



FACES OF MURRAY HILL Busser Howell: Artist

by Ravelle Brickman

Busser Howell has the face of an artist. His eyes, hidden behind protective dark glasses, are focused within, exploring a mental landscape that is constantly in flux.

A familiar figure in the neighborhood, Busser spends most of his time in and around his studio, located at the rear of the Murray Hill townhouse that he owns with Michael Chapman, his life partner since 1996.

In addition to the studio, whose glass walls radiate the wintry northern light, their four-story house serves as an informal gallery, office, living and entertainment space. (The house, one of the winners of the 2009 MHNA Architectural Preservation Awards, is featured on page 13.) The artist's paintings line the walls, ranging in style from the abstract expressionism of the 1960s to the political



Busser Howell with one of his 9/11 paintings.

Photo: Sami Steigmann

satire and collage of today. The most stunning canvases, however, are those created in the wake of 9/11.

"When terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, it had a tremendous impact," Busser says. In addition to exposing America's vulnerability it struck a personal chord, since it was his family's company where he had worked at the time that supplied much of the steel and welding that went into the Twin Towers.

Busser's response was to throw himself into a frenzy of painting, producing a series of giant tar paper collages that form a stark memorial to 9/11.

Since then, his work has evolved, incorporating sandpaper, metal screens, even everyday objects such as sunglasses and rubber gloves. Currently, he is working with kinetic art, using layers of paint to create images that shift as the viewer moves.

Murray Hill is a long way from Troy, Ohio, where Busser Howell was born and where the family business was based. But the town, which had been a thriving cultural center a century earlier, was still fertile ground for a young artist.

Encouraged by a favorite aunt, Busser began studying oil painting at the age of 13. When he was 15, he had his first museum exhibition. He attended Boston University's School of Fine Arts, then moved to California where he exhibited at galleries in San Francisco and Los Angeles while working at branches of his family's company.

A flyer for a 50th Anniversary Kick-Off event. It features a red border with a yellow floral pattern. At the top is a logo with a red heart and yellow flowers. The text is centered and reads: "It's Our 50th Anniversary Kick-Off The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association invites you to join old friends and make new ones on Valentine's Day Sunday, February 14, 2010 From 4:00 to 6:00 PM El Rio Grande—38th & 3rd \$30 per person includes Unlimited Margaritas, Sangria, Wine and Tapas Call Marion to Reserve: 212-679-5335".

**It's Our
50th Anniversary Kick-Off**
The
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
invites you to join old friends
and make new ones
on
Valentine's Day
Sunday, February 14, 2010
From 4:00 to 6:00 PM
El Rio Grande—38th & 3rd
\$30 per person includes
Unlimited Margaritas, Sangria,
Wine and Tapas
Call Marion to Reserve: 212-679-5335

Continued on page 24

Murray Hill Life

A PUBLICATION OF THE
MURRAY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board of Trustees

President: Diane Bartow
Vice Presidents: Edward Curtin, Shirley Mac Leod, Marion Weingarten
Treasurer: Barbara Sagan
Secretary: Debra Taylor

Trustees

Fred Arcaro, Marisa Bulzone, Ann Churchill, Yves Deflandre, John Dickerson, Linda Froccaro, Sarah Goodhart, Enid Klass, Charlotte Klein, Maria Mireiter, Erlinda Nelson, Burton Rubin, Joshua Schwadron, Claire Steffen, Alice Timothy, Ann Usher

Honorary Trustees

John B. Chadwick, Jr., Robert Cohen, Joe W. Di Domenico, Irma Worrell Fisher, Paula Hutter Gilliam, Dick Golub, Ellen Propp, Helen Weber

Past Presidents

Ed Hochberg, Mark Tracten, Stephen Weingrad

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Susan B. Adams
Co-editor: Joe W. Di Domenico
Editorial Consultants: Charlotte Klein, Ellen Propp
Advertising: Erlinda Nelson, Alice Timothy
Proofreaders: Charlotte Klein, Barbara Miller-Gidaly, Louise Weiss
Distribution: John Dickerson

Design & Production

Joe W. Di Domenico

Printing

JM Offset
212-689-1617

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
Post Office Box 1897
New York, NY 10156-1897
212-886-5867

Send Letters to the Editor or story ideas to
info@murrayhillnyc.org
and please use the subject line
"Murray Hill Life".



From the President's Desk

Diane Bartow

Welcome to 2010 and the beginning of our 50th year. Yes, it is the Golden Anniversary of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association.

To celebrate this important occasion we will be featuring some wonderful events, such as a cherry blossom festival, a taste of Murray Hill, a Murray Hill home tour, a volunteer appreciation celebration, a special guests general meeting in September, a black-tie gala and, of course, our traditional events will be celebrated.

This Association began with the challenge of the Midtown Tunnel. In 1960, the city proposed to widen 36th Street to increase access to the tunnel, which would have markedly changed the quality of life in Murray Hill. The residents and merchants fought City Hall and won. Fifty years later we continue in that spirit to maintain and preserve Murray Hill as a highly desirable place to live and work.

We are hard at work making sure Murray Hill stays a truly green area. We continue the clean-up programs, the tree-replacement program, repairing the hoops around the trees and replacing the ivy. In the spring we will replace the old trash cans with new approved ones. Meanwhile, tulips will soon be blooming along with the cherry trees.

Traffic and transportation continue to be major concerns and challenges to the members of the Association. A new measure is being introduced to Community Board 6 to limit parking on the side streets in Murray Hill. This measure will keep traffic moving and hopefully get rid of the layovers of black town cars. This option was recommended to the Department of Transportation by the Association and agreed to by the DOT. They finally heard us!

But there is so much more that needs to be done.

The Preservation and Design Committee continues to monitor the Historic District and look for opportunities to expand it.

This year is so important for membership, and that means you. Join the One-Plus-One campaign and be a hero to your neighborhood. Make sure you renew your own membership, too. Now is a critical time and the more voices, the better the chances of things getting done. Remember we began with loud voices and we continue 50 years later to need them even more.

I hope you enjoy the new recipes in this issue of *Murray Hill Life*. This will be a continuing feature in our newsletter and is just another way we can share as a community. Give us your best recipe from something you purchased at the Murray Hill Greenmarket on Second Avenue. Support the Murray Hill Market and eat healthy.

I am sincerely proud and privileged to serve as your president this year. So many neighbors have contributed so much to this wonderful neighborhood and this year is the perfect year to celebrate them.

Diane

In This Issue...

Members' Corner.....	4
Letters to the Editor.....	5
Community Briefs.....	6
Trash Talk.....	7
How Green is Our Hill!.....	7
Arts, Culture and Leisure.....	8
One Person's Elegy for Doors Now Shut.....	10
Bryant Park.....	11
Restoration Awards Hail Contemporary Design and Heritage.....	12
New Trustees Elected to Board.....	14

Area Doorman Receives Longevity Award.....	15
A Matter of Diplomacy.....	16
POPA Members Celebrate the Avenue.....	17
The 2009 Annual Meeting: Alive With the Sounds of Traffic.....	18
Transportation Update.....	19
Turkeys with HONEY to Go.....	20
Inquirers Class at the Church of the Incarnation.....	20
Putting on the Lights.....	20
Greenmarket Goodness.....	21
Inside the City Council: It's Not Easy Becoming a Law.....	22
The Computer Tutor.....	23

News from MECA

Manhattan East Community Association

On September 30, 2009, the New York City School Construction Authority asked for public comments on its proposed site location for the development of a new primary/intermediate school (P.S./I.S. 281) in Community School District No. 2. The site, 616 First Avenue, is located between East 35th and 36th Streets (the southern part of the First Avenue Properties Development). Preliminary plans for the approximately 612-seat school include an early childhood playground and a basketball court with a play area on the roof. Construction of the school is to start in 2011 with completion in 2014.

There is talk, just talk, about building a residential building on top of the school under the same arrangement used for the High School of Art and Design on Second Avenue at 57th Street. At the high school's location, the builder granted the School Construction Authority a long-term lease and funding for construction of a residential building over the school. To accomplish this at 616 First Avenue would require a Zoning Resolution change, which has to be approved by the City Council.

5 Tudor City Decides Not to Appeal

Five Tudor City Place, which initiated Article 78 against Mr. Solow, NYC Department of City Planning and the City Council, claiming that they did not follow proper procedure in approving Mr. Solow's project, decided not to appeal the court's decision.

Meanwhile, there is now a parking lot at 685 First Avenue, which will stay until Mr. Solow is ready to proceed with his development of First Avenue Properties.

Department of Buildings to Review Public Challenge Process

For the past few months, the New York City Department of Buildings has made information about new building work permits available on its web site and has welcomed community comment on approvals of building permits. (See my last column in the Autumn 2009 newsletter for details of the program.) The Public Safety and Environment Committee addressed the effectiveness of the review process in its December 14, 2009 meeting.

Waiting Area in Works for 35th Street Ferry

The New York City Economic Development Corporation is constructing a \$10-million waiting area for the East 35th Street ferry landing. The waiting area on the old pier will have a stationary canopy to protect ferry passengers from the rain as well as a lighted seating area. Construction is to be completed by the beginning of 2011.

MECA Presents 2010 Board

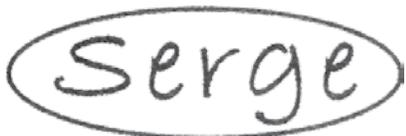
At the joint MHNA-MECA General Meeting on September 24, 2009, our Board was presented to the membership: Fred Arcaro, President; Shirley Mac Leod, Vice President;

Fred Arcaro, President

Mickie Egeth, Vice President; Linda Lieberman, Treasurer, and Roxie Cherishian, Secretary, with Beryl Rentof and Sharon Tillman, board members.

If you have not renewed your MECA membership, please do so. Please send your dues for MECA (payable to MECA) to 415 East 37th Street, NYC 10016, or payable to Murray Hill Neighborhood Association and mailed to MHNA Membership, P.O. Box 1897, NYC 10156-1897. If your renewal form does not indicate that you are a MECA member, please write MECA on the form.

