

Turtle Bay News

A Publication of the Turtle Bay Association

Spring 2014 Vol. 57, No. 2

24-Hour Construction Keeps Turtle Bay Awake

By BRUCE SILBERBLATT

If you live in Turtle Bay and construction noise has kept you awake recently, the likely reason has been two noise-generating construction sites on Second Avenue, located just one block from each other on East 50th and East 51st Streets.

The New York City Construction Noise Control Program was approved in 1985 and amended to its current form in 2007.



Northeast corner, 51st and Second.

Its provisions are detailed in the City Administrative Code, particularly in Title 24, where it is wedded to the after-hours permit system now in force. Unfortunately, the Department of Buildings

(DOB) is charged with interpretation and enforcement. Developers have easy going with the DOB.

There are five categories of after-hours permits: An Emergency, Public Safety, City Construction Projects, Activities with Minimal Impact, and last, but not least, Undue Hardship. Any one of these, in the view of the DOB, can justify after-hours work beyond the approved 7:00 a.m. to



Northeast corner, 50th and Second.

6:00 p.m. limit. The DOB can extend the hours and has done so, to as long as around the clock, seven days a week!

Customarily, developers or contractors are assured of DOB approval soon after they submit their after-hours work permit requests. I have monitored the process during the past seven years, and the DOB has rejected only one request. It has permitted all others, even when they clearly claimed that overtime was needed for rou-

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Garodnick Speaks Out on East Midtown Rezoning

By LEE FRANKEL

City Council Member Dan Garodnick is encouraging Mayor Bill de Blasio to start work on new plans for rezoning East Midtown, following the City Council's defeat of former mayor Michael Bloomberg's earlier proposal at the end of 2013. East Midtown is roughly defined as the 73-block area that runs from East 39th Street north to East 57th Street, and from Second and



Third Avenues west to a line 150 feet east of Fifth Avenue. At its core is Grand Central Terminal, with Park Avenue as its

central spine. The area is served by the Lexington Avenue subway and cross-town subway lines on 42nd and 53rd Streets.

Dan Garodnick represents the Fourth Council District, which encompasses East Midtown, and he has been speaking out about the need for a plan. Outdated office buildings, zoning rules, and transportation infrastructure are hindering redevelopment and threatening the vitality of the area, long a key commercial and employment hub for Manhattan and the city.

Dan explained his vision for East Midtown in an op-ed piece published in the Gotham Gazette, on March 25, 2014. "We have an opportunity to create the right environment

continued on page 7

Note the Event

Katharine Hepburn Garden Party

Saturday, May 10, 1 pm - 3 pm

Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
(East 47th, First/Second)

- Garden tour
- Live entertainment
- Free coffee and cake

Call 212-751-5465 for information



TBA Spring Street Fair

Sunday, June 15, 10 am - 6 pm

Lexington Avenue (42nd/57th)

All proceeds go to local charities
Call 212-751-5465 for information



Save the Dates

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 5, 5 pm - 9 pm

Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza

(East 47th, First/Second)

Live Band

Free food from Ali Baba Turkish restaurant
Community Tables, Elected Officials
Sponsored by 17th Precinct Community Council
Call 212-826-3228 for information



TBA Fall Trip

Tour Philadelphia by Deluxe Coach

Sunday, September 14

Visit Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House,
Liberty Bell & Constitution Center

Cost: \$85, including lunch

Limited to 40, reserve your place now
Call 212-751-5465

Newsorthy Notes

New Commanding Officer at the 17th Precinct



Captain Clint McPherson has replaced Deputy Inspector James Sheerin as Commanding Officer of the 17th Precinct, the New York Po-

lice Department announced, on March 26, 2014.

Captain McPherson was first appointed to the NYPD in January 1993, and began his career on patrol in the 77th Precinct. He was promoted to Detective Third Grade in January 2000, Sergeant in May 2000, Lieutenant in July 2005, and Captain in August 2010. He has served in Precincts 77, 67, 63, 71, 69, and 61, as well as Patrol Borough Brooklyn North and the Counter Terrorism Division.

