

...to continue to make Murray Hill a highly desirable place to live, work and visit.

Illegal Short-term Rentals Upset Residents in Murray Hill Buildings

By George Arfield

The short-term rental of apartments—a result of New York’s ongoing charisma as a tourist and business destination and the increase in hotel rates—has some Murray Hill residents exasperated. They say it has deteriorated the quality of life and level of security in their buildings due to the increase in transients and cleaning staff assigned to these apartments.

Long an annoyance for many West-Siders, the issue has spilled across town. Murray Hill, with its privileged position as a crossroads of tourism, commerce and finance, is a desirable base for visitors. The short-stay tenancies displease full-time residents in buildings that allow ultra-short stays in violation of city

regulations. New York clocks 50 million visits a year and there is a ban on residential rentals of less than 30 days. It is a rule that is often winked at, say the critics.

“This has been my home for 23 years and I do not want transients here,” said Stacy Rauch, a businesswoman and activist. She complains that her Park Avenue rental building was partially turned into a short-stay property—meaning at least 30 days—when it changed owners in 2007.

“I know from experience there have been shorter rentals,” Ms. Rauch said. She and other tenants say the frequent turnover creates a security problem and “a quality-of-life issue.”



Despite complaints about 30 Park Avenue, no violations were discovered.

Continued on page 18

Welcome to the Construction Zone

By Marisa Bulzone

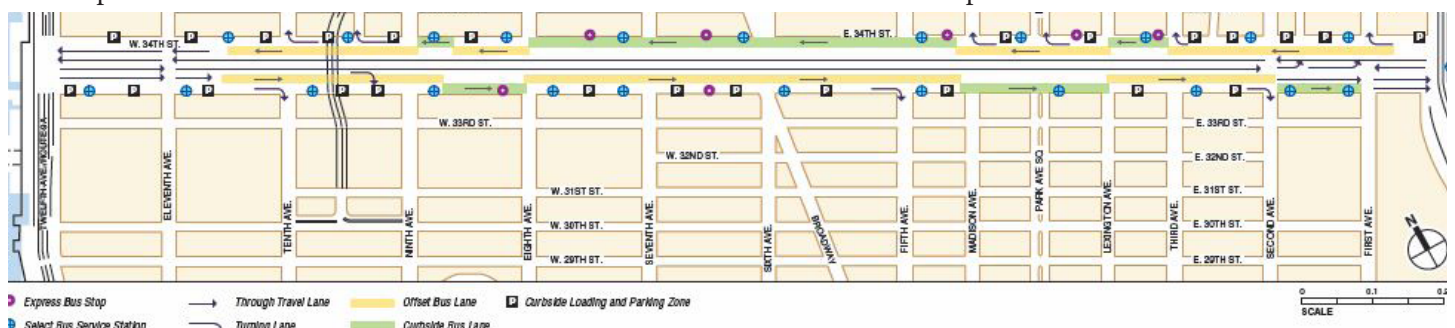
East 34th Street Water Main Replacement and SBS Road Work to Last Through Fall 2014

Get your ear plugs ready, Murray Hill. At press time, details are emerging on a new capital construction project that will hit our neighborhood this fall: the Department of Environmental Protection will be replacing the water main and installing new sewer lines along East 34th Street from Lexington Avenue to the FDR Drive.

It’s an important initiative, to be sure—the sewer lines alone date from the 1840s and the water main already had been scheduled for replacement in 2015. However, as the Department of Transportation readies its construction schedule for the final

implementation of Select Bus Service, the water main project has been moved forward, in order to avoid ripping up what would have been a newly paved and reconfigured streetscape.

We applaud the rarely applied logic of city agencies actually speaking to one another and coordinating their efforts, but the result remains that there will be major road construction from back-to-back projects on East 34th Street from Fall 2012 through Fall 2014. As soon as the DEP completes the water main project, New York City Transit and the DOT will undertake the final phase of the SBS street construction.



Map courtesy of MTA/DOT

Continued on page 20

Murray Hill Life

A PUBLICATION OF THE
MURRAY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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info@murrayhillnyc.org

and please use the subject line

"Murray Hill Life".