Thank you for your continuing support of MECA. 



brasserie

Serge Durka

Tel: (212) 679-8077 165 Madison Avenue
Fax: (212) 679-2695 Corner of 33rd Street
www.brasseriecafecreme.com New York, NY 10016
www.sergebrasserie.com

MADISON AVE JEWELERS 

— Jewels of Madison —

244 Madison Avenue bef. 37 & 38 St.
New York, NY 10016 212-962-1408

WE BUY JEWELRY & WATCHES

Take advantage of Record High Prices of Gold
We also specialize in Clock, Jewelry & Watch Repair
10% off with this ad

Members' Corner

1+1=2010

Simple concept, really: every existing member of MHNA either sponsors or refers one new member—not a renewal—and our membership will double.

The effect will be to strengthen the voice of our community in dealing with quality of life issues that effect us all, such as over-development and traffic congestion.

Please bring in one of your neighbors, friends or relatives to ensure that we continue to be able to advocate for a community that is a desirable place to live and work.

Thank you!

Please be sure your own membership is up to date. Help us avoid the expense of sending additional reminders by renewing when you receive your first notice. If your membership has lapsed and you can't locate your renewal form, please use the form provided here. We'll know it's for a renewal. Thank you!

Tell a Friend about the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

Please enter a new or renewal membership at the level I have circled below. My check, payable to **Murray Hill Neighborhood Association**, is enclosed.

- \$35 Individual \$50 Couple \$60 Business/Professional
 \$20 Senior Citizen (age 65+) \$40 Senior Couple (age 65+)

I want to make **an additional contribution** to further your work:

___ \$100 Patron ___ \$500 Benefactor \$ ___ Other

Additional contributions will be acknowledged in our Newsletter.

If you prefer not be acknowledged, please check here

Member's Name _____

Second Name (couples) _____

Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Name of Referring Member, if applicable _____

Mail to: Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
PO Box 1897, New York, NY 10156-1897

New Members

Sinforiana Antar
Anthony DeSimone
Michael Chapman &
 Busser Howell
David & Pam Chenkin
Hatch Cook
Audrey Davey
William Douglass
Raymond & Claudia Gentile
Bruce Ginsberg
Philip &
 Cheryl Greenberg
Lorraine Hack
HealthSmart of NY
Todd Hughes

Sylvia Kingston
Elena Kreuter
Robert Mallett
William Marquardt III
Kathleen O'Callaghan
Barbara Posner
Maggie Davis Pritikin &
 Bruce Pritikin
Susan Ridgeway
Robert Schacht
Joshua Schwadron
John & Nancy Tackett
Sharon and Mel Tillman
Sam Udani
Walk NYC Podiatry, PC
Michele Zalkin

Discount Merchant Changes

(as of 11/30/09)

Please note the following additions, changes and deletions in your discount booklet.

New discount member

Madison Ave Jewelers, 244 Madison Ave, 37/38 St., 212-962-1408; 15 % discount, excluding tax. **See their ad, page 3.**

Change in discount terms

Beyond Body Mind Spirit, 10 Park Ave., 212-889-4986; *Half Off dial-UP yoga: conveniently on the phone, for anyone regardless of age, size, weight or fitness level. Only \$15 for 30 days or \$50 a class for the first month! Health made easy.*

Euro Diner, 542 3rd Ave., 212-686-0372; 10% discount, deliveries excluded

The Garden Café at The Kitano Hotel, 40 E 38th St., 212-885-7123; 10% discount; good only on lunch or dinner; does not include Prix-Fixe dinner.

Park Cleaners, 531 3rd Ave., 212-532-8578; 10% discount on \$20 minimum order; excludes tailoring and laundry; cash only.

Rossini's Restaurant, 108 E 38th St., 212-683-0135; 10% discount with cash only; excludes tax and gratuities; delivery and take-out not included.

Serge, 165 Madison Ave., 212-679-8077; 15% discount with cash only; Saturday and Sunday dinner only.

Smart Workout, 124 E 40th St., 212-661-1660; 1 free month of membership (value \$145) with annual membership enrollment.

Smörgås Chef, 58 Park Ave., 212-847-9745; 10% discount, excluding tax and gratuity.

No longer participating

Body Essentials
Flowers by Angelo
iSold It
Rachel Young Lee

Melange Gourmet
Photo World
Sage @ St Vartan Café
Visio Fine Optics

Letters to the Editor

To Murray Hill Life:

This letter is in response to the article, "Traffic Snarl on Park Avenue? Your Opinion, Please," in the Autumn issue of *Murray Hill Life*. I would like to add my support to Roy Strickland, Abby Bergman, Ellen Propp and others who are urging the DOT to reverse its decision to close the southbound lane of the Park Avenue Tunnel.

The tunnel closure creates more traffic congestion above ground, markedly increasing safety risks for pedestrians all along the affected stretch of Park Avenue. It creates increased noise and general havoc as well. Most importantly, closing the tunnel ignores the real problem.

For years I have believed that the biggest problem in Murray Hill is the failure of NYC to enforce motor vehicle laws. This is an outrage. Drivers are constantly running red lights, blocking the box and aggressively making right turns into pedestrian crosswalks while people are attempting to cross. The law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, but they don't.

Also, turns into crosswalks are constantly made without using a turn signal, also against the law. Drivers are making illegal turns, such as at 37th Street and Madison Avenue during business hours. There is constant and aggressive horn-tooting, such as at 37th Street and Park Avenue, which is also illegal. There is a sign at this corner advising a \$350 fine for horn-tooting. Has a \$350 fine ever in NYC history been imposed for this? I doubt it.

The police are frequently in Murray Hill to observe these law-breaking abuses but they ignore them. I have personally asked the police more than once to enforce the law when a violation has occurred right in front of them. They pretend they didn't see it. The real problem is that lawlessness has taken over traffic conditions in New York because NYC refuses to enforce the law.

Eric Hirvonen

50 Park Avenue

To Murray Hill Life:

As a member of the Association and a resident of Murray Hill, the DOT's decision to close the southbound lane of the Park Avenue Tunnel was disastrous in terms of traffic density. The decision was simultaneous with the construction and traffic tie-up at 37th Street for the East Side Access Project. Consequently, traffic often backs up from 37th Street up to 50th. The decision has made life in this area a nightmare.

Caroline A. Davis

67 Park Avenue

To Murray Hill Life:

As an 11-year resident of Murray Hill, I have seen and heard the difference in traffic congestion and additional noise due to cab drivers honking non-stop for most of the day, especially at Park and 37th Street, since the closing of the downtown-bound lane in the Park Avenue tunnel. I live at the corner of 38th and Park and, along with most of our building residents, have witnessed the change with great concern for our quality of life.

A petition with signatures to challenge the DOT's decision would be worthwhile, as Roy Strickland mentions in

the article in your very good Autumn issue of *Murray Hill Life*. It would probably be signed by most residents of Murray Hill, since we are all affected by this one way or another. If nothing can be done, perhaps the MHNA could ask the appropriate agency to send a traffic officer to be at the intersection of 37th and Park, at least during rush-hours, when traffic and honking are at their highest, to monitor the flow and impose the appropriate fine, which is posted at every corner of our neighborhood, to the offending honkers. It might help.

Romuald Tecco

67 Park Avenue

The writer is Secretary of the Board of Directors of 67 Park Avenue at 38th Street.

CONGRATULATIONS, MHNA, ON YOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

*We warmly invite you to
attend our*

Weekly Services

*Conducted
Every Sunday Morning*



*Our services feature the inspiring,
delightful and spiritual*

Rabbi Joyce Reinitz

10:00 am Breakfast & Judaism Class

11:00 am Worship Services

*High Holy Days Services
Festivals and Classes*

THE SOCIETY OF JEWISH SCIENCE

109 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016

212-682-2626

Congratulations, MHNA on 50 years serving Murray Hill

EYES ON MADISON
FASHION EYEWEAR

197 Madison Avenue
(Between 34th & 35th Street)

212-213-3732

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-6pm • Thurs. 9:30am-7pm • Sat. 11am-5pm

Doctor of Optometry on Staff
Membership discount 15%

Community Briefs

New On-Line Information on Parking Regulations

In early September, the NYC Department of Transportation introduced a new program on its web site for on-line information on parking regulations. It allows people to put in an intersection or cross streets in order to find out what the current parking regulations are.

The Parking Regulations shown on this web site are drawn from DOT's traffic sign database, which keeps track of the description, location and installation dates for DOT traffic signs.

Although the DOT takes no responsibility for the accuracy of information provided on the site, nevertheless it might be of interest to you or your visitors.

Here is the link (be sure it all appears on one line in your browser):

<http://a841-dotvweb01.nyc.gov/ParkingRegs/ViewController/LocationValidation.aspx>

Youth Stamp Club Continues at Collectors Club

The Youth Stamp Club, sponsored by the Collectors Club of New York at 22 East 35th Street, kicked off its inaugural season in October. This educational program is open to students in Grades 4 and up and is totally free of charge. Beginners are introduced to this hobby and youth who are already collectors find encouragement. This is not a "fill in the spaces in an album" program; new activities and projects are offered at each meeting. Everything completed by the young people is theirs to keep.

The monthly meetings are held Saturday mornings, 10–11:30 AM. The 2010 schedule is January 16; February 13, March 20, April 17 and May 15. Call 212-683-0559 or e-mail collectorsclub@verizon.net to register.

A Farewell Pie in the Face for Soupy

Murray Hill lost its favorite neighborhood pie target and tweaker of rectitude when Soupy Sales died on October 22 in a hospice in the Bronx after a long illness. Although Soupy had not been seen around Murray Hill for 10 years or so, when he was healthy he was out and about, partaking of the time-honored joys of the neighborhood. Sarge's was a particular favorite, where he was immortalized on the deli's wall of fame: "breakfast, lunch, or dinner, Sarge's is a winner!"

From his madcap television platform in the mid-1960s, "The Soupy Sales Show," which was based in New York and syndicated nationwide, he charmed children with his puppets, White Fang, Black Tooth and Pookie the Lion, and captivated teenagers and their elders, as well, with his anti-authoritarian caprices.

It wasn't just Soupy who exercised zany creativity: his crew were well known for audibly cracking up during his programs. More than once they pulled pranks on Soupy, who, because the program aired live, could only sally forth, trying not to lose his "composure" too much. A well chronicled and documented incident had Soupy answering a ring at the door of his set. Out of sight of the television audience,

but well within view of Soupy, stood a young woman who seemed to have forgotten to wear any clothing at all. It was clearly an inside joke that the crew enjoyed more than anybody, but Soupy soldiered on, perhaps trying to engage his unseen visitor in conversation slightly longer than planned.

