

FACES OF MURRAY HILL

Jill Starishevsky: Prosecutor, Parent and Children's Book Author

by Ravelle Brickman

This is the first in a series of profiles of people who live on the Hill. Future articles will focus on local artists, musicians, merchants, teachers, actors, gardeners and the like. Send your suggestions for future profiles to Murray Hill Life at info@murrayhillnyc.org



Jill Starishevsky

When Ted and Jill Starishevsky left the maternity ward of NYU-Langone Medical Center five years ago, there was no question about how they would get home. As residents of Murray Hill, they simply walked down the tree-lined streets, carrying their newborn baby and greeting the neighbors along the way.

"Everyone stopped us to offer congratulations

on Allison's arrival," said Jill, still marveling that this could happen within view of the Empire State Building. She and Ted, both Assistant District Attorneys, had moved to Murray Hill the year they were married, in 2002. Allison was born in 2004 and Rebecca followed in 2006.

Today, the family is a fixture in the neighborhood as well as on the national book circuit, where Jill's first book, *My Body Belongs to Me*, released this month, has already received many favorable reviews.

The idea for the book began eight years ago, when Jill was working on child abuse cases in the Sex Crimes Bureau at the Bronx D.A.'s office. Interviewing young victims, she was shocked to find that most of these children, fearing that they

would not be believed, did not tell their parents. They kept quiet, allowing the abuse to continue.

Five years later, while on maternity leave, Jill began to re-search the subject. She learned that there were many books aimed at adults, but none for small children. "Pedophiles were getting away with the most horrible crimes, all under the cloak of secrecy!" The way to stop the abuse, she decided, was to teach the children to report untoward advances, knowing that their parents would be proud.

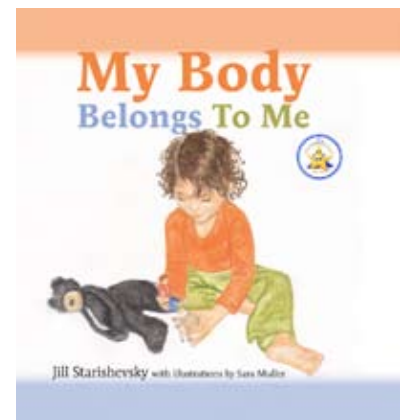
The result is a small book that packs a huge punch. Written for ages 3-up, the rhyming text is illustrated by Sara Muller and contains tips for parents and teachers. Copies are available wherever books are sold.

Although the family has outgrown their one-bedroom apartment, they hope to remain in Murray Hill.

Ted is treasurer of their co-op, and he and Jill are active in the community. Some of their favorite activities include taking the children to play at St. Vartan's Park, visiting the Children's Arboretum at Rusk Institute and dining out at the many family-friendly restaurants that line the streets of Murray Hill.

"All we need is a larger apartment," Jill said with a laugh. She and Ted are now looking for a 2-bedroom co-op or condo so that they can settle down for good in the neighborhood they call home.

Ravelle Brickman is a freelance business writer who teaches at NYU.



Traffic Snarl on Park Avenue? Your Opinion, Please

What are your thoughts on the DOT's decision to close the southbound lane of the Park Avenue Tunnel and its effect on traffic in Murray Hill? Your neighbors want to know.

Roy Strickland and Abby Bergman have been tireless in urging the DOT to reverse its decision, claiming that the

added vehicular traffic on Park Avenue has raised noise, safety and quality-of-life concerns. Ellen Propp, who presently represents the interests of MHNA on the Community

Murray Hill Life

A PUBLICATION OF THE
MURRAY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD
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Design & Production

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Printing

JM Offset
212-689-1617

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

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and please use the subject line
Murray Hill Life.



From the President's Desk

Diane Bartow

The opening of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association 2009–2010 session this month will be significant since we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of what began life as the Murray Hill Committee in 1960. Special events are being planned in 2010.

At the Annual Meeting, which will be held on September 24, starting at 7:00 PM, we will continue our “city” education for members. This year we will feature the City Council, with our three council members. Yes, we have three City Council members—Speaker Christine Quinn, Dan Garodnick and Rosie Mendez—and all of them will explain how the council works on what is going on in Murray Hill. You will be able to ask questions and get answers. Mark the date and join your neighbors at this very important meeting.

Look for your mailings or on the Murray Hill web site for information about this and additional coming events, such as the Preservation and Design awards presentation in October.

I want to thank all the trustees and volunteers of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association for their dedication to our mission: to continue to make Murray Hill a highly desirable place to live.

All the committees continue to work hard on the issues facing Murray Hill, from greening to transportation and traffic. Volunteer for one of our many committees. Your voice could make a difference. If you like gardening, join the Greening Committee. Interested in preservation issues? Join the Preservation and Design committee. Transportation give you pause? Join the Quality of Life/Transportation/Traffic committee. Enjoy planning events? We have that too! There really is something for everyone, and everyone counts.

The most important thing you can do is to be a member and introduce Association membership to a friend. Remember, there are no paid positions. All dollars raised go back into the community. Every dollar! See your membership dollars at work on flowers, ivy, trees, tree guards and neighborhood gatherings.

I love Murray Hill because it has everything. On a recent mini vacation, we visited the Morgan Library, toured a church, saw an exhibit at the CUNY Graduate Center, enjoyed a picnic lunch in Bryant Park (our backyard) and dinner at a terrific Murray Hill restaurant. Travel time was a breeze, no lines and just a wonderful, wonderful day! All this right in our neighborhood. Try it: you will love it too!

See you at the Annual Meeting.

Diane

Be sure to vote in the Primary and General Elections!

Your vote for our City Council Members and Mayor will help to ensure continuing support for the issues that affect Murray Hill.

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Nothing has changed on the development of the First Avenue Properties since the last newsletter. Given the economic situation, I do not see any development for at least three years. Similarly, there is nothing new to report on the lawsuit relating to Sheldon Solow, the developer of the First Avenue Properties, and New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation in which he is entitled to \$250 million in tax credits under the Brownfield Cleanup Program. Citibank's lawsuit against Mr. Solow, claiming he was in default on \$85 million in loans tied to the First Avenue Properties, is still in the courts.

There is also nothing to report on 5 Tudor City's 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. After Judge James A. Yates denied reconsideration of the case, Evelyn Konrad, the attorney for 5 Tudor City, filed an appeal. The appeals judge has yet to accept the case.

Department of Buildings Announces New Procedures

The New York City Department of Buildings has announced procedures effective March 9, 2009, which increase both the information available about new buildings and the opportunities for community review of building approvals. In addition, a 45-day formal public challenge period will be implemented to provide clarity for developers about when and how a project can move forward. By giving the public a greater voice in the development process, the Department's intent is to better identify proposed buildings that do not comply with zoning laws.