Captain McPherson holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the City University of New York John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Community policing is a core component of the NYPD's methodology, and the community can be sure that Captain McPherson will work diligently to build on the efforts of his predecessor.

D'Ag Offers Free Delivery to Seniors

Lois Gaeta informed us that seniors can get free delivery from the D'Agostino Supermarket at First Avenue, between 53rd and 54th Streets (Store #27), up to twice a week.

Send a letter requesting the service and referencing, "Program: Free Delivery for Seniors" to D'Agostino Supermarkets, 1385 Boston Post Road, Larchmont, NY 10538. Telephone number, 914-833-4000.

You will, in turn, receive a letter to present to the store manager and cashier permitting free delivery. The cashier will initial the back of the letter each time, to keep track of the service. The delivery tip is up to you.

NYC Safe Disposal Event in Manhattan

When: Sunday, May 11
10 am - 4 pm (rain or shine)

Where: Union Square, North Plaza
South side 17th St., between Park Avenue South and Broadway
For safety reasons, attendees may not unload vehicles outside of the event area.

Who: Only NYC residential waste will be accepted. No commercial vehicles allowed. Residents MUST provide proof of NYC residency (e.g., NYS driver's license, utility bill).

What to Bring*

Products labeled: DANGER, POISON, or CAUTION. Products labeled DANGER represent the highest hazard level.

- automotive
- personal care
- housewares
- household cleaners
- hobby supplies
- electronics
- televisions and peripherals
- other materials you know are harmful

*Note: not all products will be accepted.

Learn More Before Going

You should have received a flyer in the mail. For more complete information, visit

<http://www.nyc.gov/nycrecycles>

Membership News

Email Blasts from the TBA

If you are a current 2014 TBA member, you should have received an email blast on April 11, 2014, Subject: "Construction Noise Complaints." If not, and you wish to receive TBA emails, please send a message to office@turtlebay-nyc.org, with the subject line "updating email address," and be certain to include your member name and preferred email address. We will update our records immediately. We want to make certain that members receive prompt, pertinent information that will be of use to them.

Editorial Committee

Editor: Lee Frankel

Layout: Hilary Black

Photographs: Lee Frankel, Vivian Gordon, Candi Obrentz

Contributors: Lois Avery Gaeta, Bill Huxley, Edward Mansour, Millie Margiotta, Candi Obrentz, Bruce Silberblatt

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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Jeannie Sakol
Helen Shapiro

Community Calendar

17th Precinct Community Council

Open Meeting

Last Tuesday every month, 6 pm
Sutton Place Synagogue
225 East 51st Street
212-826-3228

(No meetings July, August, December)

Community Board 6

Full Board Meeting
Second Wednesday every
month, 7 pm
NYU Medical Center
550 First Avenue
212-319-3750

Now live online at
<http://wp.cbsix.org/live>

Programs for NYC's Young

NYPD Offers Summer 2014 Youth Program



The NYPD seeks to provide innovative and effective programs for the city's young people. The NYPD Community Affairs Bureau's Youth Police Academy is one such program designed to establish a positive relationship between the police department and the city's youth.

The six-week program will run five days a week, from 8:30 a.m. until dismissal at 2:00 p.m., beginning on Monday, July 7th and ending on Friday, August 15th. The academy will provide participants with lunch and uniform shirts. There are campus sites throughout the five boroughs, all accessible by public transportation.



Students on field trip.

Students will attend classroom lectures, participate in role-plays, and learn through demonstrations by police officers about topics such as the law, behavioral science, drug prevention, and gang resistance. Field trips are part of the curriculum, with transportation to and back provided by the academy.

New York City residents, between the ages of 10 and 16, attending school, are eligible. Enrollment is for a limited time only. Applications must be received no later than Friday, June 27, 2014. Parents will be contacted if their child is accepted. Preference will be given to youngsters who have not previously attended.

For more information on campus locations and to download an application, visit www.nyc.gov and type "Youth Police Academy" in the search box.