His smiling face still lights up the screen to those who loved him. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Trudy.

Bouquets for Murray Hill's 'Flower People'

While admiring the beautiful mums in front of 146 East 38th Street, MHNA Trustee Maria Mireiter met the owners Michele and Chip James. The Jameses said they take great pride in their brownstone, and Michele said, "We do it for us and the neighborhood." Michele and Chip said that someone had left a thank-you note in their mailbox, and people often stop to compliment them on their work.

So she thinks it is fitting to issue a special thank you in print to Michele and Chip and to all those other caring brownstone owners, apartment buildings and restaurants with flowering tree beds and window boxes. We recognize how lucky we are to have you as our neighbors.

City Issues Security Standards for Use of Credit Cards

Earlier this year, the City of New York printed detailed security procedures for credit card use in its Information Security Awareness Newsletter. The newsletter reported that standards and policies have been put forth that must be met by all vendors who accept credit card transactions.

In particular, the Payment Card Industry placed special emphasis on recommending guidelines for online use of credit cards:

- Don't respond to e-mail or pop-up messages. If you get an e-mail or pop-up message while you're browsing, don't reply or click on the link in the message or any attachments, especially if personal or financial information is requested. Legitimate organizations don't ask for this information in these ways.
- Guard the security of your transaction. When purchasing online, look for a "lock" icon on the browser's status bar and be sure "https" or "s-http" appears in the web site's address bar. The "s" stands for "secure."
- Use temporary account authorizations when available. Some credit card companies offer virtual or temporary credit card authorization numbers. This kind of service gives you use of a secure and unique account number for each online transaction. Contact your credit card company to see if they offer this service.
- Limit your online shopping to merchants you know and trust. If you have questions about a merchant, verify it with the Better Business Bureau or the Federal Trade Commission.

For more information about Citywide Information Security Policies and Standards, please see <http://cityshare.nycnet/infosec>.

Trash Talk

Street furniture tends to get badly bashed over time, particularly on the more commercial thoroughfares. Some of our more discerning readers noticed in late November that representatives of the Sanitation Department were removing garbage can containers that had been rendered dysfunctional and replacing them with standard-issue NYC wire mesh units.

The MHNA has ordered, for starters, ten new receptacles from Victor Stanley Co., which have been approved by the New York City Department of Sanitation and which will bear the MHNA logo and the legend "Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Supports a Cleaner New York." Hopefully, these units will prove to be sturdier than the existing units, in which case we will order more over time, subject to budgetary constraints.

As chairman of the grant committee, Ed Curtin said that we purchase these units (close to \$1,000 per unit, including delivery) with State Legislative Initiative Grants obtained through Assembly Member Dick Gottfried and State Senator Liz Kruger, and City Council grants through Rosie Mendez and Christine Quinn. At present, it is uncertain when the new units will be ready for delivery, but they are coming. ☐

How Green is Our Hill!

One, two, three...*ten* new trees now grow in Murray Hill. Greening Committee Chairwoman Shirley Mac Leod reports that the neighborhood is greener than ever after ten new trees were planted in the neighborhood this fall.

The new foliage includes one tree planted in front of 165 East 35th Street, thanks to a generous donation from Constance Brown.

Also, one tree has sprouted up in front of 123 East 35th Street and four more now stand sentry in the Park Avenue Malls between 34th and 38th Street. These five trees were funded by the MHNA treasury.

In addition, the New York City Parks Department planted four new trees on East 33rd Street between Second and Third Avenues.



It is difficult to realize how great a part of all that is cheerful and delightful in the recollections of our own life is associated with trees.

—Wilson Flagg



BARTOW INSURANCE AGENCY

for all your insurance needs
Business, Home, Auto, Life & Health

Call toll-free: 1-800-570-8225

E-mail: dgbar@msn.com

corcoran
corcoran group real estate

Proud resident of Murray Hill for 18
years specializing in *co-op, condo,
townhouse & investment properties.*

You Deserve the Best

Barbara M. Sagan
212.937.7006
bms@corcoran.com



corcoran.com
live who you are

The Corcoran Group is a licensed real estate broker
Owned and operated by NRT LLC.

The Morgan Library & Museum

36th–37th Street & Madison Avenue

A Woman's Wit: Jane Austen's Legacy, through March 14, 2010 This exhibit explores the life, work and legacy of this renowned and extraordinary English novelist (1775–1817) through autographed manuscripts, personal letters, biographical prints, as well as contemporary drawings and responses to her works by later writers like Auden, Kipling, Nabokov, Scott and Yeats. A commissioned film of interviews with present-day authors commenting on Austen's work and influence is shown in the gallery.

Demons and Devotion: The Hours of Catherine of Cleves, January 22–May 2, 2010 This masterpiece is the most important illuminated Dutch manuscript in the world. It was commissioned around 1440 by Catherine (1417–1476), Duchess of Guelders and Countess of Zutphen, and was painted by the anonymous Master of Catherine of Cleves. Also included are illuminated manuscripts by predecessors and contemporaries of this Cleves Master. Concurrent with this show is a complementary exhibition, "Flemish Illumination in the Era of Catherine of Cleves."

Flemish Illustration in the Era of Catherine of Cleves, January 22–May 2, 2010 As a complement to "Demons and Devotion: The Hours of Catherine of Cleves" this exhibit highlights eighteen illuminated Books of Hours from Flanders and vicinity, now part of Belgium. The 15th and early 16th centuries, the period of these works, represent the last great flowering of Flemish illumination. The items in this exhibit offer interesting comparisons to the miniatures of the Catherine of Cleves manuscript. All works in this show are from Morgan holdings.

Rome After Raphael: Drawings From the Morgan, January 22–May 9, 2010 This exhibit starts with Raphael's last years and ends with the dawn of the Baroque. Included are works by such great masters as Raphael, Michelangelo, Vaga, Romano, Volterra, Caravaggio, Salviati, Carracci and both Taddeo and Federico Zuccaro. This is the first exhibition by the Morgan to focus exclusively on draftsmanship during this seminal period of Italian art.

Palladio and His Legacy, April 2–July 4, 2010 This exhibition showcases thirty-one original Palladio drawings from

the Royal Institute of British Architects for the first time in over thirty years, shown only once in America and never before in New York. Palladio's exquisite original drawings are accompanied by rare architectural texts. Palladio was a major influence in American architecture from colonial times to the present. Four large models, along with some smaller models, illustrate the architectural journey from Rome to America: The Pantheon, Villa Rotunda, Chiswick House and Jefferson's design for the White House. **For information about public programs—lectures, concerts, gallery talks and special events, call 212-685-0008 or visit the Morgan's web site at www.themorgan.org. Enjoy Friday evenings until 9 PM.**



Isabel Bishop (1902–1988)
Scene from *Pride and Prejudice*: "The examination of all the letters which Jane had written to her." 20th century. Pen and black ink, gray wash, over pencil. Gift of Mrs. Robert E. Blum in honor of Charles Ryskamp on his 10th anniversary as director, 1979.

Photography by Schecter Lee, 2009.

CUNY Graduate Center

34th–35th Street & Fifth Avenue

As of this newsletter's deadline many items were not yet available, but by the time you receive this you can see CUNY's complete roster of activities from January to spring 2010 by checking the web site www.gc.cuny.edu/events or by calling 212-817-8215. In the meantime, here are a few events:

Elebash Presents: Concerts and Conversations This is a new evening musical series, which started in the fall. Tickets are \$25 and are sold on line. The first concert of the 2010 series is Wednesday, February 24, 2010, "**Music of the Iraq War**." Check the web or phone for others.

Great Issues Forum The theme for this year is religion, and the spring program will focus on Islam.

Music in Midtown Elebash Recital Hall, Main Floor, FREE lunchtime concerts, Thursdays at 1 PM.

For details contact www.gc.cuny.edu/musicinmidtown.htm or call 212-817-8215 beginning in January. These are "Events" and although free, reservations are recommended.

Gotham Center for New York City History Forums Elebash Recital Hall, FREE, 6:30 PM. **For details about specific dates and topics check the web at www.cuny.edu/events or www.gothamcenter.org/forums.**

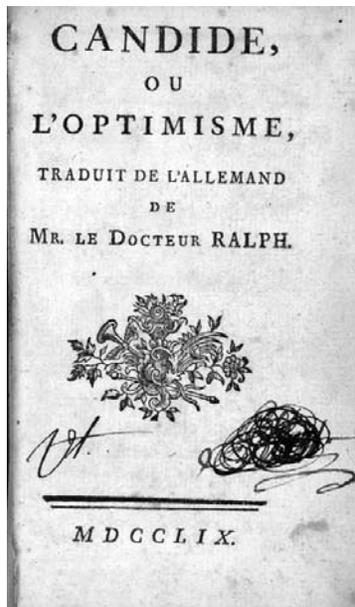
James Gallery Street Floor, Fifth Avenue and 35th Street Check the exhibit schedule at 212-817-7138.

The New York Public Library

42nd Street & Fifth Avenue

Mapping New York's Shoreline, 1609-2009, through June 26, 2010, Gottesman Exhibition Hall, Main Floor September 2009 marked 400 years since Henry Hudson sailed into New York harbor and up the Hudson River close to what is now Albany. This exhibition celebrates the Dutch accomplishments in the New York City region, especially along the waterways forming its urban watershed from the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound to the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. Items include maps, atlases, books, journals, broadsides, manuscripts, prints and photos from the Library's Map Division, augmented by samples from other New York library collections. In addition, a projected video demonstrates delicate conservation work done on a map and a document featured in this exhibit, as well as other modern technology surprises.

Candide at 250: Scandal and Success, through April 25, 2010, Wachenheim III Gallery, Main Floor This dynamic exhibit, commemorating the 250th anniversary of *Candide*, explores the legacy of Voltaire's famous satire. It features all seventeen of the known 1759 editions of *Candide*, works influenced or inspired by it, materials relating to the 1956 Broadway musical and contemporary versions in various media, such as audio excerpts from the original cast album of the Broadway musical. Voltaire's tale of *Candide's* youthful trials, travels and misadventures while searching for his beloved Cunegonde was a publishing sensation in Europe in 1759. The satirical treatment of religion, sexuality and political authority at that time made the work both a popular underground success and a target of censorship by the Vatican. In a brief video, the Library's President, Paul LeClerc, a Voltaire scholar, discusses his own perspective on this work, his personal collection of illustrated *Candide* editions and his success in bringing this collection to the Library.



