floor areas that encourage modern office towers with as few columns as possible, and would raise floor-to-floor heights. New residential units would be limited to 20 percent of any new building. Unused air rights from landmarks could be transferred anywhere within the entire

area, not, as now, to contiguous properties or properties across the street. The floor area ratio (FAR) would be increased to 18.0 and higher (21.6 up to 23.0 near 53rd Street; 25.0 along Park Avenue; and 27.0 around Grand Central Terminal).

The strip on the east side of Third Avenue, 150 to 165 feet deep from 46th to 56th Streets, would be expanded to 200 feet deep, a push that would overrun the low rise R8B zoning regulation that now protects side streets in Turtle Bay (FAR 4.0). That area would raise the FAR to 18.0,

continued on page 8



Looking west along 42nd Street from Chrysler Building, which is reflected in the windows of the planned 1 Vanderbilt. Fr. New York YIMBY, 8/26/16.

MacArthur Playground: A Beloved Neighborhood Play Space

By MARIE-LOUISE HANDAL, TBA PARKS COMMITTEE

It is common in Turtle Bay to hear teens and young adults reminisce fondly about the "old days" when they enjoyed activities with friends and neighbors in MacArthur Playground. This very special public space has become an integral and even intimate part of the lives of many of our neighborhood's children.

The entrance to this gem of a park is at the intersection of East 49th Street and the FDR Drive, east of 860-870 United Nations Plaza. It is gated and fully equipped with

swings, a large jungle gym, a sand box, and a first-rate water spray. A turtle sculpture, donated years ago by the TBA, is a favorite of the children.

MacArthur Playground is an oasis for outdoor activities in the middle of our bustling city, designed to be enjoyed by both children and accompanying adults. Scores of children, with parents and caregivers, find their way to the park, year-round. It is a magnet on hot summer days when children arrive in swimsuits, carrying water balloons and beach pails, to enjoy the tall water spray.

The park features benches throughout, tables, and seating at the entrance as well as the far end. Concrete tables with chess/checker boards built into their tops also serve for arts and crafts, not to mention birthday parties and other celebrations. Hence, all those wonderful memories!



Community Support Makes The Difference

The playground generates community spirit embodied by neighborhood volun-

continued on page 3

Note the Event

Oktoberfest

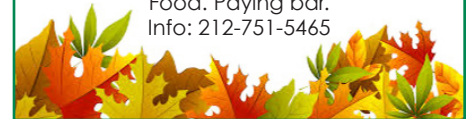
Saturday, October 8, 1-4 pm
Live music. Pumpkin decorating.
Bouncy House,
Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
East 47th/First & Second
Info: 212-826-8980

TBA Annual Meet

November, Date TBD
Report to Membership
Light food and wine
Info: 212-751-5465

TBA Holiday Toy Drive & Party

December, Date TBD
Location TBD
Bring toys for needy children.
Food. Paying bar.
Info: 212-751-5465



TBA Installs Memorial Plaque for Jeannie Sakol

We have missed Jeannie Sakol since she passed away in October, 2015, after many years of working with us on Turtle Bay neighborhood projects.

Jeannie accomplished a great deal in her professional life as a journalist, editor, publisher and columnist. As a board member and energetic activist, with the TBA since its founding, Jeannie brought her

forever-youthful presence and intelligence to many pressing community causes.

This past July, in honor of Jeannie's legacy, the TBA installed a plaque in the tree bed at 230 East 48th Street, and celebrated by placing white roses among the flowers already growing there. The plaque will always remind us of our good friend Jeannie. Look for it the next time you pass by.



The 17th Precinct

167 East 51st Street
New York, NY, 10022

Contacts	212-826-
Precinct	3211
Community Affairs.....	3228
Community Policing.....	3212
Crime Prevention	3224
Domestic Violence	3210
Youth Officer	3207
Auxiliary Coordinator	3216
Detective Squad	3206

MTA Van Schedule

57th Street and First Avenue
1st Friday, 9 am - 10 am

57th Street and Third Avenue
1st Friday, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Editorial Committee

Editor: Lee Frankel

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Lois Gaeta

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

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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>

MacArthur *Continued from page 1*

teers who help cultivate the flower boxes and maintain the space, working with the Parks Department employee who is on hand daily. Volunteers also advocate for improvements and repairs, and help raise funds. Recently, after weeks of phone calls, they succeeded in having the sand box replenished, even as other area playground sand boxes went unfilled.