The New Formal Challenge Process works as follows:


- **Initial Public Challenge Period:** When the Department approves zoning plans for any new building or major enlargement, the building diagrams (called ZD1 forms) and other associated documents will be uploaded to the Department's web site. New Yorkers will then have 45 calendar days to review and challenge the zoning approval. Once a permit is issued, builders will be required to post the permit at the project location within three days of its issuance, so that the public is aware of the proposed development.
- **Initial Zoning Challenge Review:** After the initial public challenge period ends, the Borough Commissioner will conduct a full review of the construction plans and render decisions on every challenge, which will then be posted online. If a challenge is determined to be valid, appropriate enforcement action may be taken, including Stop Work Orders, revocation of permits, and requirement for redesigns of the proposed construction.
- **Community Appeals Period:** If the Borough Commissioner determines that a challenge is invalid, the public will be given an additional 15 calendar days to appeal to the First Deputy Commissioner.
- **Final Zoning Challenge Review:** Once the First Deputy Commissioner issues a determination, the decision may be appealed to the City's Board of Standards and Appeals.

MECA Membership




Just a reminder to please attend our joint annual association General Meeting on September 24, 7:00 PM at the Armenian Evangelical Church located on 34th Street between Third and Lexington Avenues.

Do not forget the MECA Street Fair on Labor Day on Lexington Avenue between 34th Street and 42nd Street starting at 11:00 AM.

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 Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, PO Box 1897, New York, NY 10156-1897. Your renewal form will indicate you are a MECA member. If it doesn't, please write MECA on the form.

Thank you for your continuing support of MECA. 

WANTED!
Photos for MHNA's 50th Anniversary Celebration
In preparation for the celebration of the MHNA's Golden Anniversary in 2010, we are looking for old photographs of Murray Hill Block Parties and other events over the past 50 years.
Please identify the event and people by name (if you know them), and indicate if you wish the photos returned to you. You may send the photos to:
Irma Worrell Fisher
30 Park Avenue #4F
NY 10016.


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Members' Corner

Discount Merchant Changes

New Merchant

Aphrodite Cleaners, 155 E 39th St., between Third and Lexington, 20% discount, with cash only on prepaid orders.

Change in terms

Chada, 637 2nd Ave., between 34th and 35th, 10% discount on dinner, food only; no deliveries; tax and gratuity not included.

The Shop at Scandinavia House, 58 Park Ave, between 37th and 38th, 10% discount, not to be combined with any other offer.

Closed

Spa Meridian

Please be sure your membership is up to date. 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

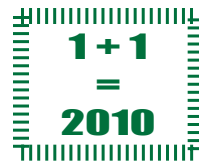
Individual

Ric Addison and Jody Singleton
Joan Alvarez
Jackie Braverman
Bridget Bray
Leanna Byerlee and Oliver Kratz
Anne M. Colley
Cathi Curtis
Terri Fry
Deanna Galente
Eugene Gladstone
Richard and Birgit Hahn
Paul J. Herman
Douglas Hertford
Jana and Jamie Katcher
Elvira Kock
Bari and Taylor Koss
Monique Leahy
Cathy Lee
Mr and Mrs Jacques Limacher
Susan Mannes
RUBY MARLOWE

Elizabeth McLaughlin
Stefani Mendelson
Michael Musgrave and Liza Bailey
Kimberley Neufeld
Sari and Kenneth Nielsen
Julie Noll
Anne and Jeff Pundyk
Matt Roberts
Joan Rooney
Robert and Patricia Rossi
Anne Marie Salmeri
Nicholas Smolney
Shirley and James Suazo
David and Katherine Swirsky
Perri Zweifler

Business/Professional

Janko Rasic Architects PLLC
Marin Management Corp.
Peterson Chiropractic
Physio Sports Center
The UPS Store
Top Hat Home Services



2,010 members in 2010.

If each **1** of you brings in just **1** new member, we can achieve that goal.

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended Feb. 28, 2009 With Cash Position (Unaudited)	
Cash, March 1, 2008	\$19,912
Revenues	
Administration	141
Block Party	13,477
Community Services	18,520
Greening	19,380
Membership Services	43,376
Preservation and Design	3,090
Total	\$97,984
Expenditures	
Administration	6,803
Block Party	2,836
Community Services	3,427
Greening	43,432
Membership Services	24,225
Preservation and Design	3,735
Total	\$84,458
Cash, February 28, 2009	\$33,438


Seventeenth Precinct Salutes Shirley Mac Leod

On June 5 the 17th Precinct Community Council held its annual Community Police Awards Ceremony and Reception at the Saint Vartan Armenian Cathedral. Along with the police personnel recognized for their meritorious service, Shirley Mac Leod was named the "Community Member of the Year." In honor of her contributions, Shirley, an MHNA vice president, was presented with a statue by Jay Litwin, president of the 17th Precinct Community Council.

Shirley, who has taken the Civilian Community Course at the Police Academy, has had a close relationship with the 17th Precinct for several years as Police Liaison for Murray Hill. During this time, she has served as treasurer for the Community Council. At the ceremony, Shirley also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York.



From left: Jay Litwin, Shirley Mac Leod, Assistant Chief James Fuller, Captain Ted Berntsen and Captain Pete Andrea

As the chairperson of the Murray Hill Greening Committee, Shirley oversees the well-being of 578 trees (planting, pruning, fertilizing); landscaping, upkeep and beautification of the Park Avenue Malls between 34th and 39th Streets, and the installation and repair of the wrought-iron tree-bed enclosures on Park Avenue. 

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 24, 2009, at 7:00 PM

MHNA/MECA GENERAL MEETING
at the Armenian Evangelical Church
152 East 34th Street

between Third & Lexington Avenues

Members of the NYC Council will be guest speakers. A light supper will be served. Look for a future mailing for details.

Ballet in Three Courses

Daniel Ulbricht, a principal dancer at the New York City Ballet, said it best: "Today you will be treated to an appetizer, an entrée and dessert."


As our host of "Meet A Dancer" on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at the Koch Theatre at Lincoln Center, this was his way of introducing the day's program to the MHNA group who attended the ballet performance.

Before the "meal" Daniel took us backstage to view the technical aspects of presenting a ballet. Stepping onto center stage you felt the enormity of the house, which was overwhelming. The appetizer followed: Balanchine's one-act version of *Swan Lake* danced to the music of Tchaikovsky, with Wendy Whalen as Odette, Queen of the Swans, and Sabastien Marcovici as Prince Siegfried. Usually all the swans are in white

but Balanchine's inspired twist was to have the swans in black, with the exception of Odette, in white.