The Rose Haggadah, March 25–April 18, 2010, McGraw Rotunda This innovative commission from the Rose family annually displays a unique artists' book at Passover time.

This Haggadah was presented to the Dorot Jewish Division by the Rose family in 2005. In three volumes it presents fifty years of Passover-themed artwork created by some of the most prominent American artists of the 20th century. Each year the Library shows an opening from one of the volumes, along with a video presentation of many other images from all three volumes. Work has already begun on a fourth volume.

For information about exhibits, lectures, tours, call 212-869-8089 or visit the web at www.nypl.org.

Scandinavia House

37th–38th Street & Park Avenue

This wonderful local cultural resource offers film series from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland; concerts; exhibits; family/children's activities; holiday events; the fabulous gift shop and Smörgås Chef restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, coffee/tea, and combination deals with certain films and other events (212-847-9747). Here are some events already scheduled for 2010:

Exhibit

Snøhetta Architectural Firm: architecture, landscapes and interiors, February 4–April 3, 2010 This award-winning and environmentally conscious architecture organization offers insights into the design and construction of its most important projects. Among them are Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt; the recently completed Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo; and the planned National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion in New York. Organized and initially presented by the National Museum-Architecture in Oslo, this show includes films, photographs, drawings, models and interactive learning devices.

Concerts

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel:

Northern Lights—Composers of the Far North, Thursday, January 21, 2010, 7:30 PM

Musical Pictures – Music inspired by visual images, Thursday, April, 15, 2010, 7:30 PM.

Note: Check details for ticket price and availability.

For information about specific activities and events available in January, visit Scandinavia House's extensive web site at www.scandinaviahouse.org. To receive ongoing information you can submit your email address by clicking on the right "Join the Scandinavia House e-list and receive weekly program updates." Or call 212-879-9779. Or even better, stop by in person.

One Person's Elegy for Doors Now Shut

by Susan B. Adams

With the closure of some idiosyncratic bistros and small, family-owned shops—the hardware stores and flower shops and pharmacies and taverns, which provided the blood to neighborhood life—Murray Hill has lost some of its small-town flavor. What follows is a highly selective paean to just a few of these losses. Somehow, it helps.

Chez Laurence, on Madison at 38th Street, was owned for most of its tenure by Larry Rosen and his French-born wife, Annie. One of the city's rare French diners, *Chez Laurence* was open from breakfast (delicious croissant, brioche and pain au chocolate) to dinner ("fine cuisine bourgeoise," which, roughly translated, means tasty, unfussy food at middle-class prices). The service could be slow, but the wait staff—mostly Eastern European—was young, personable and charming (especially Alicia and Johanna from Poland). And the tiny vest-pocket bar (behind a mirror from the patisserie counter) was the bistro's best-kept secret.

Caesar's, an Italian restaurant on 34th Street between Park and Madison, was so unassuming that it blended into the liquor store and the pizza joint which flanked it. The place's mantra, "I've walked by this place a zillion times and never knew it was here!" perhaps contributed to why it closed. But *Caesar's* had a loyal, friendly and boisterous bar crowd, while the dining room was always quiet. The mostly

Dominican wait staff welcomed regulars as if they were family, and you could always get a table (also perhaps why it closed). While more discerning (more Italian?) culinary tastes did not mourn its passing, it was, in the estimation of a visiting Upper West Sider, "a good, old-fashioned neighborhood joint."

Third Avenue Value Center and Pharmacy was a family-owned, family-run pharmacy on Third Avenue between 36th and 37th Streets. The owners knew and seemed to actually like their customers. And on its shelves you could find everything from shampoo to nuts, mascara to Mr. Clean, wrenches and radios and watches and eyeglasses to cutlery and kitty litter and those burning logs that plugged into the fireplace...and much, much more.

The Sheraton Russell—especially its book-lined bar off the lobby—felt like an English manor house. After repeated trips to a generous hot tray, one could sit back, lift a glass and reflect that, in this room, Paul Newman had a mid-life meltdown in the flick, "The Verdict." The Sheraton Russell saved its finest moments for the northeast blackout of 2003, a power outage on Thursday, August 14, which pitched parts of the northeast and midwest United States, as well as Ontario, Canada, into darkness. The hotel provided its guests—and their guests—to homespun comfort in the form of drinks, fruit and sandwiches, still remaining calm while chaos spun around outside.

Remember when there used to be (at least) two flower shops in Murray Hill? Yes, and they were only three blocks from each other: *Flowers by Angelo* at 322 Lexington (between 38th and 39th Street) and, going further back in time, *Tony's Greenery* on the corner of 36th and Third Avenue. And then there were none.

Flights of nostalgia can obscure the spirit and energy of the present, of course. That said, many Murray Hill-ers of a certain age cannot walk by the corner of 34th Street and Lexington Avenue without a slight sigh. That was the site, before the construction of *Opus Dei*, of the *Guardsman*, a pub like no other. The *Guardsman* was entered by pulling on the sword and scabbard that doubled as the doorknob. Inside, the long, dark narrow bar led to a small book-lined room with tables for light food and drinks. And behind that was a bocce court. The whole place emanated a welcoming atmosphere that reminded many of the television show, "Cheers." The joint was magic...in its downtrodden, outré way. 🍷

Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal)

Since 1864—A New York Landmark Church

209 Madison Avenue (at the corner of 35th Street)

(212) 689-6350

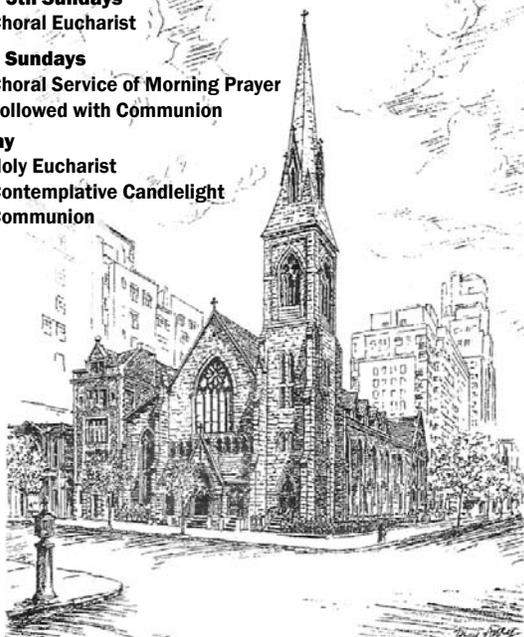
The Rev. J. Douglas Ousley, Rector

The Rev. Amanda Kucik Rinas, Assistant Minister

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays
11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist

2nd and 4th Sundays
11:00 a.m. Choral Service of Morning Prayer
Followed with Communion

Every Sunday
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Candlelight
Communion



Visit our web site for complete schedule and programs:
www.churchoftheincarnation.org or call (212) 689-6350

Bryant Park

This thriving, increasingly popular park has proved itself as a midtown oasis for all occasions: ice skating; sunbathing; free concerts and other entertainment; ping pong; chess; petanque; yoga, tai chi and knitting classes; the Reading Room; beautiful plantings; great food kiosks and the Carousel, to name only some of its fabulous offerings.

Check out what's happening at any given time of the year and after the cold winter look forward to the extensive array of outdoor activities at our own nearby Bryant Park. Visit the web at www.bryantpark.org and sign up on *My Bryant Park* to receive on-going information or call 212-768-4242. 



Us sing and dance, make faces and give flower bouquets, trying to be loved. You ever notice that trees do everything to git attention we do, except walk?
—Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*, 1982

Sussex Wines & Spirits
300 E. 42nd St. on 2nd Ave.
phone 212.867.5838
www.sussexwine.com
fast free local delivery

SUSSEX
WINES & SPIRITS

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

YVES DEFLANDRE ARCHITECT
117 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016
Tel: 212.889.5130 Cell: 917.470.1237
YDEFLANDRE@YDARCHITECT.COM



129 East 35th Street - MHNA Restoration Award 2009

June Home Tour of Murray Hill Apartments and Terraces

The Preservation & Design Committee will once again offer a tour of homes, gardens and terraces in June, 2010 (date and ticket price to be announced.)

These tours have been very popular in the past and we look forward to another educational tour of some of Murray Hill's finest homes.

If you would like to participate by opening your home for 3-4 hours one afternoon, please contact vparkhouse@gmail.com.

Watch your mail for more information about this tour. If you have questions in the meantime, please call us at 212-886-5867 and leave your name, phone number and a brief message.



Alone with myself
The trees bend to caress me
The shade hugs my heart.

—Candy Polgar

BELLMARC Real Estate

- Murray Hill Resident & 20-Year Neighborhood Association Member
- Top-Selling Broker since 1994; Real Estate Board of New York Member
- 20-Year Coop Board Member
- Owner of Landmark Townhouse
- Native New Yorker Serving Local and International Community

Anthony V. Miller
Vice President
212-517-9100 x 220

Bellmarc Real Estate
1015 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10075



www.bellmarc.com



The award recipients, with Yves Deflandre, Chairman, MHNA Preservation and Design Committee, front row, right.



Vin Cipolla,
President, Municipal Art Society

Restoration Awards Hail Contemporary Design and Heritage

by Yves Deflandre

Chairman, MHNA Preservation and Design Committee

When the Preservation and Design Committee began considering construction projects last spring, the effects of the recession were plainly evident, particularly in the real estate market. The number of recent construction projects in the neighborhood was clearly down and the possible Architectural Preservation awardees to choose from were limited. Nevertheless, a handful of projects stood out as meeting the committee's two key selection criteria: high-quality design and/or construction and sensitivity to the neighborhood's historic character.

This year four projects were honored in an October ceremony at the New York New Church on East 35th Street. Each building represented a distinct category of work: 129 East 35th Street, a classic brownstone restoration; Goodhue House at 20 East 35th Street, a co-op building undergoing preservation (façade maintenance and repairs); 231 East 35th Street, a redesign of a brownstone façade, and 45 Park Avenue, a new condominium building.

Each of these projects, the committee determined, was planned and executed in a way that visually enhances the streetscape. For the restoration at 129 East 35th, this meant reconstructing the original (missing) ornamental moldings around the windows and at the building's base. For the Goodhue, it meant making



MHNA President Diane Bartow, left, with Michael Musgrave and Liza Bailey of 129 East 35th Street.