MacArthur Playground has nonetheless reached the point where it requires major renovations if it is to continue serving the community's children. The city last renovated the playground in early 2009, at a reported cost of \$280,000. The improvements included all-new paving and landscaping, and expanded plantings around

the perimeter to screen the park from the FDR. New and updated amenities were also installed: slides, swings, a larger spray sprinkler, a bicycle rack and a drinking fountain. Some benches and trash bins were replaced.

At that time, the jungle gym received little attention. Now, eight years later, the unit needs major work beyond fixes to its roof recently done by the Parks Department. The TBA Parks Committee is deciding whether to make further repairs or replace the jungle gym entirely. The protective padding around various play areas is in dire need of replacement. Other improvements under consideration include adding a couple of shade trees near the benches in the playground's center, pruning the existing trees, and removing damaged layers of paint from the concrete walls.

There are other sorely-needed



changes: improved signage to discourage adults unaccompanied by children from using the playground's restrooms, and a means to assure that the gate latch closes fully each time park visitors enter or exit.

The playground is also overdue for an extermination, essential to control rat populations and relocate pigeons. The TBA is now undertaking an extermination project involving community residents, local politicians, and building associations and staffs. We are seeking funding for a comprehensive extermination plan, which would also replace and augment the current (damaged) trash bins with high-quality, rat-proof receptacles. We are also reviewing the effectiveness of trash collection in and around the playground.

Volunteers Welcome

If you are interested in joining our volunteers, please leave a message for Marie-Louise Handal at the Turtle Bay office, 212-751-5465 or office@turtlebay-nyc.org. Include which park (MacArthur Playground, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza or Peter Detmold Park) most interests you.

Lovely June Afternoon Greet's TBA Street Fair

The TBA's Street Fair drew natives and tourists who ambled along Lexington Avenue, browsing the vendors, on June 25, a lovely afternoon. The proceeds of this annual event are donated to various organizations that serve the local community.



Rep. Carolyn Maloney joined the TBA table to help bring in new members.



New in Government

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney

New York 12th District

Statement on Murders Outside of New York Mosque

In mid-August, Congresswoman Maloney released a statement saying, in part: “I am deeply disturbed by the blatant attack on Imam Maulama Akonjee and his assistant Tharam Uddi. My heart goes out to their families. We must recognize that our Muslim community is far too often the target of bigotry and hatred. We must continue as a broader community to stomp out any discrimination that divides us. I am thankful for the NYPD’s diligent work on this investigation and remain confident that they will bring those responsible to justice.”



Called on Congress to Fund New Federal Opioid Programs

Maloney has called on Congress to fully fund the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) that President Obama signed into law in July. CARA created a number of new federal programs to combat opioid abuse. Although the final version of CARA has passed the Senate and the House, Congress has yet to provide funding for these programs.

Opioids have caused a severe drug epidemic in New York City, according to Warren Zysman, CEO of Addiction Case Interactions, and have claimed more than 28,000 American lives a year. “CARA could be a great step in the fight against opioid abuse,” said Rep. Maloney. “Without dollars, however, CARA will be nothing more than another empty promise. Republicans in Congress need to put their money where their mouth is and allow a vote to actually fund the fight against opioid abuse.”

District Office, 1651 Third Avenue, Suite 311, New York, NY 10128, 212-860-0606.

Liz Krueger

State Senator, 28th District

New Report Available: “Summer 2016 Albany Update, Report to New Yorkers on Housing”

Responding to the growing



shortage of affordable housing for both renters and homeowners, Krueger says, “There has never been a more important time to understand your rights and how housing laws apply to you.”

The report includes:

- Questions and Answers About Tenants’ Rights
- A Spotlight on the NYC Rent Freeze Programs SCRIE and DRIE
- The Rights of Co-Op Shareholders and Condominium Owners
- Property Tax Exemption Programs

Find this report on Senator Krueger’s website or visit or call her District Office at 1850 Second Avenue, Ground Floor, New York, NY 10128, 212-490-9535.