The entrée, *Opus 19/The Dreamer*, was danced to the music of Prokofiev by Janie Taylor and Robert Fairchild. Some of us felt that *The Dreamer* should have been the appetizer and *Swan Lake* the entrée.

But no one quibbled with dessert: the sumptuous *Vienna Waltzes* danced to the music of the Strausses and Lehar by a cast of hundreds, or so it seemed, because of the mirrored set.

For all of us the afternoon proved to be magical. 

by Marion Weingarten



Daniel Ulbricht, a principal dancer at the New York City Ballet.

Photo: Ann Churchill



The MHNA group at the ballet.

Photo: Ann Churchill

Tribute to Irene Peveri


On a chilly day in May during the MHNA Street Festival, Irene Peveri, who gave unstintingly of her time, intellect and wit to the neighborhood, was recognized with the unveiling of a plaque in her honor. Three generations of her nieces and nephews were present at the brief ceremony in the Park Avenue Mall at 37th Street, opposite the apartment building where Irene used to live.



Photos: Sami Steigmann



Left to right: Ellen Imbimbo, Diane Bartow, Fred Arcaro, Shirley Mac Leod, John Baltera, Peter Rinaldi, Christine Kramer, Tom Rinaldi.

At about 2 PM on May 17, MHNA president Diane Bartow, MECA's Fred Arcaro, Ellen Imbimbo and Shirley Mac Leod, representing the community, joined Irene's family—Tom and Peter Rinaldi, John Baltera, and Christine Kramer. Standing amidst the pink begonias around the plaque, Peter Rinaldi said to those assembled: "She would have been chagrined by the big deal. She was all about doing the right thing, whether it was working on the co-op board, the zoning board, the hotdog booth at the fair..." 


No Rain Falls on Murray Hill's Parade

Overcast skies and unseasonable temperatures might have chilled the bones, but they could not dampen spirits at the annual Murray Hill Street Festival on May 17th. For one thing, there was no rain! And there was a three-piece jazz band, as well as the unquenchable fire of MHNA volunteers, to keep people warm, tummies filled and bargains bright throughout the day.

The 40-odd booths lining Park Avenue from 35th to 39th Street offered everything from Mike's Brooklyn BBQ to Big Skinny Wallets, from Smoothies and Smart Workouts to Chipsticks (freshly fried potato chips on a stick) and Mozzarepas (a tasty combo of mozzarella and sweet corn in a patty). There was stimulation for the senses (aroma candles), or trinkets for the body (jewelry — "anything on this table for \$2") and treasures for the home (oriental carpets—for considerably more than \$2).

Also represented were learning (at the MHNA book table), money (Chase's "Spin the Wheel" directed by the bank's Big Blue Dog mascot), and a higher power ("Meet the Rabbi and find your Jewish identity").

Above all, there was the Silent Auction which featured goods donated by the neighborhood's wonderful merchants: in times like this, we can still depend on our friends.

And next year there is talk about having a "Taste of Murray Hill" celebration as one of the events to honor the neighborhood association's 50th anniversary. 

Our Special Thank You to these Generous Donors to this year's Silent Auction

70 Park Avenue Hotel
Affinia Shelburne Hotel
Aphrodite Cleaners
The Black Sheep Bar & Restaurant
Butterfield 8 Restaurant & Lounge
Byblos Restaurant
Cibo
Club H
Da Ciro Ristorante
John Dickerson
Dock's Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill
El Parador Cafe
Fred Astaire Dance Studios
Hudson Place
Institute of Culinary Education
Kitano New York Hotel

Libretto's Pizzeria & Restaurant
Mang'Oh Studio
Moco Global Dining
Murray Hill Wines
Patsy's Pizza
Rare Bar & Grill
Rendezvous Casaville
Rossini's Italian Cuisine
Sam's Place
Second Avenue Deli
The Shop at Scandinavia House
Smart Workout
Smörgås Chef
Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' and Airmen's Club
Third & Long Sports Bar
Trattoria Alba
Villa Berulia Ristorante
Winfield-Flynn Liquor Store

New York Public Library Provides Job Search Help

Since the start of the economic downturn, thousands of New Yorkers have turned to the New York Public Library for help in finding a job. In April, the library formalized its response by launching *Job Search @ NYPL*, a campaign of free services and resources at each of its 87 branches. In announcing the program at an April news conference, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn introduced *Job Search Central*, a dedicated career resource space at the Science, Industry and Business Library at Madison Avenue and 34th Street. The program features job counseling, resume writing help and thousands of reference books.

Angels Needed for Tree Fences

In the last few years, through the work of the Greening Committee of the MHNA and the NYC Parks Department, many trees have been planted throughout our community. Every spring, the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association plants ivy in the tree beds to assist in beautifying the area. Many of the tree beds are also surrounded by cast iron fences sponsored by the Association.

In order to make sure that new trees can grow tall and healthy, tree fences must be erected surrounding as many young trees as possible. Each iron fence costs about \$1,000 to construct and install. The city does not budget for these expenses and we need your help. Any amount will help. Please send your kind donation to the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association with a note that the funds be directed to the Tree Fence Project. Send it to: Greening Committee, c/o Shirley MacLeod, 166 East 35th Street, NY, NY 10016.

Your generosity will help to insure fresh air, shade, and birds and beauty on our streets. Be a Tree Angel.

Clothes Make the Working Woman

Dress for Success was founded 12 years ago to give women in need of a job—and a few good suits—the confidence and culture to join the working world. Since 1997, the organization has served 500,000 women in 90 cities worldwide.

The concept is beautifully simple: the woman referred to Dress for Success receives a suit for the initial interview as well as job counseling (including a mock interview) and continuing support. If the woman gets the job, the organization follows up with a week's worth of outfits as well as membership in a professional women's group, which meets monthly—a sisterhood of the working suits, if you will.

And Murray Hill residents can help. Dress for Success is in need of clothes in mature sizes. Clothes can be dropped off at 32 East 31st Street, 7th Floor—but only on Donation Days, 11 AM–2 PM. For information or to confirm the Donation Days—the third Saturday of each month through the end of the year—call 212-684-3611.

www.murrayhillnyc.org

An Rx for Prescription Savings

The New York Prescription Saver (NYP\$) is a pharmacy discount card now available to New York State residents who pass the following eligibility requirements: 1) either they are persons between ages 50 and 65, or persons who have been determined disabled by the Social Security Administration, and 2) they have an annual household income less than \$35,000 (single) or \$50,000 (married).

There are three ways to apply: 1) by phone at 1-800-788-6917 (those with hearing difficulties, call the TTY line: 1-800-290-9138); 2) use the electronic application on the NYP\$ web site (<https://nyprescriptionsaver.fhsc.com>); OR 3) print out an application, fill it out and mail it to: NYP\$, P.O. Box 12069, Albany, NY 12212-2069.