Sylvia Kingston, left, Co-op Board President; Brian Kenny, Rose Associates and architect Karen Chen, 20 East 35th Street.

sure underlying structural deficiencies, such as rusting lintels, were refurbished, while adding new handrails designed to be in keeping with the original railings and, hence, the building's overall art deco style. For 231 East 35th Street, this meant rebuilding a façade that retains the basic composition elements of the original while employing materials that convey a minimalist aesthetic. And for 45 Park Avenue, this amounted to thoughtful planning that balanced the need for new amenities, such as larger windows and an attractive entrance, with an overall design that is distinctive yet blends in with the neighborhood.

This year a Community Award was also given to The Reverend Ronald Brugler and his wife Valerie for their outstanding and tireless devotion to bringing new life back to the historic New Church at 114 East 35th Street, following the successful rehabilitation of the building and its front garden in 2007. Today, many groups are able to enjoy the fruits of those efforts, but the work required to reach out to the public is also substantial and both Ron and Valerie have been instrumental in this regard. Their service to the community as well as their kindness and generosity towards others have been greatly appreciated over the years and, indeed, serve as an example to us all.

The ceremony closed with some reflections on preservation by Vincent Cipola, new Director of the Municipal Art Society of New York. An inspiring speaker, Mr. Cipola spoke eloquently on the good work of preservationists and recognized, in particular, the many years of hard work it took MNHA to secure official landmark status for Murray Hill. Events like MHNA's Restoration Awards attest to the organization's commitment to informing and educating local residents about the value and need for ongoing preservation of our neighborhood.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in the church's second-floor community space, which provided everyone an opportunity to meet the honorees of the evening and mingle with other residents over wine and cheese. All in all, it was an evening that celebrated the high value the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association places on our architectural heritage and the important role our historic environment plays in fostering and maintaining the sense of community.

Property photos by Yves Deflandre

Award Ceremony photos by Sami Steigmann



William Howell, left, Michael Chapman and architect Anthony DeSimone, 231 East 35th Street.



From left: Allen Goldman, President, SJP Residential Properties, Victor Cividini, Vice President, SJP; Marc DePaul and Eric McGovern, Pavarini McGovern, 45 Park Avenue.



Irma Worrell Fisher, left, Awards Program Chair and Valerie Brugler.

New Trustees Elected to Board

Jean Boddewyn recently retired from an academic career that spanned 50 years in the fields of international business, management and marketing where he played important leadership roles as President of the Academy of International Business (AIB) and as Dean of the AIB Fellows who are the top scholars in their fields. He served as Co-Chair of the Faculty Senate at Baruch College and as Coordinator of its International-Business Programs.

He came to this country as a Fulbright Scholar, published some 110 articles and reports, and wrote or edited 12 books on a variety of topics – including the results of an international survey for the World Health Organization. He also served as founding Editor of International Studies of Management & Organization for 33 years, working with hundreds of published scholars.

While at New York University he served as President of the tenants' association for I.M. Pei Silver Tower buildings where faculty resides. Since 1981, Jean has been an active shareholder at 372 Fifth Avenue, a co-op building where he succeeded in helping the Board improve various practices such as a multi-year planning system for major expenditures and a major remodeling of the lobby.

He has participated, since early 2009, in the monthly meetings of the MHNA Preservation and Design Committee led by Yves Deflandre and Claire Steffen.

Linda Froccaro, who has lived and worked in Murray Hill for over 25 years, has been a member of the Association since the days it was called the Murray Hill Committee. She has distributed mailings of the annual block party at her building; has volunteered annually at the Murray Hill Block Party; has stuffed envelopes many times in Richard Mincer's apartment; has participated for years in many of the trips/outings, as well as the Christmas parties when they were held at Trattoria Alba, and has introduced new members to the Association. In other words, she has been an active member.

She takes pride in her neighborhood and in the accomplishments of the Association, and looks forward to contributing to its ongoing purpose of making Murray Hill a better and safer place to live. She also personally knows two other Trustees -- her neighbor Maria Mireiter (who recommended her) and Marion Weingarten (her co-volunteer at the block parties).

Erlinda Nelson, who was born in Manila, immigrated to the U.S. in 1972. She has a BS in Chemical Engineering from M.I.T., Philippines. Her career started in New York as a programmer at NCR and continued at Bank Leumi. Later, The First Women's Bank hired her as Vice President of Technology.

She relocated to Massachusetts in 1988, where she worked as a management consultant for various Boston banks. Then, she joined State Street Bank and became Vice President of Client Technology. Later, she found her most-rewarding job as the Development Manager for the Asian American Civic Association (AACA), a non-profit organization committed to training immigrants to be reliable and productive citizens of the greater Boston community.

In 2005, Erlinda returned to New York where she worked briefly at Bank of America before moving to HSBC Bank, an international U.K.-based company. She is currently the business banker of the HSBC Turtle Bay branch.

In Boston, she was a member of The Women's Union, The City School, Boston Boys and Girls Club, and AACA. In New York, she participates in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ladies Circle, HSBC Asian Pacific Islander Committee, and Executive Women's Golf Association. She currently heads the advertising committee of MHNA.

Erlinda lives in Murray Hill with her husband Alex. They have two children, Jennifer and Alex Luke. She enjoys golf, theatre, travel, and she is an inveterate museum visitor.

Joshua Schwadron is a founding principal of Casabode Group LLC, a full-service real estate firm headquartered in New York City. Joshua has a wide range of experience in various real estate and legal transactions, specializing in complex consulting assignments requiring in-depth knowledge of many facets of real estate and legal transactions. Most recently, Joshua led Casabode's efforts in advising the turnaround and restructure of a \$1.5 billion multi-family Texas portfolio. During this 15-week onsite engagement, Joshua advised on potential dispositions, management of



HealthSmart of NY

550 Third Avenue @ 36th Street • 212.532.9300

Shop, Learn and be Healthy...

- Organic Deli & Juice Bar
- Organic Groceries & Produce
- Natural Household Products
- Macrobiotics & Gluten-Free Products
- Vitamins, Supplements & Probiotics
- Kosher Selections
- Free Weekly Seminars on Healthy Living
- Free Nutritionist Consultations
- Free Delivery
- Gift Baskets – Standard & Customized

** **Mention this ad for 10% off of your entire purchase, excluding sale items**

www.healthsmartofNY.com

15,000 residential apartments, buyout offers, bankruptcy proceedings and workout plans. He also worked on extensive financial analysis to determine the viability of more than 50 multi-family apartment complexes.

Joshua received his New York real estate license in 2001 at Newmark Knight Frank's commercial brokerage division and has been active in real estate ever since. Aside from his position at Casabode, Joshua is the partner in Schwadron Law Firm PLLC and prepared the launch of an internet startup in August 2009. As an attorney, Joshua has worked on real estate closings, advised on 1031 Exchanges, worked on lease restructuring negotiations, and actively practices in other areas of law.

Joshua is active in numerous charities and foundations, including serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Brooklyn Family Court division, where he assists foster children in getting placed in permanent homes.

In 2008, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer appointed Joshua to Manhattan Community Board Six, where he represents the board as its youngest member. Joshua is the vice-chairman of liquor licenses for the Business Affairs and Street Activities committee and also serves on the Education committee.

Joshua holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Accounting from Michigan's Ross School of Business. He earned his J.D. at Emory School of Law, and is now a member of the bar in New York, New Jersey and Florida. 

Area Doorman Receives Longevity Award

In a heartening example of the often-repeated but too-often ignored maxim, recognition comes to those who serve, we introduce Plinio Torres.



Plinio Torres

Mr. Torres, who has worked as a doorman at 120 East 36th Street for 29 years, was featured in the October 22 issue of *Our Town*. The weekly newspaper, which serves the East Side of Manhattan from Turtle Bay to Carnegie Hill, presented Mr. Torres with its Longevity Award.

Plinio, as he is affectionately known to residents, arrived in New York City from Puerto Rico at age 18. Now 62, he has made the daily commute from the Bronx, greeted visitors, befriended the co-op's children, and earned the ardent booster-ism of those he serves.

"He is just the nicest man," said Joelle Anderson, who has lived in the building since the Seventies. "Can you take a picture of him for the newsletter?"

Certainly, Mr. Torres' star turn in *Our Town* was a coup: complimentary copies of the weekly are distributed in more than 1,000 residential buildings and through community street boxes throughout the areas served. And there was a photo of him. 

Armenian Evangelical Church New York

152 East 34th Street, NY, NY 10016
Tel: 212-685-3177 • Fax: 212-889-8338

Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, PhD, DD

Founded in 1896, the AECNY, a Congregational Church affiliated with the United Church of Christ, is dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of the Armenia-American community, friends and neighbors in the metropolitan New York City area and around the world.

As a Congregation, we aim to provide a variety of ministries in Christian education, music, outreach and fellowship.

**Please join us on Sundays, at 11 a.m.
for Worship**



by **john chadwick**

*Specializing in lobby
and corridor design,
as well as upscale
residential projects.*

By appointment
7 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212.685.8900

A Matter of Diplomacy

With its proximity to the United Nations, it is no surprise that Murray Hill is bursting with international flavor. But would you believe that the neighborhood is home to no fewer than 17 missions and/or consulates to the UN?

The language of diplomacy speaks from 40th Street at Murray Hill's northern border to 36th Street on the south, from Third Avenue on the east to Madison Avenue on the west.

Or, in other words, from Estonia (Permanent Mission between 39th and 40th Street) to Armenia (Permanent Mission at 36th Street) to Romania (Consulate General on Third Avenue) to Haiti (Consulate General on Madison Avenue).

Or in the alphabetical translation: from A (Armenia, Austria) to S (Slovenia).

The site with, perhaps, the most volatile back story is the Permanent Mission of Cuba, 315 Lexington Avenue at 38th Street, which was renamed Brothers to the Rescue Corner (Hermanos a la Esquina de Rescate) by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in 1996 after the planes of four Cuban Americans were shot down by Castro's troops.

Certainly the most historically elegant presence is the residence of Consulate General of Poland in the De Lamar Mansion at 233 Madison Avenue. Poland bought the mansion in 1973 and has meticulously maintained the premises. When the cloak of a recent rehabilitation comes off, the

Polish Consulate will again greet passers-by with an evocative statue of the World War II resistance fighter Jan Karski sitting on a bench playing chess.