From the President's Desk

Diane Bartow

Spring is always a special time of the year in Murray Hill, and we work hard to make it the special neighborhood it is. Just look around and you will see the bright red tulips, trees in bloom, newly planted ivy in clean tree beds. To all the volunteers who keep Murray Hill so green and beautiful: a heartfelt thank you.

And to all of you: please join us. You, too, can help your neighborhood: Oh, let me count the ways!


We will soon be looking for new trustees. If you are interested in serving your neighborhood, please send a short bio and include what you would like to accomplish to Murray Hill Neighborhood Association (info@murrayhillnyc.org or PO Box 1897, NYC 10156-1897,) attention to the Nominating Committee. The work of the trustees is important in continuing to make Murray Hill a highly desirable place to live and work. As a trustee, you attend the board meetings, co-chair a committee, and assist in the budget planning, neighborhood concerns, quality-of-life issues, and the annual street festival. This is a vital way to help your neighborhood. I sincerely look forward to your replies.

The annual **Taste of Murray Hill Street Fair** is on Sunday, May 20. Your support of this day means a lot, since it is the association's major fund raiser for all the work we do. Besides, it's fun to stroll along Park Avenue and survey everything at the kiosks: enjoy great food from neighborhood restaurants, buy a book, try your luck and get a great value at the silent auction, get sweeter at our baked goods table, take a walking tour, and listen to some wonderful music. Put it on your calendar and come by the MHNA booth to say hi.

Traffic and transportation continues to be a major issue for our neighborhood. We are working with Community Boards 5 and 6, our city officials, the Department of Transportation, MTA and New York City Transit on the issues that continue to challenge us. High on our agenda is restoring bus stops at Lexington and Madison Avenues on 34th Street, and we are busy reviewing the DOT environmental study and reports on completed construction of the 34th Street Transitway. We continue to push for no buses on our side streets and some elimination of commercial traffic.

We are also concerned about **bicycle safety** and the impact of bike lanes and bike rental station placement. We are working with CB5, CB6 and our local officials regarding this situation.

At our annual meeting in September we will update and address these issues for our membership.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the Taste of Murray Hill on May 20. If you can volunteer, please join us. Your help is important to us and to you. 

News from MECA

Manhattan East Community Association

Construction on the future PS/IS 281 on the southwest quarter of 616 First Avenue, site of the former Con Edison power plant, is continuing as planned. They have finished erecting the steel beams for the building and soon will start laying the brick for the school. On the east side of the six-story building will be a half-size basketball court and a children's playground surrounded by a three-foot-high iron gate. At this time, we do not know the final design for the rest of the site. The Sheldon Solow project will be on hold for quite some time.

New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) issued its Environmental Impact Study on proposed new or enhanced transit service, called Select Bus Service, along 34th Street. On May 7, DOT will present the latest revised design for Select Bus Service on 34th Street to the Public Safety, Environment and Transportation (PSE&T) Committee of Community Board Six.

An Esplanade on the East River

MECA continues to support efforts to extend the East River Esplanade up to 61st Street and beyond along the East River to provide green space encircling most of Manhattan along the water's edge. In April, the city started refurbishing the old Con Edison parking space along the East River between 38th and 40th streets. Con Edison has given the city \$13 million to repair the pier and the city will donate \$3 million for amenities there.

As stated in the last newsletter, in July 2011, the state passed legislation to transfer Robert Moses Playground to the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC) to build a 39-story building for UN agencies on a portion of the playground on 42nd Street just south of the United Nations campus. All other projects related to this development will not take place any time soon.

There has been some activity on the 32B shaft site on 35th Street and Second Avenue, but it does not involve the construction of water mains to the city water distribution system. On April 2, the Department of Environmental Protection provided an update of future construction on the site to the PSE&T Committee of CB6.

Expansion and Alterations for NYU Langone Medical Center


There have been reports that NYU Langone Medical Center will take additional space in the 333 East 38th Street office building. This expansion in the second half of 2012 might affect the food store Novello and the candy store on the first level of the building. No further details have been announced as of this writing. The medical center has taken over 12 floors of the old Verizon telephone building on 38th Street between Second and Third avenues. The first occupants are expected to move in around June and the public plazas will be completed by late fall of 2012.

Further south, between 30th and 38th streets on First Avenue, the medical center will start demolition of Rubin Hall

Fred Arcaro, President

and alteration of the Schwartz Lecture Hall to make room for a new Science Building to be completed in 2015.