You will receive a discount card within two weeks after your application is approved. When you present your card at participating pharmacies, you can lower the cost of your prescriptions as much as 60 percent on generics and 30 percent on brand-name drugs.

A toll-free NYP\$ Helpline at 1-800-788-6917 is available for members and applicants from 8:30 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Norman Thomas Wins City Baseball Title

Move over Mets and Yankees! The team from Norman Thomas High School has brought the first (to our knowledge) baseball title to Murray Hill. With a 5–2 victory over Monroe High School on June 10 at Yankee Stadium, the Tigers and ace pitcher Mariel Checo won the PSAL “A” title. Norman Thomas capped a 24–0 season with the first city championship for the school, located on 34th Street and Park Avenue.

Income Eligibility Increased to \$29,000 for Senior Citizen Rent Exemptions

The NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) and Department of Finance announced on July 6 that the income eligibility level for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program has increased to \$29,000, up from \$28,000 in July 2008. New York City tenants age 62 or older, with combined income of \$29,000 or less, living in rent-controlled or rent-stabilized housing, may be eligible to apply for the SCRIE Program to help remain in their affordable housing.

SCRIE applications are available at ACCESS NYC (www.nyc.gov/accessnyc) or by calling 311.

Borough President Seeks Answers on 2nd Avenue Subway

Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer has requested that the MTA conduct a full investigation and disclosure of the postponement—yet again—of the completion date for the Second Avenue subway. In a July 22 letter to Barry L. Kluger, the MTA's Inspector General, Mr. Stringer sought a public review of what “is fast becoming one of the greatest boondoggles in the history of New York City construction projects.”

The Morgan Library & Museum

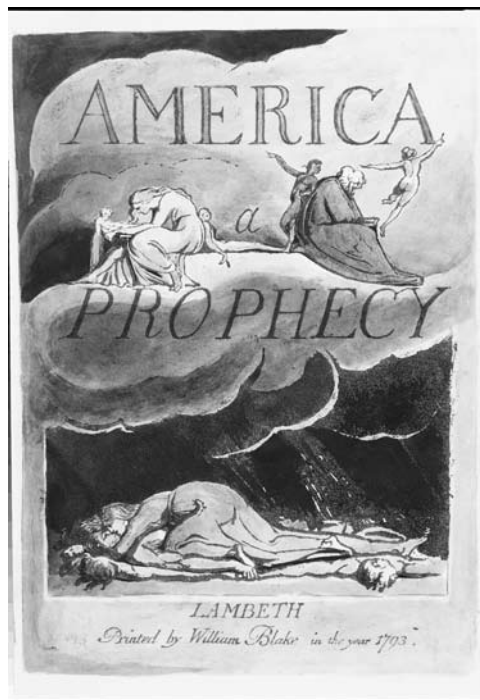
36th–37th Street on Madison Avenue

New at the Morgan: Acquisitions Since 2004, through October 18, 2009 Approximately

100 works selected from over 1200 acquired since 2004 illustrate the wide scope of the Morgan's collecting interests. Included are old master and modern drawings, literary and music manuscripts, illuminated texts and one of the earliest examples of the printed book. Represented are such seminal figures as Rembrandt, Matisse, van Gogh, Wilde, Joyce, Beethoven and Wagner.

William Blake's World: "A New Heaven Is Begun," September 11, 2009–January 3, 2010 This is the Morgan's first exhibit in nearly 30 years devoted to the literary and artistic accomplishments of William Blake (1757–1827), poet, artist, print maker and engraver. The Morgan houses one of the most important Blake collections in this country, and this show also features examples of his friends and

followers. The title, *A New Heaven Is Begun*, articulates Blake's claim that his own creativity represented a new heaven combining peacefulness with the chaos of imagination.



Printed Book: William Blake, 1793

Celebrating Puccini, September 15 2009–January 10, 2010 To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth (December 22, 1858) of this popular opera composer the Morgan presents an exhibition from its own collections, highlighting Puccini's career through libretti, manuscripts, artifacts, premiere production posters and colorful souvenir post cards.

Rococo and Revolution: Eighteenth-Century French Drawings, October 2, 2009–January 3, 2010 For the first time the Morgan will show 18th-century drawings highlighting this era of great artistic change, between the romance of Rococo and the reason of Neoclassicism, which chronicled the age of King Louis XV (1710–74) and Madame de Pompadour (1721–64). Works are drawn from the Mor-

gan's holdings and include such artists as Watteau, Boucher, Fragonard, Robert and David.

A Woman's Wit: Jane Austen's Legacy, November 6, 2009–March 14, 2010 This exhibit explores the life, work and legacy of this renowned English novelist (1775–1817) through autographed manuscripts and personal letters. Included are first and early illustrated editions of her novels, as well as contemporary drawings and prints of biographical significance and responses to her works by later writers like Auden, Kipling, Nabokov, Scott and Yeats. A commissioned film of interviews with contemporary authors commenting on Austen's work and influence will be shown in the gallery.

For information on 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 evening until 9 PM.

The New York Public Library

42nd Street and Fifth Avenue

Mapping New York's Shoreline, 1609–2009, September 25, 2009–June 26-2010, Gottesman Exhibition Hall, Main Floor September 2009 marks 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

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And are led by our inspiring, spiritual and delightful
Rabbi Joyce Reinitz
and our professional Choir led by Marcia Pettitt.*

Tickets may be obtained during business hours by phone or mail.

ROSH HASHANAH: Friday Evening, September 18th, 7:45pm
Saturday Morning, September 19th, 10:00am (\$50 Per Ticket)

YOM KIPPUR: Sunday Evening, September 27th, 6:45 pm
Monday Morning, September 28th, beginning at 10:00 am,
with Yiskor Services at 4:00pm (\$50 Per Ticket)

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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.

Candide at 250, October 23, 2009–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 17 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.

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

Science, Industry & Business Library (SIBL)

34th–35th Street on Madison Avenue

The Future Beneath Us: 8 Great Projects Under New York, extended to November 1, 2009, lower level at SIBL and the New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex at Grand Central Terminal Panels 1–4, the amazing infrastructure built starting in the 1800s is displayed at the Transit Museum focusing on the early years, and Panels 5–8, at SIBL. Much of the original infrastructure was above ground, like elevated trains, highways and

bridges, but increasingly went underground, (water and sewer systems, rail lines and tunnels.) This display features photos and descriptions of these amazing projects, including those in process of projecting into the future. One interesting feature is the geological history of the materials underground, depending on their depth, along with samples.