What follows is an unofficial guide to Murray Hill's diplomatic corps:

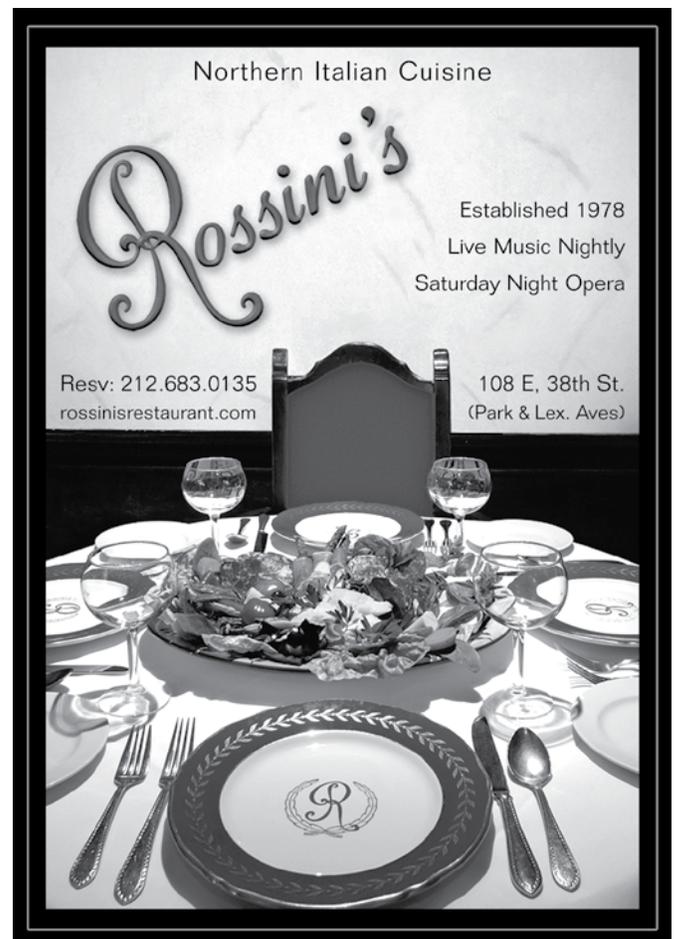
- Mission of the Republic of Armenia, 119 East 36th Street
- Mission of Austria, 600 Third Avenue (38th-39th Street)
- Mission of the Republic of Benin, 125 East 38th Street
- Permanent Mission of Chad, 129 East 36th Street
- Mission of Cuba, 315 Lexington Avenue at 38th Street
- Mission of El Salvador, 46 Park Avenue (36th-37th)
- Mission of the Republic of Estonia, 600 Third Avenue
- Mission of Guatemala, 57 Park Avenue (37th-38th)
- Mission of the Republic of Guinea, 140 East 39th Street
- Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 116 East 38th Street
- Mission of Romania, 573-577 Third Avenue (38th Street)
- Mission of the Republic of Rwanda, 124 East 39th Street
- Mission of the Republic of Slovenia, 600 Third Avenue
- Consulate General of Guinea, 140 East 39th Street
- Consulate General of Haiti, 271 Madison Avenue (39th-40th)
- Consulate General of Mexico, 27 East 39th Street
- Consulate General of Poland, 233 Madison Avenue (38th Street)
- Consulate General of Romania, 200 East 38th Street

*Congratulations to the
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
on its 50th Anniversary*

Sigrid Freundorfer Fine Art
(formerly at *The Kitano*)

790 Madison Avenue, at 67th Street
Suite 602
New York, NY 10065 (by appointment)
T: (212) 517-9700
E: sffa@earthlink.net

*Modern and contemporary paintings,
sculptures, and works on paper*



POPA Members Celebrate the Avenue

by John B. Chadwick, Jr.

On September 16, the Patrons of Park Avenue (POPA) and the Seven Park Avenue Corporation and Mr. and Mrs. John Genovese hosted a wine and cheese event on the Empire Roof Deck of Seven Park Avenue. The occasion honored members of the Boards of Directors and Property Managers of the Park Avenue buildings who have supported POPA this year.

The Patrons of Park Avenue, a committee of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, was founded in 1982 to restore and beautify the Park Avenue Malls in Murray Hill. Every year under the direction of its Founding Chair, Irma Worrell Fisher, POPA asks that each of the buildings that face Park Avenue contribute at least \$1,000 per building to help support the maintenance, planting and general upkeep of the malls.

Whenever you see any work taking place in the malls—a tree planting, say, or red tulips or pink begonias blooming, or trash being cleaned, or dead trees being removed—you are seeing the POPA in action. And remember, this happens solely through the efforts of POPA.

If you would like to contribute or participate in the Patrons of Park Avenue activity program, please contact John B. Chadwick, Jr., POPA Chairman, Seven Park Avenue, Apt. 14D, New York, N.Y. 10016. Telephone: 212-685-8900.

The 27 buildings that have so generously supported POPA are:

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2 Park Avenue | 40 Park Avenue | 59 Park Avenue | 77 Park Avenue |
| 4 Park Avenue | 41 Park Avenue | 66 Park Avenue | 80 Park Avenue |
| 7 Park Avenue | 45 Park Avenue | 67 Park Avenue | 90 Park Avenue |
| 10 Park Avenue | 48 Park Avenue | 70 Park Avenue | 99 Park Avenue |
| 15 Park Avenue | 49 Park Avenue | 71 Park Avenue | |
| 16 Park Avenue | 50 Park Avenue | | |
| 17 Park Avenue | 52 Park Avenue | | |
| 20 Park Avenue | 55 Park Avenue | | |
| 35 Park Avenue | 58 Park Avenue | | |



POPA Chairman John B. Chadwick, Jr. and Mrs. John (Laurie) Genovese.

Congratulations to MHNA on its 50th Anniversary.

Walk NYC Podiatry, PC is proud to join the Murray Hill neighborhood and serve our community for many years to come.



Amnon Barnea, DPM
Associate, American College
of Foot and Ankle Surgeons

15 Park Avenue
at 35th Street
New York, NY 10016

Phone: 212-545-9255
Fax: 212-545-9257

Web site:
www.WalkNYCPodiatry.com

Prudential Douglas Elliman

"Knowledge is Power"

To meet the challenges of today's Real Estate Market, the broker you choose makes the difference.

By choosing Estelle and Gail you gain the full power of PDE's most experienced brokers. If you would like a complementary market evaluation of your property or have questions about the current environment, please feel free to call or e-mail us and we will respond immediately.



ESTELLE MEISTER
Vice President, Associate Broker
Office: 212.350.2275
917.450.3090
emeister@elliman.com
Long Term MH Resident



GAIL BOMZE
Licensed Real Estate Sales Associate
Office: 212.350.2294
917.355.2064
gbomze@elliman.com

Happy 50th Anniversary MHNA

The 2009 Annual Meeting: Alive With the Sounds of Traffic

The sound of car horns seeped inside the Armenian Evangelical Church during the MHNA General Meeting on September 24. The insistent honking probably had more to do with street closures and tie-ups occasioned by that week's meeting of the U.N. General Assembly and President Barack Obama's presence there. But for the residents of Murray Hill attending the Association's annual meeting, traffic issues are more personal and certainly remain the most vexing challenge to the neighborhood's quality of life.

Of course, the effects on Murray Hill of the struggling economy (e.g., the closure of loyal small businesses; incidents of crime on Third Avenue), as well as concerns about education (overcrowding at P.S. 116), infrastructure (last year's dirty water) and graffiti (MHNA's sponsorship of a new law, now in the City Council, to streamline reporting and facilitate cleanup) were addressed as well.

Yes, President Diane Bartow extolled and expressed compassion for the area's merchants—"The small business is an important component of this neighborhood. We need them! We need the dry cleaner, the small hardware store, the shoe repair, the restaurant, and the fish market..." And the President recognized Shirley Mac Leod's efforts in counteracting graffiti—"Actually, I call this the Shirley Law." And she welcomed the evening's guest speakers, Dan Garodnick, one of Murray Hill's three City Council

members and Kate Seeley-Kirk, Chief of Staff for City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

And in the Association's continuing educational series about city government, Fred Arcaro, MECA president, spoke about the history and function of the City Council, New York's legislative body. See excerpts from his talk on page 22.

But in the final analysis, traffic was again Topic A, dominating comment as well as questions from the floor. It was President Bartow's focus. "The biggest problem we still face as a community is traffic and transportation issues," she said.

"These are a few of the issues we continue to work on: Now that we have bus lanes on 34th Street, why do the buses use 35th? Why have we not received from the DOT the requested information on congestion and accidents on Park Avenue after the closing of the southbound tunnel?" she asked. "This change is not working, and now it is causing a major public safety issue. Why do we have all the limo services using Murray Hill as a dispatch zone? Why do we still have muni-meters on both sides of the streets?"

"This association started with the Midtown Tunnel," Bartow continued, "and we are still fighting the good fight to maintain a safe neighborhood. I think everyone forgets that we are the gateway to the city, and we have tunnels to the east and west. So, again: 'Shame, Shame, DOT.'" 

Frontier Congratulates MHNA on your 50th!

THE FRONTIER

Breakfast ★ Lunch ★ Dinner

593 Third Avenue New York, New York 10016
212 • 685 • 6340

Villa Berulia

RISTORANTE
Fine Italian Cuisine

107 East 34th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
www.VillaBerulia.com

Tel. (212) 689-1970
Fax (212) 689-8823
Email VillaBerulia@yahoo.com

JOANNE KAPLAN
Professional Organizer

Organize your Time, Home and Office,
Closets, Drawers, Files, Papers,
Children's Rooms and Schoolwork...

Free Consultation

212-686-1188

neatknick51@yahoo.com

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO MHNA!



MAX NASS INC.
Jewelry by Hand

118 E. 28TH ST. NYC 10016
PARIMAL S. SHAH (PERRY)
president

WE RESTRING, RESTORE OLD JEWELRY
& REPLACE WATCH BATTERYS

212.679.8154 • 212.685.5268 • 646.331.4959

EST. 1957

LIC # 0788975

M-F 9:30-6

SAT. 9:30-4

Transportation Update

by Marisa Bulzone

Traffic, exhaust fumes, idling buses, honking horns: transportation has such an impact on our quality of life in Murray Hill. Here is a wrap-up of some issues that we are monitoring at MHNA.

