



TURTLE BAY NEWS

From the Turtle Bay Association, neighborhood association for Manhattan's Turtle Bay, East Midtown, home of the United Nations.

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Bill Curtis: A Look Back at More Than 50 Years of Service to Turtle Bay Community



Bill Curtis, who is stepping down as president of the Turtle Bay Association after almost 50 years at the helm, leaves a legacy of significant contributions to the neighborhood, from dealing with zoning and land use matters, to park and landscape enhancements, to safety and security issues.

And while he is leaving his TBA post, Curtis will continue to serve the community in other capacities, taking on a leading role with the Turtle Bay Tree Fund, which maintains tree beds throughout much of East Midtown. And he will continue to support the TBA, particularly on complex land use issues.

Curtis's many years of service to the community began long before he was formally named president of the TBA, and it began quite by chance.

In the early 1960s, Curtis, a graphic artist then living in Brooklyn, was looking for an apartment closer to his office in East Midtown Manhattan. A recent graduate of Pratt Institute and an Army veteran, Curtis walked into the office of a Turtle Bay real estate agent, Peter Detmold, who showed him an apartment in a brownstone on 48th Street. Curtis liked the apartment, and almost immediately signed a lease. But his encounter with Detmold would bring him far more than a new home. Detmold, it turned out, was active in an upstart neighborhood organization, the TBA, and had been looking for a graphics specialist to help him start a local community newsletter.

Not many weeks later, the first issue of what was called the Turtle Bay Gazette was off the press, and

Curtis had begun his long association with Turtle Bay, and the TBA.

Detmold went on to become president of the TBA. In 1972, following the untimely death of Detmold, Curtis was named to succeed him, working alongside Jimmy Amster, who had founded the TBA back in the late 1950s. Curtis also was named a member of Community Board Six, on which he served for twelve years, including as Chair of the Parks Committee and later as First Vice Chair of the Board.

So for more than 48 years, Curtis has overseen some critically important neighborhood projects, all the while keeping his graphics arts business, Curtis & Company, thriving. Neighbors who are familiar with Curtis discussing East Midtown matters rarely have had a glimpse into Curtis & Company, which over the years has been responsible for creating logos and branding for such high-profile entities as the New York City Bar, Dunkin' Donuts, Manhattan School of Music, Absolut Vodka, and of course, the Turtle Bay Association.

Among his many efforts as leader of the TBA over the years—and one that has kept the area's residential character intact probably more than any other—was a successful 1970s bid to stop establishment of a huge Long Island Rail Road passenger terminal at the corner of 48th Street and Third Avenue. Then in the 1980s, Curtis led the TBA's instrumental role in obtaining city approval of a zoning plan that has

Bill Curtis continued

limited the heights of buildings on many mid-block streets in the East Midtown. And in the 1990s, he spearheaded the TBA's efforts to rejuvenate Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and establish the Katherine Hepburn Garden.

"I take pride in my many years with the TBA," says Curtis. "While the issues the neighborhood is dealing with today are far different than those in the earlier years, the TBA's goal has remained the same—to maintain the livability of our East Midtown area for today, and for future generations."

One important side note to Curtis's career: He is a prolific artist, working in gouache and pastels. He chuckles when asked where his works have been shown. "Until recently, mostly only on the walls of my apartment," he responds. But now for the first time, his paintings are being represented online at Saatchi Art.

Still, Curtis will forever be a supporter of the neighborhood. "I look forward to continuing to be a proud and enthusiastic member of the TBA, as we see the organization grow, with new leadership, and younger, active, members to come," he says.

**THE PINK MOOSE CAFE is now open for business in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza**

Whether you crave coffee or tea, you can get your fix at the Pink Moose Cafe. Concessionaire Bass Fatukih roasts his own coffee, sourcing the finest beans. A Mediterranean-Middle Eastern menu is under development, and wi-fi will be available in time for the warm weather. Stop by and say hello.