For more information about SIBL, call 212-592-7000 or visit the web at www.nypl.org. Also note SIBL's schedule of free lectures on a wide variety of topics.

For The New York Transit Museum Annex, call 212-878-0106 or visit the web at www.mta.com/info.

CUNY Graduate Center

34th–35th Streets on Fifth Avenue

MUSIC IN MIDTOWN: Free lunchtime concerts, Thursdays at 1 PM, Elebash Recital Hall, Main Floor

September 24: A Program of Duos (flute and piano)

October 8: Elebash String Quartet

October 15: Viennese Expressions—soprano with piano and Baco Quartet

October 29: Songs Without Words—flute and guitar

November 19: Antoni Parera Fons: A Songwriter's Journey

December 3: Charles Nedich, clarinet

Reservations required: Web site www.gc.cuny.edu/Musicin-Midtown.htm (these are "E-Vents:" click on the "E-Vents" banner and log in) or reserve by phone at 212-817-8215.

Continued on page 10



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Arts, Culture & Leisure

CUNY Graduate Center—continued from page 9

CONCERTS AND CONVERSATIONS: A new evening music series: discussion, intermission, concert.

Thursday, September 17: Bob Dylan realized by composer John Corigliano and others

Wednesday, November 11: Music by New York Composers

Tuesday, December 15: Songs of World War II

Ticket price: \$25 per concert sold on line. Time: Probably 7 PM. Confirm details on the web site or by phone.

GOTHAM HISTORY FORUMS: FREE, 6:30 PM, Elebash Recital Hall.

Tuesday, October 6: *Boulevard of Dreams*, by Constance Rosenblum, editor of City Section of *The New York Times*, details the colorful history of the Grand Concourse in the Bronx.

Tuesday, October 20: *New York Sings: 400 Years of the Empire State in Song*. Folksinger and musicologist Jerry Silverman will present a lecture-concert relating to his book.

Tuesday, November 17: *Manhatta: A Natural History of New York City* (co-sponsored with CUNY Mapping)

In his book, Eric W. Sanderson, Associate Director for Landscape Ecology and Geographic Analysis at the Bronx Zoo, shows what Manhattan looked like 400 years ago and geographically matches an 18th century map of Manhattan's landscape to its modern cityscape.

Wednesday, December 2: *The Lower East Side Remem-*

bered and Revisited with a panel based on this book by former MHNA Trustee, Joyce Mendelsohn.

Thursday, December 10: *Irish New York During the 19th Century*.

Reservations required: call 212-817-8215 or reserve on the web: www.cuny.edu/events

SILENT PICTURES: Art exhibition through October 10 in the James Gallery, 5th Avenue, 35th Street side, main floor Focuses on aspects of comic book structure and syntax that do not depend on words.


Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 12-8, Saturday & Sunday, 12-6. For information, call 212-817-7138

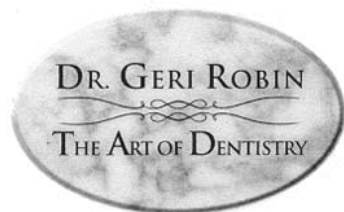
Scandinavia House

Park Avenue and 37th-38th Streets

ART EXHIBIT: Carl Fredrik Hill: Works on Paper, October 1, 2009-January 9, 2010 This innovative neo-Expressionist Swedish artist (1849-1911) is considered a precursor of the modern movement. Originally known for plein-air works, for the last 30 years of his artistic life Hill focused on bold charcoal, crayon and ink drawings. Over 70 examples from the Malmö Museum in Sweden will be on display.




FILM SERIES HIGHLIGHTS: Icelandic Film Retrospective, September-December 2009 To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Icelandic Film Fund, now the





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Icelandic Film Centre, eleven retrospective titles will be shown, with English subtitles. Films are usually at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays, repeated 3:00 PM on Saturdays. Tickets: \$6 members, \$9 non-members. Dinner and a movie special: \$26 members; \$30 non-members, 5–10 PM, at Scandinavia House's Smörgås Restaurant. For Reservations and information, call 212-847-9747.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, starting Friday, October 9, 2009 It opens with "Adventures in the Swedish Countryside," an interactive play environment that takes children on a magical journey across the ocean to Sweden, where they encounter some of this country's most popular classic and contemporary children's storybook characters.

CONCERTS: Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: Concerts with Commentary. Chopin for Lovers! Thursday, November 12, 2009, 7:30 PM Each work on the program was inspired by a different woman in the composer's love life. This is the first of three concerts; others are on Thursdays, January 21 and April 15, 2010, also at 7:30 PM. Check for the full schedule of fall and winter events.

For more information about upcoming events, visit Scandinavia House's extensive web site at: www.scandinaviahouse.org. On the home page you can submit your email address to receive on-going information. It's on the right under "Join the Scandinavia House e-list and

receive weekly program updates." Or call 212-879-9779 or even stop by to receive a fall program brochure or become a member.

Bryant Park

Enjoy our beautiful neighborhood park all year long. The *Bryant Park Fall Festival*, an annual event, is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 28–Friday October 9, 2009. It features classical music and other performing arts from top venues. In the fall you can still enjoy relaxing on the lawn or having a snack, lunch or dinner outdoors at the tables all around the park. The Pond, Bryant Park's outdoor ice skating rink, is tentatively scheduled to open Friday, November 6, 2009 and close Monday, January 25, 2010. Even if you don't skate, come and watch your neighbors and some professional skating events. During holiday season you can buy unique gifts at the crafts booths. **For updated ongoing information visit the web site at www.bryantpark.org and sign up on My Bryant Park or call 212-768-4242.**

Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America


Lecture Series at the New York New Church, 114 East 35th Street Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Free admission. No reservations necessary.

September 8: Lockwood de Forest and the "Red Hot Iron" of the East Indian Craft Revival Author Roberta A. Mayer will put the interior designer's career in context of the late 19th-century crafts movement in East India and its British colonial proponents there.

October 13: The Panorama: Painting the "All-Embracing" View Author Suzanne Wray will explore what was unique and popular about this art form during the Victorian era in major cities in Europe and America.

November 10: Florenz Ziegfeld, the Man Who Invented Show Business Author Ethan Mordden will explore the legendary producer's forty-year career and his lasting influence on American theater.

December 8: Two Brothers: One North, One South Author David H. Jones will explore the culture and beliefs of Victorian-era Americans and their divergent views of the Civil War. His novel tells the story of Clifton and William Prentiss, who fought on opposite sides during the Civil War and are buried side by side at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

For information about lectures and/or membership, visit www.metrovsa.org or call 212-886-3742. 