Park Avenue Tunnel

MHNA continues its efforts to convince the DOT to return two-way traffic to the Park Avenue Tunnel. At the November meeting of the Transportation Committee of Community Board 6, the DOT made its position clear: their primary concern in allowing only northbound traffic in the tunnel is one of public safety. Since there have been no pedestrian fatalities since the change was made, DOT considers its decision successful.

Complicating the issue is the fact that the 33rd Street entrance of the tunnel falls within Community Board 5, while the underground traffic lanes fall within Community Board 6. (We couldn't make this up—please see the map below showing Community Board boundaries.) Efforts are underway to arrange a meeting of the transportation committees of each board to find a solution.



CB5, the unshaded area to the left, wraps around CB6, shaded, from the north side of 40th Street west to the west side of Madison Avenue, south to the south side of 34th Street. The southern entrance/exit of the Park Avenue tunnel at East 33rd Street is clearly in CB5, which voted for closing the exit and therefore the southbound traffic lane against the objections of MHNA and CB6.

Tour Buses

No discussion of transit problems would be complete without mention of tour buses. At the aforementioned public forum, it was noted that each bus that carries tourist groups into our city not only brings much-needed revenue but also takes the place of 50 cars that might otherwise be clogging our streets. We need to find ways to support the commerce they bring while maintaining our quality of life. Two bills currently before the City Council will address parts of this problem: Bill 742 would eliminate the use of microphones by tour guides, and require the use of headphones by passengers; Bill 836 would allow city regulation of tour bus routes, which will help keep buses off narrower side streets.

34th Street Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis

The DOT, in collaboration with the MTA, is sponsoring a project to implement new or enhanced transit service along 34th Street. An Alternative Analysis is underway to consider transit options for our main crosstown artery. The alternatives being considered are:

- do nothing
- minor bus improvements (such as curbside fare payments)
- bus rapid transit (creating even greater separation of bus lanes)
- streetcars
- light rail
- automated guideway transit (elevated train lines)
- heavy rail (underground crosstown trains)

The MHNA Trustees have expressed their opposition to the light rail and any other surface transportation that will force additional automobile traffic onto our neighborhood side streets. The Association will be holding further meetings with the DOT to make sure that neighborhood impact is given utmost consideration in this analysis.

Bus Idling

We continue to be plagued with the problem of idling buses and the resulting pollution of exhaust fumes and engine noise. Now, thanks to changes in the reporting rules of 311, if you see something, say something. If you see an idling bus—be it a tour bus, a private commuter coach, or a city bus—call 311 to report it. The 311 operator will create a page for the reported location, identifying it as an idling “hot spot,” and will help the DOT and the DEP to focus their investigation efforts. And at a recent public forum devoted to bus-related issues, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn announced the formation of an inter-agency task force, which will meet monthly to review the reported hot spots and ensure that enforcement is taking place. 

Turkeys with HONEY to Go

At 12 noon on Wednesday, November 25, volunteers from the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association and the Church of the Incarnation gathered in the church's Parish House on Madison Avenue and 35th Street to assemble 125 Thanksgiving dinners for homebound seniors in the neighborhood. This program is organized under the auspices of H.O.N.E.Y. —Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round. Sarge's Delicatessen provided turkey with all the trimmings, as the deli has done every year since the program's partnership with Incarnation began in 2004.

For an hour volunteers dished out roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, peas and carrots, apple sauce, slices of pumpkin or apple pie, apple juice and small decorated bags of candy. Then they fanned out to deliver the goods to seniors cared for by the Stein Senior Center on East 24th Street. The delivery area ran between 23rd and 42nd Streets, Madison Avenue to the East River.

Inquirers Class at the Church of the Incarnation

Incarnation clergy lead a course for those who are interested in learning about the Episcopal Church's understanding of the Christian faith. The sessions can serve as either an introductory or a refresher course on the Bible, church history, theology, liturgy, ethics, and prayer in the Anglican tradition. Along with satisfying intellectual and spiritual curiosity of people from any—or no—religious background, the class prepares individuals who wish to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church.

Classes are tentatively set to begin on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:00 PM at the Incarnation Parish House, 209 Madison Avenue. The series will conclude on March 3, and confirmation will be held on Sunday, March 7, when Bishop Katherine Roskam, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, will be visiting Incarnation. There is no cost. To register please contact the Church Office, 212-689-6350.

NEW 30min circuit class!!
@
**ABSOLUTE
FITNESS**

Every WEDNESDAY@12PM
And FRIDAY@11:30am

Intense 30min circuit class
w/ certified trainer! Limited number.
By appt. only!
Call JANA cell#646-643-6138
Cost: \$10 Clients \$5
Where: 124 E40th.st., suite#201, NY

First class
!!!FREE!!!

Putting on the Lights

The Park Avenue Malls took on their Christmas and Chanukah colors with the annual tree-lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 6, followed on Friday, December 11 by the lighting of the first candle of the menorah at 35th Street.

Each holiday season since 1945, lights have adorned foliage on Park Avenue from 34th to 94th Street as a memorial to the men and women who fought and died to preserve American freedom. In 1976, the Murray Hill Committee planted Norway spruce trees on the malls from 34th to 39th.

John Dickerson again led the illuminati. For the record, each tree requires two hours to arrange the six-to eight strands of lights — that's 600–800 bulbs per tree. The topiary, four horses and one lion, require fewer lights but more care. It takes three hours to “dress” each animal.

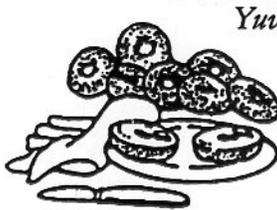
The Rev. J. Douglas Ousley of the Church of the Incarnation and the Rev. George W. Rutler of the Church of Our Saviour delivered a holiday blessing in front of Scandinavia House at 38th Street and Park.

Afterward during the MHNA holiday party at Byblos, we learned that this year would be John Dickerson's last as our “Maestro of Lights.” John will leave New York for the Caribbean island of Martinique, where he will run his father's rum and sugarcane business on the family plantation. John has worked tirelessly for Murray Hill since he moved here in 1992 (he has been an MHNA trustee since 2004), but it is his sweet, gentle and generous nature—with exciting operatic detours! —that we will remember.

John was showered with applause for his yeoman service. The sadness of his leave-taking was partially lifted by the Byblos belly dancer who asked Trudy Bartow, the president's daughter, to join her. Trudy happily agreed and showed off her silky moves.

On December 11, the first candle on the menorah was lit at sunset, with Rabbi Joel Goor of the Metropolitan Synagogue presiding. Chanukah, the Jewish “festival of lights,” dates back to 165 BCE, when Jews in Jerusalem defied the Greeks and reclaimed their temple. When the Jews prepared to rededicate the Holy Temple by relighting the “eternal flame,” they only had enough consecrated oil to burn for one day. Yet, the oil lasted for eight days – which was considered a miracle. And now Jewish families light eight candles in the menorah for the eight days of Chanukah. 🕯️

DANIEL'S BAGELS
Yuval • Arye



Finest Bakery Products

- Hot Bagels • Danish
- Croissants • Cakes
- Muffins • Cookies

All Baked On Premises

569 3rd Ave., NYC • 212 972-9733 • Fax 212 681-9190

Open 7 Days

Eat in - Take Out - Catering

Greenmarket Goodness

by Marisa Bulzone

This is the first in a series of articles that will feature recipes prepared with produce and other foods available at Murray Hill's greenmarket.

Are you a locavore? That is: someone who eats food grown or produced locally, near where you live? Supporting local merchants is good for our economy and good for the environment—and for much of the year our very own greenmarket makes it easy to take advantage of the natural bounty that surrounds New York. Located at the southeast corner of 33rd Street and Second Avenue from August 1 through November 28 the Murray Hill Market provides great veggies, fruit, cheeses, baked goods and other delicious foods, all from local farmers.

Although our market is closed for the winter months, here are two favorite recipes that feature vegetables available all year.

Alton Brown's Eggplant Pasta

This recipe is featured in Food Network star Alton Brown's new cookbook, *Good Eats: The Early Years*. At its peak in the late summer and early fall, you will find eggplant year round—and this dish is a light, quick take on the classic flavors of eggplant Parmesan.

- 1 large eggplant (about 1 pound)
- kosher salt
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon minced garlic
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 small tomato, seeded and chopped
- 3 Tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 Tablespoon fresh basil leaves, finely sliced
- 2 Tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 Tablespoon breadcrumbs

Peel the eggplant, leaving 1 inch of skin at the top and bottom. Slice the eggplant lengthwise into ¼-inch-thick slices (a mandoline works great for this).

Place the eggplant slices on a cooling rack set over the sink and sprinkle generously with kosher salt. Wait 15 minutes, flip, sprinkle again, and wait another 15 minutes. Rinse thoroughly under cool water and gently squeeze out excess water. Place on paper towels

and pat dry, then cut the slices into ¼-inch-wide strips so that they resemble linguine.

Heat a 10-inch sauté pan over medium-high heat and add the oil. When it shimmers, add the garlic and red pepper flakes and toss for 10 seconds. Add the eggplant and toss to coat. Add the tomato and toss for 15 to 20 seconds. Add the cream and toss for another 10 seconds. Finish with the basil and Parmesan. Transfer to a serving dish, top with breadcrumbs, toss, and serve immediately.

Serves two.

Adapted from Good Eats: The Early Years, by Alton Brown. Published in 2009 by Stewart, Tabori & Chang; used by permission.

Sautéed Rainbow Chard

Swiss chard is another healthy vegetable that is available all year round. Actually a member of the beet family, it is grown for its large crinkly leaves and celery-like stalks. The rainbow chard variety features stems in all colors of, well, the rainbow. Prepare Swiss chard as you would spinach or any other leafy green vegetable. Here is MHNA President Diane Bartow's easy method.

- 1 bunch rainbow Swiss chard
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- pinch of nutmeg

Wash and dry the chard. Separate the leaves from the stems; tear the leaves into large pieces and set aside. Chop the stems into 1-inch pieces.

Heat a 10-inch sauté pan over medium heat and add the oil. When the oil begins to shimmer, add the garlic and red pepper flakes. Add the chard stems and sauté until just tender.