Turtle Bay Music School Has Public School Partnership Programs

The Turtle Bay Music School offers many partnership opportunities for public schools seeking music programs for students. TBMS works closely with each partner school



to create appropriate, sustainable programs that benefit students, teachers, schools, and the communities they serve. Some examples of the partnerships between TBMS and public schools include:

- **Orff Ensemble Classes**, P.S. 20, P.S. 267, and P.S. 361
- **Colombian Music, Dance and Culture Residency**, P.S. 59, P.S. 267 and P.S./I.S. 217
- **Brazilian Percussion and Dance Residency**, P.S. 20, P.S. 59, P.S. 267
- **World Music and Percussion Classes**, P.S. 20 and P.S. 267
- **Choral Programs**, P.S. 361, School of Diplomacy and High School for Health Professions and Human Services
- **After-School Strings Program**, P.S. 116

For more information, please contact Katie Mazzari, Director of School and Community Programs, at 212-753-8811, ext. 21, and visit tbms.org.



17th Precinct Crime Statistics January Through April 13th

	Year to Date		
	2014	2013	% Chg.
Murder	0	0	--
Rape	3	2	50.0
Robbery	18	15	20.0
Felony Assault	9	31	-71.0
Burglary	30	36	-16.7
Grand Larceny	165	203	-18.7
Grand Larceny Auto	4	3	-33.3
Total	229	290	-21.0
Transit	8	9	-11.1
Housing	0	0	--
Petit Larceny	190	209	-9.1
Misd. Assault	84	63	33.3
Misd. Sex Crimes	12	8	50.0
Shooting Vic.	0	0	--
Shooting Inc.	0	0	--

From 17th Precinct Website

Board at Work

- 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, like our "Love Thy Neighborhood" Valentine Party, 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. For more information, call 718-330-1234.

47th & Second	1st & 3rd Thursdays	8:30-11 am
57th & First	First Friday	9-10 am
57th & Third	First Friday	10:30-11:30 am

Spotlight on Local Merchants

Jameson's New York

975 Second Avenue (51st/52nd)

212-588-0146

jamesonsny.com

Open daily, 11 am to 4 am; serving lunch, brunch and dinner on weekends; Happy Hour, every day until 6 pm; late night food menu from 11 pm to 1 am on Thursdays, and 2 am on Fridays and Saturdays. Groups can be accommodated and private dining is available.

20% discount before 5 pm, with TBA membership card

Jameson's Has a New Look

BY CANDI OBRENTZ

Jason Sheridan took over Jameson's in September 2013, and, within four months, had completely renovated, reinvigorated



and reopened this popular, longtime Turtle Bay establishment.

Jason lives in Turtle Bay with his wife (and business partner) and children. He loves our neighborhood and wants Jameson's to be the destination for food, drinks and fun: it's become just that.

When you enter, you are greeted by a combination of newness and comfort. The dining



and bar areas are open and airy, with artwork displayed on the exposed brick walls, throughout. Each month a different artist's work is showcased. Purposefully absent are loud music and the televisions that appear in many bars along Second Avenue. This will certainly appeal to diners who

wish to engage in conversation over drinks and a proper meal. For those who want entertainment, Jameson's hosts live music each Saturday and Sunday night.



The food and drinks menus offer something for everyone, including favorites like fish and chips, a traditional full Irish breakfast (featuring Myers of Keswick Cumberland sausages), and classic cocktails like the Old Fashioned.

Visit Jameson's to check out the new venue, peruse and purchase a work of art, enjoy one of more than 60 whiskeys, bourbons and scotches, listen to live acoustic music, and have a well-prepared pub meal in the modern Irish tradition.

Masq Restaurant & Lounge

306 East 49th Street

212-644-8294

masqbar.com

Open Monday and Tuesday, 12 pm to 12 am; Wednesday through Saturday, 12 pm to 2 am, and Sundays for brunch, from noon to 4 pm and dinner from 5 to 9 pm.