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Collectors Club Puts Its Stamp on Philately

by Enid Klass

If you have walked on 35th Street between Park and Madison, you may have been curious about the beautiful building with the wrought-iron entrance and two bay windows at No. 22.

This is the home of the Collectors Club, a prestigious philatelic organization founded in 1896, with more than 750 members, including well-known collectors, exhibitors and authors, as well as regular stamp collectors. The building is totally dedicated to the study of the philatelic arts.

The five-story townhouse was designed by the architect Stanford White of McKim, Mead and White in 1901-02 for the home of Thomas B. Clarke, an early Americana art collector.

The Collectors Club purchased the building in 1937 from the Clarke estate, and in 1979 it was named an official New York City Landmark by the Landmark Preservation Commission. The Commission's Designation Report states that the building "is an especially notable example of neo-Georgian architecture ... looking both to English and Colonial American precedents."

In the foyer, a white marble floor and several Oriental rug-covered steps lead to the library on the main floor. This library houses several thousand items, one of the largest collections of philatelic literature ever assembled in this country. The club's president Roger Brody says that non-members may use the library by appointment.

The public is also welcome to visit the club, free of charge, on one of the meeting nights held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, except July and August, by confirming with the executive secretary Irene Bromberg at 212-683-0559.



Interior, *The Collectors Club*.

One of the club's highlights each year is the presentation of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award, given at the annual spring awards dinner for an outstanding contribution to philately. Lichtenstein (1876-1947) was a chemist at Aniline Dyes & Chemicals, which was purchased in 1921 by Ciba-Geigy where he rose to become president and later chairman. A world-renowned philatelist, Lichtenstein was instrumental in the fund drive to purchase the current clubhouse.

For more information about this beautiful building and a list of future club meetings, visit the web site at collectorsclub.org.

Photos by Sami Steigmann



The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street.

The meeting speakers, international and national as well as local, bring key pieces of their stamp collections for exhibit in the recently renovated meeting room. The first meetings of the 2009-10 season will be held September 9, "Stuck on Stamps: Cancellations on U.S. Stamps 1851-1868," and September 16, "Great Britain: the 1d Plate 77" (translation: 1 shilling stamps from printing plate number 77).

President Brody says that the Club also sponsors an exchange of stamp presentations, such as those held recently by the Royal Philatelic London and the Club de Monte Carlo. One thing the club does not allow is the buying and selling of stamps or "covers," the term used to denote cancelled stamps on envelopes, although members informally and enthusiastically discuss their collections with each other.

My Kids Stamp Club

The Collectors Club of New York is pleased to announce the formation of a youth stamp collecting program open to students in grades 4 and up. Beginners are welcome. The program is free of charge. Monthly meetings will be held at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, on Saturdays, from 10-11:30 AM, beginning October 17 and ending in May 2010. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible since space is limited. To register or ask questions, please e-mail Debby Friedman at rbreuer1@nycap.rr.com.

Volunteer Recognition Awards

by Marion Weingarten

Smörgås Chef, the stylish restaurant at the Scandinavia House at Park Avenue and 38th Street, was the scene of the annual MHNA Volunteer Recognition Awards held on Tuesday evening, May 19, 2009.

Receiving a special award was Christine Quinn, Speaker of the NYC Council, who has supported MHNA in reaching many of its goals. Also receiving the handsome framed certificates of appreciation were former trustees Arlene Lipman, Matthew McKeon and Joe Di Domenico, who are all still active, donating their time and energy throughout the year. Unfortunately, Joe was unable to attend. The fifth award went to the Armenian Evangelical Church, which has graciously opened its facility to many MHNA functions. Reverend Peter Doghramji accepted.

We are very grateful to all of the honorees. Mona Meng and Marshall Simon, our outstanding hosts at Smörgås Chef, were on hand to make sure that we were well fed following the awards ceremony. 📷



Left to right, top to bottom: Arlene Lipman with Diane Bartow; City Council Speaker Christine Quinn; Matthew McKeon, Reverend Peter Doghramji.

Photos: Sami Steigmann

Meet The Reverend Peter Doghramji

I met this warm and embracing man at the Volunteer Appreciation Party when I sat in an empty chair at his table. The introductions were made and before his name could be completed, he interjected, “Call me Peter.” And so I did. This informality, which encourages questions and reflection, is a manifestation of his love of all people, his passion for teaching, and his mission to interpret historic truth in context and not in absolutes. And for these gifts and his neighborliness he was honored by the MHNA with one of the evening’s five awards.

His ministry especially speaks to the minds of young people, and it is his great desire to make his church, the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York at 152 East 34th Street, a warm and welcoming home to all. (He noted that people of all faiths will feel comfortable in his approach to religious thought.)

This supposedly retired member of the clergy of the United Church of Christ has been the interim pastor here for the past nine years, and at age 80 he has every intention of remaining vital and vigorous. He speaks English, Armenian, Arabic, Turkish and French, no doubt because of his birth and rearing in what many consider the crossroads of the world in Aleppo, Syria. He has a reading

knowledge of German, Latin, Greek, Syriac (an ancient Aramaic dialect) and Hebrew, which can be attributed to his international education culminating in a Th.M (Master of Theology) from Harvard, a Ph.D. magna cum laude from Princeton, and a D.D. (Doctor of Divinity), an honorary doctorate from Ursinus College in Pennsylvania.

Peter has opened the doors of the Armenian Evangelical Church to MHNA on many occasions—it’s a gem of a small church—and welcomes all, both from the neighborhood and from beyond, to participate in Sunday’s service at 11 AM. (The “from beyond” receive parking coupons for garages nearby.) It is followed by a social hour. Plans call for future weekday lectures and activities.

Dr. Doghramji is known as a pastor, theologian, biblical scholar, teacher and friend to his congregants, who come from all over the metropolitan area; Peter himself commutes from Philadelphia. He is the author of *In Other Words...Selected Sermons*, in which he presents the Word of God in terms familiar to today’s congregants. But the live experience of Reverend Peter might be even better. He asks his neighbors and their friends “to visit and give my church a try.” 📷

A Clarion Call for Lord and Taylor

by Susan E. Ridgeway

Murray Hill has many treasures, a few of which seem to be more evident to residents than outsiders. That appears to be true of the Lord and Taylor store on Fifth Avenue and 38th Street. Situated between the designer stores north of Rockefeller Center and that miracle on 34th Street, Lord and Taylor might be equated with any one of the flyover states: it's not a destination and only the locals can really appreciate its charm.

But for some, Lord and Taylor is a destination. A friend of mine who lives in New Jersey comes to Murray Hill regularly to get her hair colored, and we always make a date to have lunch and enjoy a little retail therapy at L&T.