On 34th Street and First Avenue, the medical center has started expansion of its emergency department to be completed by the end of 2013. Near the same site, demolition of the old Rusk Institute and alteration of the Tisch Hospital building will begin to make room for a new Kimmel Pavilion Building to be completed by 2017.

If you have not renewed your MECA membership, please do so now by sending your check (payable to MECA) to 415 East 37th Street, NY 10016, or to MHNA (payable to Murray Hill Neighborhood Association) to PO BOX 1897, NY 10156-1897. Be sure to use your renewal form, if you have it. Thank you for your continuing support of MECA. 

Save the Date
Sunday, May 13, 2012
New York City Ballet
Serenade, Firebird, Symphony in C
Call Marion at
212 679-5335 for details

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Lists as of 3/31/12

Welcome, New Members!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Terry Brewer | Shaun Johnsen |
| Sarah Churchill | Arlene and Gerald LeBow |
| Josephing Falco and Ani Proser | Steven Leitner |
| Bruce and Sharyn Grossman | Joanne Stillman |

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Join or Renew on line!
Visit www.murrayhillnyc.org, to join or renew your membership online. There, you can also keep up to date on events and other newsworthy items.



Tell a Friend about the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Couple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Senior Citizen (age 65+) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Senior Couple (age 65+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Young Professional (to age 40) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |

I want to make an additional contribution: \$ _____

Additional contributions will be acknowledged in our Newsletter.
If you prefer not to be acknowledged, please check here

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E-mail address _____

Second Name (couples) _____

E-mail address _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell/Other Phone _____

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

Unsung Heroes

As you must know by now, MHNA relies heavily on the generous giving of time and efforts of our volunteers to keep the organization functioning.

Not all volunteers seek acclaim; many remain in the background waiting to be called upon, at which time they step forward, step up and perform like true heroes.

Two such volunteers are Matthew Mc Keon and Tom Horan.

A former MHNA trustee, Matthew has seen to the stringing of lights (and the subsequent unstringing) on the Park Avenue malls every year for the Christmas tree lighting.

Without Tom, a current trustee, this issue of *Murray Hill Life* wouldn't be in your hands right now. When-



Tom Horan

ever there is a mailing, whether an informative packet of flyers meant to keep you abreast of goings-on in your neighborhood or a newsletter mailing, Tom gallantly shoulders the burden of schlepping the items across town to 29th Street and Ninth Avenue, where the USPS accepts them for mailing.



Matthew Mc Keon

And let's not forget our photographer-par-excellence, Sami Steigmann, who is responsible for these two photos and many, many others that appear in our publications.

Thank you, thank you, thank you Matt, Tom and Sami!

Take Your English to New Levels

If you are looking to help someone needing help with his/her English—OR you need help with *your* English—we might have the program for you.

English in Action helps newcomers to the United States gain fluency and confidence in conversational English by pairing them with volunteer tutors for weekly conversation sessions. And EiA is located here in Murray Hill at The English-Speaking Union at 144 East 39th Street.

In addition to practicing the language without the fear of making mistakes, EiA students from more than 50 countries around the world learn about life in this country and teach their American partners about their own lands and customs.

Volunteers need no formal training, just an interest in other languages and cultures and the willingness to befriend a newcomer.

If you are interested in becoming a student or a volunteer tutor in New York City, please contact the EiA Manager at 212-818-1200 or e-mail eia@esuus.org to schedule an appointment.

Save the Date

For the Benefit of Historic Preservation
The Preservation & Design Committee asks you to save these dates:

April 28 at 4:30 PM

Piano Concert by Phillip Golub,
with reception at the Union League Club

May 9 at 6:00 PM

A historical and architectural tour
of The Church of Our Saviour
given by the Rev. George W. Rutler
followed by a wine reception on his terrace

Murray Hill Evening

By Christine Schurtman

East River sky: deep orange,
gold into lemon, into washed-out blue.
High-rise windows reflecting a wild copper sunset.

Over Third Avenue: the palest forget-me-not.
Three garlands of weightless pink clouds,
parallel slanting feather boas.
Between them, an impossibly thin
sickle of moon,
almost white, reclining slightly, resting in comfort
over the darkening roof tops.