Add the chard leaves and toss to coat with the oil. Sauté until the leaves turn bright green and are just wilted. Sprinkle a pinch of nutmeg over the greens, toss, and serve.

Do you have a favorite Green Market recipe to share? Send it to us at Info@murrayhillnyc.org. For more information on year-round and city-wide green markets, contact the Council on the Environment of New York City at 212 788-7476 or www.cenyc.org. 

Open 7 Days

BYBLOS RESTAURANT

*Middle Eastern Cuisine
Complete Lunch & Dinner
Private Room Cocktail Lounge*

200 East 39th Street (cor. of 3rd Ave.) New York, NY 10016
Reservation: (212) 687-0808 Fax: (212) 490-3417
website: www.byblosny.com

Congratulations, MHNA, on your 50th Anniversary!

FINE ART and ANTIQUES PURCHASED

MAGGIE MILGRIM

Buying from Murray Hill residents for 15 years

Turn family treasures you no longer want
into extra money

Call 212.447.0572
for appointment in my office or in your home

Inside the City Council: It's Not Easy Becoming a Law

Upon request, Fred Arcaro, the MECA president, delivered a speech about the history and function of the City Council, at the MHNA/MECA joint General Meeting on September 24. Excerpts from that speech follow.

The New York City Council can be traced back to Dutch colonial days. In 1625, New Amsterdam was founded and incorporated as a city under a charter issued by the Dutch West India Company. Through the years, this local law-making body has had different names: "Council of Legislators" (1625); "Common Council" (early 18th century); "Board of Aldermen" (1898). In 1938, the City Council took its current name under the new City Charter.

The 1938 City Charter also mandated that the City Council share its power with a newly created legislative body called the Board of Estimate, which was given the responsibilities for budgets and land-use decisions, including approval of all capital projects, their designs, contracts and franchises. In addition, the Board of Estimate set rates for the City's water usages and sewer services, and approved tax abatements.

Then in 1989 the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Board of Estimate violated the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution, the one-person, one-vote mandate. In response, the new City Charter abolished the Board of Estimate and provided for the redrawing of the City Council along district lines to increase minority representation on the Council. The 1989 City Charter also granted the City Council all powers that the Board of Estimate had.

The 1989 City Charter also increased the number of Council Members from 35 to 51.

The current breakdown of City Council members is as follows:

- * Brooklyn 16
- * Queens 14
- * Manhattan 10
- * Bronx 8
- * Staten Island 3

Members of the City Council are overwhelmingly Democratic, with 46 Democrats, 3 Republicans and 1 from the Working Families Party. City Council members currently receive \$112,500 a year in base salary and serve a maximum of three four-year terms. The Public Advocate presides over the Council's "Stated Meetings" (once every two weeks to introduce and pass bills); otherwise, the speaker presides.

The City Council is entrusted with law-making responsibilities, and for a bill to become law in New York City it must wend its way through an arduous 11-step process. When the bill lands on the Mayor's desk at Step 7, the legislative dance heats up:

- 7) the Mayor can choose to sign or veto the bill; whereupon
- 8) if the Mayor signs the bill, it immediately becomes a local law and is entered into the City's Charter or Administrative Code, but
- 9) if the Mayor vetoes the bill, it is sent back to City Council, which has 30 days to override the Mayor's veto by a vote of two-thirds of the Council (at least 34 members) and, finally,
- 10) if the veto is overridden, the bill becomes law; or
- 11) if the Mayor does nothing for 30 days, the bill is considered approved automatically.

Suffice it to say, laws don't come easy in New York City. ☐



**718 SECOND AVE.
(BET. 38 and 39)
NEW YORK, N.Y.**

**JOSE LARIÑO
ENRIQUE TORRES**

**TEL. 889-6680
FAX. 213-9219**

PASTEUR PHARMACY

**53 EAST 34TH ST.
NY, NY 10016
TEL. 212-683-3838
FAX. 212-684-0357
FAX. 212-679-3123**

**806 LEXINGTON AVE.
CORNER 62 / LEX.
NY, NY 10021
TEL. 212-838-2500
FAX. 212-888-3128**

**LEON TARASENKO, RPH
MAGGIE MAVROMATIS, RPH
STEVEN SCHIMMEL, RPH**

**DAVID PEDREIRA
212-683-0408
PASTPHARM@AOL.COM**

"Which independent school is suited for your child?"

**Annette Welsh
Coach
Preschool through Lower School**

**Phone: 1-212-799-5139
E-mail: weiste7@aol.com**

Office Hours By Appointment

DR. IRENE I. SOIKA
*Diplomate, American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics
Podiatric Medicine and Surgery*

137 East 36th St., Suite 10
New York, NY 10016

Telephone : (212) 889-6663
Fax: (212) 889-5354



Caveat Computer

by Joe W. Di Domenico

In the days of snake-oil salesmen, it was pretty easy to put one over on an unsuspecting “fish.” Communication in those days was slow and unreliable, oftentimes downright false. A lot of bottles of snake oil were sold and a lot of money was made by con men, but other than the loss of a dollar or two, no real harm beyond disappointment was done to the gullible souls who believed their aches would go away with a simple application of the “magic elixir.”

These days it seems the fishers are back—preying on those of us who are too trusting of humanity. It’s called “phishing” now, and the applications aren’t liquids in bottles: they’re computer programs that can insidiously invade your system. These can wreak varying amounts of havoc ranging all the way from monitoring your computer use for the purpose of trying to sell you something akin to snake oil, to the extreme damage-inflicting worms and viruses that can steal your personal information and rake in much larger amounts of your cash than the 19th-century snake-oil salesmen ever dreamed of. Indeed, houses and fortunes can be lost.

We all want to believe in humanity. We all want to think that others will treat us with the respect and decency that we deserve. Fortunately there are only a few—comparatively—who turn to nefarious methods to get rich quick at our expense.

A rule of thumb for keeping safe in the modern world of Internet communication is “Trust No One!” Not even thy brethren. I once got an e-mail from my brother with an attachment that I opened without hesitation: it was from my brother after all, and we have always been on very good terms. The attachment carried a computer virus but fortunately my anti-virus program disabled it and my computer wasn’t harmed. My brother had been passing on this virus unwittingly to nearly everyone in his e-mail address book. His anti-virus program was out of date.

Trusting no one. It seems cold and heartless: kin are kin, friends are friends, but whoever they are, if they let *their* computer security lapse they might be spreading the germs of a virus without knowing it.

Another very well known, but often overlooked, fact of life is that usually nothing is free and anything that seems too good to be true probably is. I recently received an e-mail from a friend in Florida, someone who has worked as a computer programmer in the past, informing me that I could get a free Sony Ericsson laptop computer if I forwarded the message to eight people. If I forwarded it to twenty-five people, I would get a high-end, very sophisticated laptop with every feature I would ever need and a whole bunch more that I probably wouldn’t. Of course I was immediately skeptical, but I was also dumbfounded that my friend fell for it. A quick and easy check at www.snopes.com for “free Sony Ericsson laptop”

proved the message to be a hoax. You should bookmark the site www.snopes.com and use it frequently. (I even felt silly bothering to check the laptop message, but I wanted to forward the link to that page to my friend.)

The real problem with the free-laptop message is that it could very easily have been carrying a virus and I could happily, hopefully, futilely—and furtively—been passing on the message and its virus to eight, twenty-five or more of my friends and family. And from there, exponentially, the numbers would reach in the thousands.

For that matter, *any message you receive that urges you to forward it on to everyone in your address book should be immediately considered suspect: you owe it to yourself and your followers to check with www.snopes.com to see if what you’re spreading is a false rumor or a hoax! Save yourself the embarrassment of sending a message warning about the sky falling: know what you’re talking about before you pass the information along.*

Along with trusting no one, if you haven’t already, you need to locate, install *and keep updating* a reliable anti-virus program. There are hundreds of them available, many of them free and downloadable, but if you don’t have one they won’t do you any good. Keeping them updated—something that will occur probably two or three times a week or more—might seem an inconvenience, but it’s not nearly as inconvenient as having your entire savings drained or your eight-hundred-page *Great American Novel* disappear forever because a worm or virus ate it.

As important as up-to-date anti-virus programs are, there’s nothing more valuable than a sense of “street smarts” over the Internet, not just with e-mail but with web sites as well. If someone approached you on the street and offered to make you rich if you gave them \$25 you most likely would laugh and walk away. Remember that when you’re surfing. Leave the snake oil to the snakes-in-the-grass who would take advantage of your trusting good nature. 



The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

—Nelson Henderson

10% Discount with this Ad

Daisy Hair Design
Full Service Salon

567 Third Avenue, 3fl
bet. 37th & 38th St.
New York, NY 10016

t: 212-867-5114
f: 212-867-7940

daisyhairdesign@yahoo.com





Michael Chapman, left, with Busser Howell.
Photo: Sami Steigmann

Busser Howell—continued from page 1

Returning to Ohio, Busser began painting the farms and courthouses of his childhood. One of the highlights of that period was his restoration of the 1808 Overfield Tavern, now transformed into a museum. But New York, the center of the art world, beckoned, and in 1995, he moved east, settling in Murray Hill soon after.

Busser lost most of his sight at the age of 15—due to an overdose of cortisone, which resulted in secondary glaucoma. But he learned to cope, and blindness has never been a major hindrance for him.

“Vision is centered in the brain,” he says. “Mentally, I see every stroke that I paint.” Although he has been totally blind for the last 20 years, he reads voraciously, using recorded books and a talking computer. He is also writing a book, *Perceiving Art Without Sight*, about blind artists.

Along with Michael, who is studying for his PhD in physiotherapy at NYU, Busser enjoys walking around the neighborhood and greeting friends in local restaurants.

“I love Murray Hill,” he says. “It’s like a town in Ohio, but without the stuffiness.” 

Busser Howell is represented by the Phoenix Gallery in Chelsea, where he will have a one-man show in May, 2010. From July through September 2010 his work will be on view at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. Members of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association may arrange for a private viewing by e-mailing busserhowell@gmail.com.

Ravelle Brickman is a business writer who teaches at NYU.



Busser Howell in his studio.

Photo: Sami Steigmann



We all travel the milky way together, trees and men... trees are travellers, in the ordinary sense. They make journeys, not very extensive ones, it is true: but our own little comes and goes are only little more than tree-wavings—many of them not so much.

—John Muir, *Scribner’s Monthly*, November, 1878