As a newcomer to Murray Hill in 1992, I was seduced by the one-day-only-biggest-sale-of-the-year extravaganzas at Macy's. But, after standing in endless lines more than once, only to discover that an advertised item was out of stock, I'd had enough. Thus, my loyalty to Lord and Taylor was cemented.


And, truth be told, Lord and Taylor has amazing sales of its own. Its "Final Take" markdowns and 20% off coupons are legendary. In fact, there is an unwritten covenant among regulars that if the customer checking out ahead of you is without a sales coupon, you will cheerfully step up and share yours.

Although I moved to Brooklyn in 2006, I have found I am not alone in my allegiance. My neighbor Susan also responds like a migratory bird to the store's sales call. And given the

number of L&T shopping bags on the X37 bus between Manhattan and Bay Ridge, so do our neighbors.

At Lord and Taylor, you know that whatever you're looking for will almost always be where you expect to find it. Other than turnover in restaurants, not much changes from floor to floor at L&T. Jewelry and cosmetics are on the main floor, women's shoes are on 2, Lauren and Jones New York are on 5, and so it goes. And, if coupons and familiarity aren't enough, the store is generally not overcrowded, the sales people are polite, unrushed, helpful, and genuinely nice, and the windows at Christmas rival any in the city.

When Lord and Taylor opened its doors in 1914, it joined B. Altman's as a pioneer in the formation of the Fifth Avenue Shopping District. Altman's, the doyenne of Murray Hill department stores, was designed to blend in with the gracious residential mansions nearby. It occupied a block-long building on Fifth Avenue from 34th to 35th Streets and was later expanded to include the Madison Avenue side. Murray Hill residents of a certain age still get misty when remembering Altman's.

When B. Altman closed in 1989, Lord and Taylor stepped into its rightful place as neighborhood retail icon. And in January 2008, the City Council voted to landmark the Lord and Taylor building, confirming its pedigree among Murray Hill treasures. 

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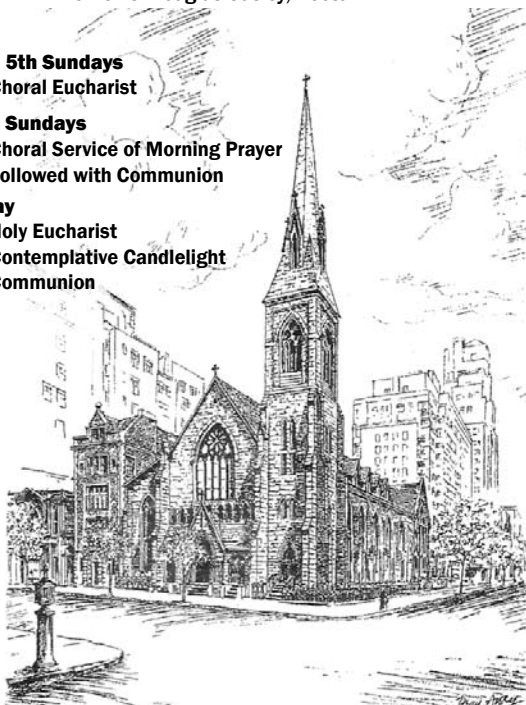
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Board 6 Transportation Committee, has made repeated inquiries to the DOT on the issue and has also requested accident information from the 17th Precinct.

They encourage their neighbors to register their thoughts on the issue ... before it's too late to reverse the decision.

Dr. Bergman writes: "It does seem like a *fait accompli*, but the DOT has been misguided in its efforts and has made decisions in the face of data that would have suggested OTHER decisions. The barrier program at East 33rd Street and Park Avenue resulted in a statistically significant reduction of accidents. Please see p. 7 of the city's 2008 Safe Streets report at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/2008_Safe_Streets_Report_Manhattan.pdf


"Yet, despite evidence of reduced accidents," Bergman continues, "the DOT went ahead and closed southbound traffic through the Park Avenue Tunnel, thereby diverting all of this traffic along Park Avenue AND directly into the reduced traffic flow created as a result of the East Side Access project. Doesn't one city agency ever coordinate with another?"

Mr. Strickland adds: "The DOT may have stats about decreased accidents as a result of the changes, but there are environmental and quality-of-life issues that should

be part of the equation, encouraging a solution that addresses ALL—not just some—of Park Avenue's conditions."

He suggests a neighborhood petition to challenge the DOT's closure of the southbound tunnel. Dr. Bergman agrees, adding: "Colleen Chattergoon (DOT) has indicated that no one has questioned the decision except me."

Mr. Strickland responds, "I've communicated with the DOT on more than one occasion, so you're not alone, Abby. (And I suspect others have, too.) That's why a petition with signatures from area residents can be worthwhile."

What's your opinion? Send an e-mail with "Traffic" in the Subject field to info@murrayhillnyc.org or write to Murray Hill Life, c/o MHNA, PO Box 1897, New York, NY 10156-1897, or call MHNA at 212-886-5867. 

1 + 1 = 2010

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

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Daily throughout the year:

Donate canned goods to H.O.N.E.Y. bin located near the check-out at D'Agostino's Supermarket, Third Avenue at East 35th Street. Donated food is collected weekly for participants of the Stein Senior Center on East 24th Street.

Wednesday, November 25

Prepare and distribute Thanksgiving meals to neighborhood seniors. If you would like to help, please meet us at Church of the Incarnation, 35th Street and Madison Avenue.

December 1-10

Donate wrapped holiday gifts for distribution to our neighborhood seniors. Collection bin located in the lobby at 139 East 33rd Street.

Throughout the year:

Cash donations are always gratefully accepted. Every penny is used to buy food. Administrative costs are generously funded by the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association.

Checks may be made out to H.O.N.E.Y., Inc. and sent to:
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Thespians in the Nabe

by Ned Crabb, President, Amateur Comedy Club

In 1884, ten or so society gentlemen of Murray Hill who were enthusiasts of amateur theatricals began to experience thespian claustrophobia. Their local group, dominated by Murray Hill matrons of iron will, insisted on performing tragedies and melodramas suitable mostly for large casts of women. So, the gentlemen formed their own little group, never imagining that it would be more than a mere lark for a few seasons.

They called their troupe The Amateur Comedy Club (ACC) and, most likely due to the Fates' sense of humor, it has just finished celebrating its 125th season, never having missed a year of performances through generations of social upheaval and war.

For the years through World War I, the ACC had no permanent home, staging its productions in rented halls such as the old Heckscher Theatre in East Harlem, now the gorgeously renovated Teatro Heckscher. In 1918, club members, flush with cash according to ACC archives, purchased two carriage houses on 36th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues and converted them into a clubhouse containing a small theater. The other carriage houses, all built in 1866, were converted to townhouses and today comprise the lovely, elegant Sniffen Court mews.