Red Room is available for private parties and special events

10% discount with TBA membership card

Masq: A Place for Good Eating and Neighborly Generosity

BY CANDI OBRENTZ

On March 15th, Masq made an important contribution to the "Birthday Gives" campaign, which encourages people to give rather than receive through random acts of kindness. Give is exactly what Masq owner Nora Chaprastian did when she generously donated space in her 49th Street restaurant to support this year's event.

Birthday Gives volunteers made their home at Masq for two days, as they prepared 2,900 flowers for pre-



sentation to strangers, while partaking of "Kindness Cocktails," a libation created by Masq especially for them. The event was a huge success thanks to this big-hearted neighbor in Turtle Bay.

Beyond its good-neighbor role, Masq is a good place to enjoy a relaxed meal, especially for those who favor cuisine with a New Orleans flair. You'll find spicy jambalaya, flatiron steak with avocado and pico de gallo, and delicious crabcakes. The menu also includes flatbreads, grilled panini and mini-burgers served on sweet Hawaiian bread, as well as artisanal cheese plates for sharing and crisp, fresh salads.

The décor features vintage light bulbs along the bar ceiling, in a carousel-inspired design that imparts a fanciful atmosphere. After hours, the restaurant transforms from an eatery into a lounge, where customers relax with cocktails and listen to live performers of acoustic blues, jazz, zydeco, rock and country music.



Masq is more than neighborly, it's a comfortable second home to those who live and work in Turtle Bay.

Welcome, New Merchant Members

Boutique Women's Fashion

Ekavi Boutique

Designer Clothing and Accessories for Women

886 Second Avenue / 47th Street
212-755-5855

Real Estate Broker

Susan Turner, Licensed Real Estate Sales Person

Bond New York Properties
1776 Broadway, 19th Floor
Cell: 561-843-3777
Sturner@bondnewyork.com

Restaurants

Aperitivo Pizzabar

780 Third Avenue / 49th Street
212-758-9400
info@aperitivonyc.com
www.aperitivonyc.com

New Discounts

(with TBA Membership Card)

♦ Davio's Manhattan

Northern Italian Steakhouse
451 Lexington Avenue / 45th Street
212-661-4810
20% discount Fri.-Sun. on final check

♦ Jameson's Bar & Restaurant

975 Second Avenue / 51st-52nd Street
212-588-0146
20% discount before 5 pm

♦ Paname French Restaurant

1068 Second Avenue
212-207-3737
15% discount on à la carte menu, dinner only

TBA Valentine Party a Joy

BY LEE FRANKEL. PHOTOGRAPHS BY VIVIAN GORDON

Look at the photographs, and it's instantly clear that the TBA's 30th Annual Love Thy Neighborhood party, on February 10th, was one happy blast. We have Dolores Marsh, chair of the Special Events Committee, to thank.

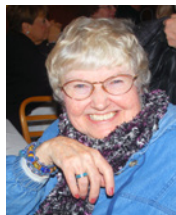
When we lost a planned venue just before the party, the restaurant Pescatore came through and made it a night to remember. Though the space was a bit small for the large crowd, Pescatore was the ideal place to be. We were close and lively, and the energy in the room was palpable as we shared wine and food and energetic conversation. This was more than "love thy neighborhood," it was "love thy neighbor," a feeling that we hope lasts throughout the year until next year's Valentine celebration.



Dan Garodnick (l.) joins attendees.



NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer (l.) and TBA President Bill Curtis.



Manhattan Borough President Gayle Brewer (r.).



Art & Culture

Japan Society

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

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

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

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

Family Programs

Sunday, May 11, 2 pm

Kodomo no hi: Children's Day. Led by Theatre Banana / Theatre Arts Japan-KIDS, the program will be celebrated with a fun theater performance of a classic Japanese children's story featuring Peach Boy (Momotaro) and festival-related song and dance. Children will create their own samurai helmets (kabuto) and carp streamers (koinobori), traditional Children's Day decorations. (Both boys and girls are welcome to participate). Recommended for ages 3 - 10 and accompanying adults.