Daniel Garodnick

NYC Council Member, District 4

Proposes Land Easement to Help Hudson Valley Farmers

Term limits will force Dan from his current office, and he is looking north to Albany as a possibility for the future. Working with other city council members and the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, he is pursuing a project that would help Hudson Valley farmers stay in business, and continue to make fresh produce available to New York City residents. Cooperation between the two regions hasn’t always been easy, so this is a welcome step beneficial to both.

Given the difficulties of farming as a livelihood, worsened by recent drought conditions and an aging labor pool, upstate farmers are being tempted to sell off large parcels of their land as its value increases with development and speculation. The size of New York City as a market could help solve the problems faced by farmers and also alleviate the disappearance of farms and open space north of the city.

According to The New York Times, Dan has “proposed spending \$50 million for a conservation easement program that would pay farmers the development value of their land and impose a deed restriction to permanently protect their land from development.”



Steve Rosenberg, executive director of Scenic Hudson, said, “If we want all New Yorkers to have access to fresh, local food, then we must save the nearby farms that serve the city’s neediest neighborhoods now, before they are lost to development. This modest, but visionary, strategic investment will make the city a national model of how to create a more equitable and secure regional food system.”

Based on a report in the Poughkeepsie Journal, August 10, 2016

District Office, 211 E. 43rd Street, Suite 1205, New York, NY 10017, 212-818-0580.

Dan Quart

State Assembly Member, District 73

Fights Actively for Transit Improvements in the City

Dan Quart has reported success in the fight to restore \$1 billion in funding that will allow construction of the Second Avenue Subway to move forward into its next phase. The Second Avenue Subway is a vital part of plans to increase access to public transportation within the underserved far east side of Manhattan, including Turtle Bay. Dan has pledged “to continue fighting to make sure this project is funded to completion.”



Dan is also working with the MTA to bring more Select Bus Service to heavily-used bus routes in the area, to make sure that local service and bus shelters are maintained, and to help insure that elderly and disabled New Yorkers can access the transit system.

He is currently co-sponsoring the Move NY plan, which would provide for changes to transportation infrastructure in the city and its surrounding areas. Move NY includes increased and dedicated funding for large transit projects on the East Side, as well as funding for smaller projects, like bus shelters or streetscape improvements, that would be chosen by people in the district.

District Office, 353 Lexington Avenue, Suite 704, New York, NY 10016, 212-605-0937.

Night Out Against Crime In NYC

The Turtle Bay community celebrated National Night Out Against Crime, on the evening of August 2. A happy crowd of New Yorkers, some with their pets, enjoyed delicious grilled food provided by Ali Baba Restaurant, lively entertainment by Girls on Top, tables hosted by city and community organizations, and – most important – the chance to meet and talk, on a more casual basis, with 17th Precinct police officers who protect us each day.

The 17th Precinct Community Council sponsored the event, which was hosted in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.



Rep. Carolyn Maloney with TBA board members.



(l. to r.), Assembly Member Dan Quart and Senator Liz Krueger.



(l. to r.), Sherrill Kazan, Liz Krueger and Carolyn Maloney.



Art & Culture in Turtle Bay

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

Please RSVP to info@tbms.org or
212-753-8811

September 30

Pablo Mayor - Folklore

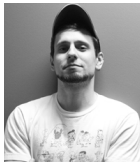
Urbano Quintet. Enjoy the inherent groove of Colombian folkloric traditions to contemporary Colombian jazz in this spirited and vibrant performance.



October 14

Joao Martins, piano.

Enjoy an Artist Series Concert by TBMS faculty member Joao Martins. The Joao Martins Quartet, featuring reputed players from the world music and NYC jazz scenes, presents a program that melds the traditional songs of Brazil with jazz standards and original compositions.



November 4

Jason Cutmore, piano.

Cutmore, along with guest artists John Marcus, violin and Ruth Sommers, cello, presents

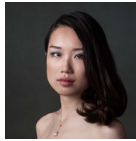


works by Saint-Saens and Brahms.

November 18

Sophie X. Zhang, piano.

An evening of chamber music, including a world premiere of composer Pablo Marchettini's piece set on the poems of Michelangelo, performed by Zhang and guest artists.



December 9

Hilary Castle, violin.

A stirring performance of "Transcendence," an eclectic program that crosses genres to highlight the many voices of the violin.



St. Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue/54th Street
saintpeters.org

Mid-Day Jazz

Wednesdays, 1 - 2 pm

Sanctuary

Suggested \$10.00 donation

September 21

Penny Fuller and Anita Gillette with Paul Greenwood.



September 28

Marlene VerPlanck. Singer VerPlanck concentrates on the great standards and new

songs from our finest composers. According to the New York Times, "...She may be the most accomplished interpreter of popular material performing today..."

Jazz Vespers

Sundays, 5 pm

September 18

Jesse Lewis Trio. Guitarist Jesse Lewis leads a trio that includes Ike Sturm on bass. Lewis is a member of Ike Sturm's Evergreen, an in-demand player in NYC.

September 25

Laila Biali Trio. Award-winning Canadian Jazz pianist, vocalist and songwriter Laila Biali has toured with Suzanne Vega, Chris Botti and Paula Cole and recorded with and supported Sting. She takes the best of pop, rock and soul, informs it with her knowledge of jazz and weaves it into her musical arrangements. Laila's music has been presented at prestigious venues spanning four continents including the North Sea Jazz Festival, Tokyo's Cotton Club, Peru's El Festival Internacional de Lima, and Carnegie Hall.

Jazz Memorial

Saturday, September 24

Charles Davis Jazz Memorial. Charles Davis (May 20, 1933 - July 15, 2016) was an American jazz saxophonist and composer. He played alto, tenor and baritone

Dinner and a Movie

What better plan for an August evening than a bite with friends, music by a live singer, and a screening of "State of the Union," the classic Frank Capra movie, starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy? The evening attracted 200 guests. It was sponsored by Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, the Turtle Bay Association and the Ford Foundation.



Art & Culture

saxophone, and performed extensively with Archie Shepp and Sun Ra. As a leader he recorded for the Strata-East, Red, and Smalls record labels, among others. Davis also worked as a sideman on classic records by Abdullah Ibrahim, Art Blakey, Philly Joe Jones, Cedar Walton, Clark Terry, Elvin Jones, Kenny Dorham, Dinah Washington, Freddie Hubbard and many more.

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.

Films

Friday, October 7, 7 pm

Paprika. The final film by the late, great Satoshi Kon is a culmination of the groundbreaking director's visual style and a crowning achievement of Japanese animation. \$5 members; \$13 non-members; \$10 seniors and students.



Monday, October 31, 7 pm

The Face of Another. Legendary actor Tatsuya Nakadai visits Japan Society and talks at this 50th anniversary screening of Hiroshi Teshigahara's existential, horror-tinged masterpiece. \$15/\$12 members.



Workshop

Sunday, September 18, 3:30 pm

Body Sculpting with Takao Kawaguchi. Dancer Takao Kawaguchi guides participants through his creative process for "About Kazuo Ohno." After a discussion and a view of archival footage, participants will sketch their images and create movements based on what they experienced. Some movement-based experience is preferred. \$35/\$30 members.

TALKS+

Thursday, October 6, 6:30 pm

Mind of the Mangaka. Join Mangaka

Yusei Matsui for an intimate conversation in conjunction with New York Comic Con, a rare opportunity to see the manga master in person. Followed by a reception. \$30 non-member; \$25 members, seniors and students.



Saturday, October 15

Open to Public: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Sun., Oct. 16, 11 am - 4:30 pm

Peace through Floral Expression Exhibition. With a history spanning more than 550 years, Ikenobo ikebana continues to inspire the world with masterpieces of floral design. Join us for this unique opportunity to view a wide variety of stunning ikebana arrangements by Headmaster Sen'ei Ikenobo and other Ikenobo masters. There will be a talk and demonstration by Headmaster Ikenobo. Free admission.

Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 pm

Where's the Beef: Wagyu Fact & Fiction. Learn about Japanese wagyu beef with Yale agrarian studies professor Dr. Daniel Botsman and watch an on-stage cooking demonstration.



Followed by a tasting reception with wagyu beef imported from Japan. \$19 non-member; \$15 members, seniors and students.

Visit Japan Society or its website for more events and to buy tickets.

Grand Central Library

135 East 46th Street (Lexington/Third)
212-621-0670
nypl.org/locations/grand-central
Fully accessible. Call or visit website for hours.