No sooner had this "gentleman's drinking and theatrical society" moved into its new quarters at 150 East 36th Street than the dreaded forces of Prohibition struck American society. ACC members responded by moving old gymnasium lockers into their second-floor workroom and issued a locker and a key to each "active member" of the club. These "liquor lockers" are still in vigorous use today, each of their doors painted in whimsical fashion by former and current members.

As a tuxedoed ACC member says in the curtain speech before each of our performances, "the Amateur Comedy Club is the oldest continuously performing amateur theatrical society in America." We mount three major productions a season—fall, winter and spring—each of them running for two weeks. The Snarks, our sister group, who just celebrated their 100th anniversary, also stage two plays, fall and spring, at our clubhouse. Within the past twenty years, the ACC has loosened its "dress code," which required formal wear for every performance. Now, only Friday and Saturday evenings are black tie nights.

Most often, we hire professional directors for our shows, but we do have excellent in-house directors. And each play is arranged according to the professional theatrical model, with a production manager (producer), set designer, costume designer, light and sound designers and stage manager. On two nights of auditions, the director casts from the 100 male ACC members and from an



A scene from *Funny Money* by Ray Cooney. Produced by the Amateur Comedy Club, November 2008


Photo courtesy of the Amateur Comedy Club

open call to actresses, who usually are Equity professionals. Despite the "comedy" in our name, not all our plays are comedies; we also feature mysteries and such searing dramas as "Terra Nova."

Our pictorial and written archives extend back to the ACC's first year and include photos of every play we've done. Among famous members were one of America's foremost seascape artists, Gordon Grant, and John Steinway, the last family member to be chairman of Steinway & Sons.

And, as any good theater should, we have ghosts. Some of our longtime members swear that, very late at night when they were alone in the clubhouse, they have felt a "presence" in a certain dark recess of the backstage area. When asked what manner of presence they sensed, their replies were along of the lines of "Old hams waiting for their cues."

The ACC is a private club and therefore its performances are not open to the public; audiences are composed of members and subscribers and their guests. Anyone can join but must first be invited as a guest and then express interest in being a subscriber—no qualifiers other than getting a sponsor and someone to second, which is very easy.

If you have a friend who is a subscriber, perhaps you should ask him or her to take you along to one of our plays. Perhaps I'll see you there. 

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Local Merchants Receive Support Over Coffee and Bagels

In a joint local initiative of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, the Turtle Bay Association and our two representatives on the New York City Council, small business owners from the two neighborhoods were invited to a breakfast meeting on May 12. One of the Council's city-wide "Open for Business" series, it provided a forum on the challenges facing small businesses and enumerated plans to assist them.

Held at the Grand Central Branch of the New York Public Library, the meeting featured City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, with City Council members Jessica Lappin (District 5) and Dan Garodnick (District 4). About 30 Murray Hill merchants were able to attend.

MHNA President Diane Bartow introduced Speaker Quinn, who built on her State of the City address and gave details of several proposals to assist and support small businesses. Among the ideas were: a) easing certain financial restrictions to help small businesses survive; b) making it easier for merchants to work with the city to get permits, etc.; c) working with landlords to make use of available, unrented storefronts, and d) supporting city events that attract tourists and keep residents in the city to spend at local shops and establishments. 



From left to right: City Council member Dan Garodnick, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, City Council member Jessica Lappin, Turtle Bay Association Vice President Millie Margiotta and Murray Hill Neighborhood Association President Diane Bartow.



The trees are God's great alphabet:
With them He writes in shining green
Across the world His thoughts serene.

—Leonora Speyer

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CUNY Seeks Participants for Language Studies

The CUNY Graduate Center is undertaking some new language studies and is looking for volunteers to participate in its research. The studies seek, among other things, to: a) investigate how familiar certain objects are, b) evaluate the appropriateness of words used in a children's storybook, and c) understand how various age groups comprehend different types of sentences.


In one task, about 20 participants in each of three age groups (30-50, 51-70, 71-90) are instructed to evaluate on a 7-point scale the degree to which they are familiar with 60 pictured items, shown in black-and-white line drawings (e.g., hand, camel, etc.).

In another task, participants are asked to rate whether sentences make sense or not. Researchers will then consider the degree to which age differences can influence naming accuracy and response time.

Participants must be monolingual English-speakers, born and educated in the United States, who have normal or corrected vision within normal ranges. The time needed to complete the study will be about two hours. Participants will be paid a small sum.

Results of the study will be presented at a professional meeting and may be published; however, participants' names and identifying information will not be used.

If you would like further information about the studies or are interested in participating, contact Dr. Loraine K. Obler at 212-817-8843 or loraine.obler@gmail.com. Please leave your name and phone number and a good time to return your call. You may also send an e-mail to neurolinguistics.lab@gmail.com. If you have any questions about your rights as a human-subject volunteer, please contact Kay Powell at 212-817-7525.

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Greenmarket Reopens to the Sound of Music

On Saturday, June 27, the Murray Hill Farmers Greenmarket opened its 2009 season on Second Avenue between 32nd and 33rd Streets. With MHNA Trustees Burt Rubin and Shirley MacLeod serving to officially welcome vendors and neighbors, the market swung into action—literally, thanks to the music of Johnny Sheppard and Billy Swing (“Please feed the animals. Their favorite snack is cash.”) The market will continue throughout the summer and into the fall.




The farmer from Millport Dairy brought a bit of local color from Lancaster County along with his delicious cheeses, eggs and pickles.

No doubt encouraged by the beat of Sheppard’s bass and the trumpet, electric guitar and drums of his sidemen, the fruits and veggies fairly preened. The vendors on hand for opening day were: Fresh Radish Farm (vegetables from Goshen, NY); Millport Dairy (cheeses, pickles, eggs from Lancaster County, PA); Knoll Krest Farm (fresh pasta from Dutchess County, NY); Breezy Hill Orchard (pears, apples, cider and baked goods, also from Dutchess County, NY) and Meredith’s Bread (baked goods from Ulster County, NY).

The scene was also blessed by the presence of two sets of twins from the Saland family: 7-year-olds Tucker



(“I’m four minutes older”) and Chase; and 2-year-olds, Logan (six minutes the elder) and Aislynn, who had strolled over from 35th Street and First Avenue with their mother, Erinn, and grandmother, Sandra McGinnis (“I’m from New Jersey”).

“We left Rambo and Ninja at home,” Erinn said, adding by way of explanation, “the miniature pinschers.” Twins, we suppose. 



Betsy McCall, manager of the Murray Hill Greenmarket, and Chris Gatto, the market’s operations manager.

Photos: Sami Steigmann