Stillness.

Condolences



As we were going to press we learned with sadness of the death of former MHNA trustee **Arlene Lipman.**


A long-time supporter of the Association and the neighborhood, Arlene co-chaired the Social Events Committee, ran the raffle undertaking, worked diligently at the raffle and book tables at the Block Party and also volunteered at the NY Public Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Arlene's warm, friendly humor will be sorely missed.

We also learned recently that **Dee Weber**, wife of Dan Weber, former MHNA trustee, passed away in December.

A former professor at FIT, Dee was a truly free spirit with a great wit and a marvelous sense of humor, qualities that were apparent all through her lengthy illness.

We offer our condolences to Dee's family: husband Dan, daughter Nina and son Andrew.

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God is the experience of looking at a tree and saying, "Ah!"

—Joseph Campbell



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The Morgan Library and Museum

Madison Avenue between 36th and 37th Streets

In the Company of Animals: Art, Literature and Music at the Morgan, through May 20 This exhibit explores the representation of animals as symbols, muses, moral teachers, talking creatures, scientific studies and beloved companions throughout the ages. Examples range from ancient seals, medieval manuscripts, printed books continuing into the 20th century. The oldest work is a Mesopotamian seal ca 3500–3100 BC. Other items include St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, in a 1270 Belgian psalter; the fall of man in a 1504 Dürer engraving of Adam and Eve; a 1666 edition of Aesop's Fables; Audubon's preparatory study, mid-1800s, for "Gray Rabbit: Old male, female and young," and a 1944 Jackson Pollock drawing, "Untitled (Abstract Ram)."



Claude Debussy, 1862–1918, *La boîte à joujoux: ballet pour enfants* Story and illustrations by André Hellé, Paris: Durand, ca. 1913 James Fuld Music Collection

Rare Works of Americana, Literature and Music, through June 3, McKim Building Nearly 30 extraordinary works from the Morgan's collection are on exhibition in the McKim Building, where Morgan's office and rare book collection are located. Among these rare treasures is a single sheet with the original title and table of contents of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, all that remain of this manuscript; an original sample of a John Cage "prepared piano" composition; the first bound printing of possibly the first publication of Handel's music in America by Paul Revere, and a receipt with a sketch of Picasso's "Woman Seated in an Armchair."

Dan Flavin: Drawings, through July 1 The first retrospective of the drawings of this artist best known for his fluorescent light installations, the exhibit features over 100 works representing every phase of his career from early abstract expressionist water colors of the 1950s to pastels of sailboats from the 1980s. Also shown are nearly 50 works from Flavin's personal drawings collection.

The Age of Titian: Venetian Renaissance Drawings in the Morgan, May 18–September 23 Nearly 80 drawings, almost exclusively from the Morgan's holdings, chronicle the artistic, religious and cultural life of the Republic of Venice in the 16th century. Included are works by Carpaccio, Lotto, Mantegna, Tintoretto, Titian and Veronese. This is the first presentation of these drawings as a group and the first show on this theme in the United States.

Churchill: The Power of Words, June 8–September 23 Churchill's use of spoken and written words, spanning more than 50 years of his life, is drawn from the Churchill

Archives Centre, Cambridge. It includes letters to his parents during his childhood, Cold War correspondence and wartime oratory displayed in drafts, speaking notes, public statements and recordings. A special focus is on Churchill's lifelong relationship with the United States, homeland of his

Brooklyn-born mother.

Robert Wilson/Philip Glass:

Einstein on the Beach, July 13–November 4 This show unites the score and designs from this opera's premiere performances in 1976. Featured are Glass's entire autograph manuscript, Wilson's design sketches and footage from productions in Paris, Brussels and Venice.

Painting on Paper: Josef Albers

in America, July 13–October 14 Albers, 1888–1976, is best known for his series of paintings, "Homage to the Square," which explores color relationships within concentric

squares. This exhibit focuses on his less well known studies between the 1930s–50s for these and other works, never shown in the artist's lifetime and rarely seen after his death.

Enjoy lunch or a light snack and beverages at the Morgan Café with or without tickets.

For information about public programs—lectures, concerts, gallery talks and special events, call 212-685-0008 or visit the Morgan's website at www.themorgan.org. Enjoy Friday evenings FREE until 9 PM.