Tuesday, September 20, 5:30 pm

Community Room

Book Club: Marriage of Opposites / Alice Hoffman. A discussion of "The Museum of Extraordinary Things," a forbidden love story, set on the tropical island of St.

Thomas, where an extraordinary woman gives birth to painter Camille Pissarro, the Father of Impressionism to be. Growing up on idyllic St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris.

Thursday, September 22, 5:30 pm
Community Room

Adult Coloring Group. Unwind and express your creativity with coloring books that feature intricate designs and patterns. All materials will be provided, but participants may bring their own sketchpads and art projects. Adults 50+.

Wednesday, September 28, 12 pm
Community Room

Understanding LinkedIn for Your Job Search. Tom Powner, an experienced career management professional, volunteers his time and expertise in this workshop. Networking is a powerful and necessary way to connect with career and employment opportunities. You will learn how to build and use a network that effectively connects you with opportunities. Space is limited; to register, call Grand Central Library.

Wednesday, October 5, 12 pm
Community Room

Job Searching Skills Seminar. Searching for a job has changed. Tom Powner, of Career Thinker Inc., will present this seminar. Learn about the importance of networking; how to benefit from job and career fairs; tapping the hidden job market; the use of both traditional and online search methods; and how to target companies, not just job postings, recruiters and headhunters.

Wednesday, October 12, 12 pm
Community Room

Cover Letters, Bios, and Thank-You Notes for Job Searching: A Career Thinker workshop with Tom Powner. Learn about how to craft an effective cover letter for your resume and thank-you note following an interview.

Wednesday, October 19, 12 pm
Community Room

Preparing for Job Interviews: A Career Thinker Workshop with Tom Powner. The more you prepare the less intimidated you feel. Increase your chances of landing a job by knowing how to prepare for an interview. Learn about the importance of attire and body language, types of interviews you may face, telling stories that highlight your strengths, and answering difficult questions.

Important Housing Phone Numbers and Websites

General	ag.ny.gov
NYC HPD	nyc.gov/hpd
NYC DOB	nyc.gov/dob
NYC Commission on Human Rights	nyc.gov/cchr
NYC Rent Guidelines Board	nycrgb.org
NYC Housing Court	nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/housing
Law Help	lawhelpny.org
Council on NY Cooperatives & Condominiums	cnyc.com
Tenants and Neighbors	tenantsandneighbors.org
Metropolitan Council on Housing	metcouncilonhousing.org
Housing Court Answers	cwtfhc.org
Tenant advocacy groups	
Tenants and Neighbors	212-608-4320
Metropolitan Council on Housing	212-979-0611
Housing Court Answers	212-962-4795
Sources of legal assistance for eligible, low-income renters	
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	212-218-0503
MFY Legal Services	212-417-3888
Manhattan Legal Services	646-442-3100
Legal Aid Society	212-577-3300
New York Legal Assistance Group	212-613-5000
NYC Bar Association Justice Center Hotline	212-626-7383

Be An Election Worker!

Inspectors, Poll Clerks and Information Clerks earn a salary of \$200 for working on Election Day, \$100 for attending a 6-hour training class and passing the exam.

For information call the Manhattan Board of Elections at 212-487-5400.

For an application or to apply online, visit <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/workers/positions.shtml>

Turtle Bay Continued from page 1

21.6, or even 23.0. Shame!

The TBA has consistently argued against including any properties east of Third Avenue in the East Midtown rezoning plan. The increased FAR, the unrestricted air rights transfers, and the push eastward included in the plan, would allow a wall of super-tall skyscrapers to rise up here in our neighborhood. The unused air rights of, say, Grand Central Terminal, could end up in Turtle Bay! Imagine the effect upon our homes!

Particularly desirable to developers are sites on wide streets and avenues, where the plan encourages developers to benefit from adding extra floor area to existing buildings.

For example, The Buchanan, located on Third Avenue and 48th Street, was erected in 1928 and has nearly 300 apartments grouped around a handsome interior courtyard. As one of the very few such buildings left in Manhattan, it should be landmarked and deserves to be protected.

New TBA Board Members

We welcome Phyllis Gitomer and Florence Kelly, who join our board as we launch the Fall season. Watch for more information about them.



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.