TBA Has a New Website

We are proud to announce that we have built and launched a new website at turtlebay-nyc.org to expand our ability to reach out to our residents, as well as to address current issues. The website is built around our Residential and Business Community with a strong focus on the Community Advocacy.

As Dolores Marsh, President observes "the issues may have changed, but our goals are still the same." As the neighborhood evolves and welcomes an influx of new residents, it is necessary to reach our neighbors using the latest technology.

You will find information on the history of Turtle Bay, the history of the Turtle Bay Association, current events, the parks in Turtle Bay and a comprehensive list of community resources. Be sure to check out the updated business directory, where you will find information on our business members and the discounts they offer TBA members.

The website is updated regularly for information on community issues, our local business shops and restaurants, and COVID-19 updates on protocols and vaccine availability.

Take a look and let us know what you think.

You can also find us at

Instagram: [@turtlebaynycorg](https://www.instagram.com/turtlebaynycorg)

twitter.com/TurtleBayAssoc

www.facebook.com/turtlebayassociationnyc

www.linkedin.com/company/turtle-bay-association

Update on the Homeless Shelter at the YMCA

In an online zoom meeting last month with city officials, city agencies and community members, TBA learned that the Vanderbilt Y has extended its shelter contract with the Bowery Resource Center (BRC) until June 30th. Two additional floors of the hotel wing of the building will be used as transitional housing for an additional 90 persons according to Sharon Levy, VP of Public Affairs for the YMCA of Greater NY. Overall, BRC appears to be managing the shelter operation effectively and thanks the community for showing compassion to the homeless situation. TBA along with the other neighborhood community organizations did not have any input into this 6 month extension. We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more information.



Overall Crime Down 42 Percent in the 17th Precinct

At the February 23rd 17th Precinct Community Council meeting the Council's President, Matt Roberts, and the NYPD's 17 Precinct Commanding Officer, Captain Aaron Edwards, discussed the latest crime statistics, while also recognizing two 17th Precinct Police Officers for resuscitating a female patron at a local restaurant.

Overall, crime is down 42 percent in the NYPD's 17th ...

According to Captain Edwards, the crime categories that were down include:

Robbery: 2 vs. 3
Burglaries: 8 vs. 16
Grand Larceny: 27 vs. 60

The crime categories that saw an uptick.

Felony Assaults: 8 vs. 3
Grand Larceny Auto: 4 vs. 2

Two of the grand larceny auto thefts occurred at a private parking garage, one was poached from the street and another was a rental car that wasn't returned.

One responsible individual crashed through the gate, and ultimately crashes into several parked cars.

"Cop of the Month," Police Officers Elizabeth Perez and Sabah Ali, were recognized for their effort in saving a woman's life.

WELCOME NEW TBA BUSINESS MEMBERS

Please mention when doing business with our Business Members that you are a Turtle Bay Association member. This way our business member will know our Association is supporting their business.

Mme. Eleanor's Fine Cleaners, located at 969 1st Avenue between East 52nd and 53rd Street, offers find dry cleaning, tailoring, suede/leather and household item cleaning. A family owned business.



Pan International Conference and Language Services—Services cover many languages and many forms. For additional information, call Rafael Rodriguez at 917-930-9210 or email panint@att.net.



Restaurants can have a dining-in capacity of 35%

That began Friday, February 26. They could already remain open until 11:00PM. Our business members have been loyal to us and now we can be loyal to them. Below is list of our Business Member Restaurants, their hours and your options. Help restore Turtle Bay business! Visit your favorite restaurant.