The New York Public Library

42nd Street and Fifth Avenue

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building

Shelley's Ghost: The Afterlife of a Poet, through June 24, Wachenheim III Gallery, Main Floor Through rare manuscripts, books and artifacts this exhibit chronicles the lives and literary legacy of the well known 19th-century English poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Frankenstein* author Mary Shelley, and her parents William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft. Organized in collaboration with the Bodleian Library in Oxford, this is the first time selections from the Frankenstein manuscript are on view in the United States. Also on view is Shelley's first major poem, "Queen Mab." This is the story of an extraordinary circle of people, full of wild romances, tragic deaths, exile and revolution.

In addition to exhibits there are ongoing lectures on a variety of topics, many FREE. If you haven't taken the free tour of the library's history and architecture, it's time to do so!

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

NOTE: Also check SIBL (Fifth Avenue at 34th Street) and Mid-Manhattan (Fifth Avenue at 40th Street) for their ongoing schedules of free lectures and computer classes.

CUNY Graduate Center

Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets

Extraordinary Lives: Conversations with Special Guests, Elebash Hall, \$15 non-members, \$12 members Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 PM Bill Kelly, President, CUNY Graduate Center, interviews Chuck Close, artist

LIVE @ 365: A New World Music Series, Tuesday, 7 PM, Elebash Recital Hall, \$25 non-members; \$20 members May 22, 2012, Flamenco Gitano, Manuel Agujetas, Gypsy flamenco guitarist and composer

MARTIN E. SEGAL THEATRE CENTER: Main Floor, Events are FREE

The Brighton Beach Project, Thursday, June 7, 6:30 PM Elyse Dodgson, with a trio of Russian language playwrights, explores New York's hidden immigrant histories, including Dodgson's own family.

Contemporary Argentine Theatre: Claudio Tolcachir + Timbre 4, Monday, June 25, 7:30 PM This evening with the Argentinian playwright, performer and director Claudio Tolcachir, includes a reading of his first play. Tolcachir founded

Timbre 4, a combination theater, school, company and collective workshop in his own Buenos Aires apartment.

For updated information check the website at www.gc.cuny.edu/events or call 212-817-8215. Order tickets at 212-868-4444 or at www.smarttix.com. Membership offers discounted tickets. For information, call 212-817-8215 or contact a new website at www.gc.cuny.edu/events/membership.htm.

Scandinavia House

Park Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets

Unnatural Formations: Exhibit of Three Contemporary Photographers, Tuesdays–Saturdays, 12–6 PM, through June 30. FREE This exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of the American-Scandinavian Foundation's Fellowship program with three recent grant recipients, innovators in contemporary landscape photography, who explore the unique elements of Nordic terrain and climate using photographic techniques where disparate images are woven together to create new realities.

CONCERTS: Nordic Summer Jam, Thursdays June 7–August 3 (but NOT July 5). At press time artists, prices and times TBA. Check website or phone number below.

Continued on page 8



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FILM SERIES: Nordic Noir: Varg Veum II, June 20–August 3, Wednesdays and Fridays, time TBA \$10 (\$7 ASF Members); Series Pass: \$50 (\$35 ASF Members)

LECTURE AND LITERARY PROGRAM: Stieg Larsson and Me, Book Talk with Eva Gabrielsson Tuesday, May 29, 2012, 6:30 PM, FREE Eva Gabrielsson, architect, author and political activist, was Larsson’s lifelong companion and often co-author. Her book, *There Are Things I Want You to Know About Stieg Larsson and Me*, is told in a series of short vignettes with such titles as “Speaking of Coffee” and “Stieg’s Journalistic Credo.” An international best-seller, featured in major media in 2011, it is now in paperback edition.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS:

Saturday Morning Storytelling: Final session, Saturday, May 12, 11 AM, ages 5+, featuring “Secrets From the Forests of Scandinavia”, **FREE**

Jewelry Workshop for Kids: Saturday, May 12, 1 PM, ages 5-10, \$10, \$7 ASF members. Kaksitväs designers help kids create fun and exciting creations. Kaksitväs is a Finnish brand consisting of clothing, jewelry, bags and other accessories, as well as household items like pillows, chairs and tableware, featuring innovative colors and designs.