Tickets: \$15/\$8 members; children ages 2 or under free. Corporate and individual member families may purchase tickets at the discounted price. Tickets online or call the box office. Information and schedules above.

Sunday, June 1, 2 pm

Art Cart: Everyday Life in Edo. Led by artist Petra Pankow, participants will draw inspiration from the ukiyo-e (woodblock) prints featured in Points of Departure: Treasures of Japan from the Brooklyn Museum to create their own prints using Japanese ink, paper and other materials. Recommended for children ages 6 and older plus accompanying adults. \$12/\$5 members; children ages 2 or under free.

Corporate and individual member families may purchase tickets at the discounted price. Ticket price includes tour and exhibition admission.

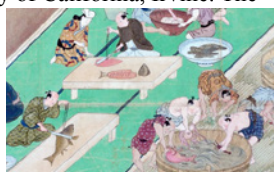


Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), 1820 (Edo period).

Lecture

Saturday, May 17, 10 am - 5:30 pm

JASA at the Forefront: Celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Japanese Art Society of America. Six distinguished scholars and curators of Japanese art, based in the West, gather to reflect on the past 40 years of scholarly contributions and present new insights to the field. Speakers: Christine Guth, Royal College of Art, London; Yukio Lippit, Harvard University; Melissa McCormick, Harvard University; Jennifer Perry, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Eric C. Rath, University of Kansas; and Bert Winther-Tamaki, University of California, Irvine. The moderator will be John Carpenter, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Co-hosted by Japan Society and Japanese Art Association of America. For a full listing of speakers and presentations, visit the Japan Society website. If you would like to attend please contact Christy Laidlaw, JASA Membership Coordinator, via email: japaneseartsoc@yahoo.com or phone: 917-658-3955. This event is free and open to the public.



Hishikawa Moronobu, A Visit to the Yoshiwara c. 1680.

For a full listing of speakers and presentations, visit the Japan Society website. If you would like to attend please contact Christy Laidlaw, JASA Membership Coordinator, via email: japaneseartsoc@yahoo.com or phone: 917-658-3955. This event is free and open to the public.

Special Event

Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 pm

Special Gallery Tour: A Curator

Recollects. Join Amy G. Poster, Curator Emerita of Asian Art at the Brooklyn Museum, for a gallery tour of "Points of Departure: Treasures of Japan from the Brooklyn Museum." Her tenure at the museum reveals a unique perspective on the key works of the collection and the special interests of the collectors who helped build the collection through the years. Free admission, but pre-registration is required.

Exhibition

Through Sunday, June 8

Points of Departure: Treasures of Japan from the Brooklyn Museum. More than two thousand years of Japan's art-making history are detailed in more than 70 paintings, prints, sculptures, and decorative objects drawn from the museum's renowned collection of Japanese art. See gallery hours and admission prices above.



Pair of Koma-Inu, early 13th Century (Kamakura period).

Turtle Bay Music School

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

Free Artist Series

Friday, May 30, 7 pm

Bonita Jackson. Performance Artist, Actress and TBMS Operations Manager Jackson presents the premiere of a new work in monologue form.

Friday, June 6, 7 pm

Bruce Potterton. Piano. Closes out the year's Artist Series with works by Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Grieg and Falla.

St. Bart's

325 Park Avenue/East 51st <http://mmpaf.org>

Midtown Concerts

FREE - no tickets needed

Thursdays, 1:15 pm through June 12
The Chapel at St. Bart's

May 8

Elena Zamolodchikova. Harpsichord Music by English Virginalists and Italian Composers from 16th and 17th Centuries.

May 22

New York Classical Quartet. String Quartets of Franz Joseph Haydn for violins, viola, cello.

May 29

Corda Nuova: "Pour la Gloire du Roi." Music for violin, viola da gamba and theorbo.

June 5

Skid Rococo: "From Pastoral Idylls to Hangovers." Music for voice, guitar, lute and cello.

June 12

Musica Nuova: "Men, Maids, and Mischief." Music for voices and lute.