ANGELETTO RESTAURANT

890 Second Ave

212 235 1227

Dining in 4p-10p (Tuesday – Sunday) no outdoor dining

BARKOGI

957 Second Avenue

212-308-8510

Dining in/outdoor dining 11a-11p every day

CAFÉ LA CERRA

401 East 50th Street (Store)

646 344 1812

Can come inside /outdoor dining until 6p

CHATEAU 49

924 Second Avenue

917 261 6022

Dining in/outdoor dining 12p-11p M-F (lunch, dinner); 11:30a-11p Sat-Sun (brunch, dinner)

COPINETTE

891 First Avenue

212 903 4001

Dining in/outdoor dining 12p-11p every day

DA RAFFAELE

883 First Avenue

646 895 9849

Dining in 4:30p-10p every day no outdoor dining

WELCOME NEW TBA BUSINESS MEMBERS

Madam Milkette's, located at 987 Second Avenue, is an upscale stylish American brasserie offering shareable plates to savory entrees. Cocktails are their main focus with an extensive cocktail menu like no other in the neighborhood.



JOHN'S COFFEE SHOP

823 Second Avenue

212 867 4955

Dining in 8a-4p every day

JOY CURRY & TANDOORI (HALAL INDIAN RESTAURANT)

148 East 46th Street

212 490 1277

Dining in 9:30a-11p every day

JUBILEE

948 First Avenue (52nd Street)

212 888 3569

Dining in/outdoor dining 12p-10p every day

*Business Member Restaurants continued***LA CAVA WINE BAR**

939 Second Avenue

212 223 1206

Dining in/outdoor dining 4p-11p M-F; 11a-11p Sat and Sun

LA PECORA BIANCA

950 Second Avenue

212 899 9996

Dining in/outdoor dining 11a-10p M-Sat; 11a-9p Sun

LA VILLETТА

398 East 52nd Street

212 829 0003

Dining in/outdoor dining 12p-10p every day

MIMI'S RESTAURANT

984 Second Avenue

212 688 4692

Dining in/outdoor dining 4p-11p every day

MORNINGSTAR CAFÉ

949 Second Avenue

212 588 1050

Dining in/outdoor dining 7a-4a every day

PARNELL'S

350 East 53rd Street

212 753 1761

Dining in/outdoor dining 11-9p every day

PEKING DUCK HOUSE

236 East 53rd Street

212 759 8260

Dining/outdoor dining 12p-9p every day

PESCATORE RESTAURANT (ITALIAN)

955 Second Avenue

212 752 7151

Dining in/outdoor dining 12p-11p every day

PIETRO'S

232 East 43rd Street

212 682 9760

Dining in 5p-9p M-Sat no outside dining

Please mention that you are a Turtle Bay Association member. This way our business member restaurant will know our Association is supporting their restaurant.

TBA APPOINTS 2 NEW VICE PRESIDENTS

Phyllis Gitomer is one of two newly appointed Vice-Presidents of the Turtle Bay Association. Phyllis, a retired family therapist, and her husband, Arnold, a pharmacist, have been residents of Turtle Bay for 18 years. Phyllis has been a member on the Turtle Bay Board for 5 years. In addition to her duties as Vice-President, Phyllis co-chairs the Special Events Committee and has been instrumental in planning the annual "Love Thy Neighborhood" Valentine Party, TBA Street Fair, and the TBA Annual Meeting. When The Vanderbilt Y became a homeless shelter, Phyllis, representing the Turtle Bay Association, joined the community homeless task force/coalition.

Please say hello to Phyllis when you see her walking her dog Benny around the neighborhood.

Becky Flig, recently appointed a VP has been a member of the TBA board for almost two years, and a resident of the neighborhood for 17 years.

Becky is responsible for the TBA social media accounts, ie Instagram, Facebook. Also, as a member of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association board, she has spearheaded a pilot program to combine events between the 2 organizations, specifically toward networking events for "Young Professionals." Becky will chair this newly formed committee for TBA.

In her day job, Becky is the Director of Business Development for AHP Servicing and is eager to parlay some of her experience into initiatives on the local level, in and around Turtle Bay. In addition to her duties for TBA and MHNA, Becky will continue to hold her board position as events chair of the Angel Compass Network, a local children's charity.

We are delighted to have her enthusiasm on the board.

TBA Newsletter Editorial Committee

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