St. Peter's Church

619 Lexington Avenue/54th Street
saintpeters.org

Midday Jazz Midtown

Wednesdays, 1 - 2 pm

Donation \$10

May 14

Joyce Breach, vocals and John DiMartino, piano.

May 21

Cecilia Coleman Big Band.

May 28

Laurel Masse, vocals and Tex Arnold, piano.

June 4

Band of Bones.

Art & Culture



June 11

Ronny Whyte Trio. With Ronny Whyte, vocals and piano; Boots Maleson, bass; and David Silliman, drums.

June 18

Harmonie Ensemble/New York. Conductor Steven Richman presents the Lew Tabackin Trio with Lew Tabackin, tenor sax.

June 25

Jay Leonhart: Family and Friends. Jay Leonhart, bass and vocals.

July 2

Stephanie Nakasian, vocals; Hod O'Brien, piano; and Veronica Swift O'Brien, vocals.

July 9

David White Orchestra.

July 16

David Shenton, piano.

July 23

Mauricio DeSouza and Bossa Brasil, CD Release Concert.

July 30

Liz Childs. Vocals and piano.

Classical Concert Series
Most Tuesdays, 8 pm

May 13

Trudy Craney. An established soprano who sings bel canto, baroque and contemporary music in the fields of opera, oratorio and song, in the U.S., Russia, Europe and Great Britain.



May 20

Maurizio Casa. The program will include a number of operatic arias for tenor.

May 27

Musica Mundana Chamber Music Society. Featuring five musicians who have performed in a variety of venues: Aysegul Durakoglu, piano; Justin Kagan, cello; Patricia Kaczmarczyk, flute; San San Kletzien, violin; and Sebnem Mekinulov, soprano.

Art Exhibitions

Free and open to the public daily, 9 am - 11 pm
Call 212-935-2200 for exact closing times.

Through June 30, Living Room Gallery
Paul Margolis: Hidden Ellis Island.

Photographs of building interiors on the un-restored south side of Ellis Island, that served as wards and medical facilities. The artist's subjects include people living on the margins of society, vanishing Americana, historic architecture, and life on New York City's streets. His work has been exhibited and published, and is included in museums, historical archives and private collections.

Through June 27, Narthex Lobby Gallery
Posey Krakowsky: An Artist's Trinity.

Posey Krakowsky is a theologian, artist and musician. A lifelong fiber artist, her specialty is quilting, but she also knits, weaves, sews and beads. Her quilting work is multi-layered and rich; each piece takes many months to complete. Posey is a postulant for holy orders in the Episcopal Church (Diocese of New York).



Grand Central Library

135 East 46th Street (Lexington/Third)
212-621-0670
nypl.org/locations/grand-central
Fully accessible to wheelchairs.
All programs are free unless noted.

Monday, May 5, 3 pm

Clarence Ferrari Duo. This multi-instrumentalist and composer has had an active career in the worlds of old-time and bluegrass American fiddle, and traditional Irish fiddle. With duo partner Dan Paccione on guitar and vocals, Clarence will present an exciting hour of traditional Irish fiddling and song to warm the hearts of audience members of all ages.



Saturday, May 10, 10:30 am - 4 pm

Free Day of Mindfulness. Leave the bustle of everyday life behind and enter the library, where Donald Fleck, LCSW, DCSW, will guide you on a day of relaxing and letting go of difficulties, and the practice of bringing attention to sights, sounds, your breathing, your body, your emotions, even your thoughts. You are encouraged to bring a simple picnic lunch. Please don't arrange to meet outside for lunch, which will present an opportunity to continue practicing with mindfulness. Feel free to invite friends.

Tuesday, May 20, 5:30 pm

Book Club Discussion: "A Constellation of Vital Phenomena," by Anthony Marra. A story of the transcendent power of love in wartime, this book is a work of sweeping breadth, profound compassion and lasting significance. Published by Random House.

Saturday, June 7, 2 pm, Community Room
Raymond J. Flores Playwriting Festival

Series. Among the selection of plays performed will be "Just A Bus Driver," by Susan Middaugh, who will also be honored as the winner of the 2013 Raymond J. Flores Playwriting Prize.

Lenox Hill Senior Center

At St. Peter's Church

619 Lex. Ave., 54th St., saintpeters.org
Contact: Fabian Arias, 646-244-5404
neuquenedu@aol.com

Monday and Wednesday through Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm

In partnership with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and United Neighbors of East Midtown, the church hosts a robust program, five days a week. An on-site social worker provides services and direction. Lunch is always served in community, and a wide range of programs is offered.



Dan Garodnick *continued from page 1*

to allow East Midtown to keep its competitive edge. The proposal should be for "a vibrant 21st century business district... we need a vision for our sidewalks, parks, plazas, and elsewhere to complement any new buildings that are built."

Mayor de Blasio has stated that he would submit a new rezoning proposal this year. Now that the first quarter of 2014 has passed, and considering the many thorny issues any plan will have to resolve, it would seem time to get started. Inviting the mayor to stand by his statement, Dan wrote, "I look forward to working with him toward the more complete plan that East Midtown deserves."

For the full text of Dan's article, go to gothamgazette.com, or to dangarodnick.com.

EGG-Cellent in Turtle Bay!

By CABDI OBRENTZ

Did you “collect” eggs around the city during The Big Egg Hunt? Sponsor Fabergé “hid” 250 individual eggs around the five



Dupont Egg glows with color and texture.

boroughs, each one an originally created design, ranging in size from portable to more than 400 pounds. The “hunt” ran from April 1st to April 17th, with adults and children enthusiastically using a smartphone app to follow an “egg map” and create an individual “egg basket.”

Turtle Bay hosted three spectacular eggs in the lobby of 757 Third Avenue: “The Dupont Egg,” a colorful collage of everyday substances; “The Brooklyn Egg,” which beautifully combined a view of Brooklyn within expert cabinetry, and the “Marblegg,” which, at first glance, appeared to be a simple, elegant, wooden and marble structure, but had a secret opening and interior storage space.

The hunt concluded with a grand display at Rockefeller Center, and the eggs



Brooklyn Egg shows Brooklyn Bridge in left interior and includes surprise commode on right.

went up for auction, with proceeds benefiting charity. Naturally, the event was a cracking success on social media!

If you missed the fun this year, The Big Egg Hunt will certainly return to the city in 2015.

Construction *continued from page 1*

tine operations normal to any project (including high-rise construction) that could have been completed without overtime. A developer can write his own ticket, especially under the Undue Hardship and, more recently, Public Safety provisions. After-hours work shortens completion time, which translates into substantial savings in carrying costs. Savings on the cost of interest are a major factor in construction loans, where principals can run well into nine figures on a big project.

Nor is there any effective enforcement. A complaint to 311, while it establishes a record, will not bring an inspector to the site until several days after any noise incident; the inspector will report “no violation,” as there is no longer a problem by the time he arrives. Any fines levied are so small as to be meaningless. There is no special

consideration for minimizing construction near homes and apartments. Hapless residents are at the mercy of developers and the DOB.

What can be done about this? At the Halcyon construction site, at 303 East 51st Street, builder HFZ has met with Assembly Member Dan Quart and the community, including the TBA, so that the neighborhood has been made aware of what is going on. But this has not prevented HFZ from working after hours to suit its needs three times around the clock.

A better solution than regulation would be legislation, and City Council Members Dan Garodnick and Rosie Mendez have introduced legislation that, if passed, would help by repealing Undue Hardship provisions and substantially increasing fees and penalties, although it does not address all problems. The TBA will vote on a resolution in support of the Garodnick-Mendez Introduction at its next board of directors meeting.

More immediately, residents can help by calling 311 or going to its website to complain about construction noise in the neighborhood. Complaints work, and the more there are, the more city agencies are likely to notice and respond. If round-the-clock construction noise is bothering you, the TBA encourages you to complain early and often.



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- | | | |
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- ☐ I would like to become more involved in TBA activities.

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