Scandinavian Sing-Along: Final session, Saturday, May 19, 1 PM, ages 1-7, \$7, \$5 ASF members

Check out the fabulous gift shop and Smörgås Restaurant, open for brunch, lunch, dinner, snacks, coffee/tea and combination deals with certain films, concerts and other events (212-847-9745).

For detailed information contact www.scandinaviahouse.org. To receive ongoing information, click on the right to submit your e-mail address: “Join the Scandinavia House e-list and receive weekly program updates.” Also special ticket offers and Nordic happenings in and around New York. Or call 212-879-3587, visit their Facebook page or stop by in person. To become a member of ASF, the American-Scandinavian Foundation, call the above phone number at ext. 715, or e-mail mem@amscan.org, or visit www.amscan.org/membership.

Bryant Park
Spring and Summer Activities

April marked the 20th yearlong anniversary of the re-opening of Bryant Park after an extensive four-year redesign and renovation. Some of you may remember the park as a symbol of urban decay. What a glorious transformation has been made to Bryant Park, our local park, fun all year round, filled with seasonal activities and events. Check out happenings any time of the year: Visit the web at www.bryantpark.org and sign up on “My Bryant Park” for ongoing information or call 212-768-4242. Also check postings on Facebook, Twitter, the Bryant Park Blog and in brochures in the park.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Le Carousel Open all year. \$2 a ride. Fun for kids of all ages. Great for children’s parties. Free programs throughout the summer and fall

Bryant Park Tables Free Ping Pong tables all year; attendant spring-summer; monthly tournaments

Chess, backgammon, checkers, Scrabble: Monday-Saturday, April through October. Small fee

Reading Room Open daily April through October: Author and poetry events, writers’ workshops, book clubs

Southwest Porch A relaxing bar and restaurant near 40th Street and 6th Avenue. Open all year

Witchcraft Food Kiosks Open daily all year. Casual, creative food.

Bryant Park Grill and Café Spring, summer, fall. Good food and service with outdoor seating

FREE CLASSES

Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays, May–September. Largest weekly outdoor yoga class in the U.S.

Tai chi Tuesdays and Thursdays, May–September

Knitting Class Tuesdays, July and August

Fencing Fridays at lunch, April–June; September–October

Birding Mondays and Thursdays, April and May

Dance Class With Limon Dance Company Saturdays, May–September

Juggling Tuesdays, March–August; also Fridays, July–August, 5:30–7:30 PM.

Petanque Weekdays, April–October. Monthly weekend tournaments

NEW CLASSES: Language classes: Mondays and Wednesdays, June–September

FREE MUSIC AND SIGNATURE EVENTS

Piano at lunchtime Mondays–Fridays, May–September: Top New York pianists

Accordion at lunchtime Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, June–August

Broadway at lunchtime Thursdays, July–August. Performances from on and off Broadway

After-work jazz and singer-songwriter concerts 6 PM, June–August

HBO Summer Film Festival Monday evenings, June–August: Largest outdoor classic film festival in the U.S.

The Victorian Society New York

Last Lecture Until Autumn, Tuesday, May 8, 6 PM.

Held at the New York New Church (Swedenborgian), 114 East 35th Street, Manhattan

The Design and Creation of American Stained Glass Windows, circa 1900 Donald Samick, owner and president of J&R Lamb Studios, will discuss specialized techniques used by three major American stained glass studios at the end of the 19th century. “Draperies” glass was a complex layered glass that used three-dimensional folds and acid etching to obtain special effects, but which fell out of favor in the 1930s

Continued on next page

An Artistic Smorgasbord for Eye and Ear

By Pauline Brooks

MHNA members were treated to a smorgasbord of sights and sounds at Scandinavia House on February 24. The president of the American-Scandinavian Foundation,



Edward Gallagher, welcomed us while we sipped wine, after which we viewed Luminous Modernism, an exhibit of paintings by leading Nordic artists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

After touring the exhibit, we went downstairs to the Victor Borge auditorium for a musical evening hosted by the talented and charming Swedish pianist Per Tengstrand.

He introduced us to 16 members of the Swedish Youth Orchestra—all very young, talented and gorgeous—and its conductor, David Lundblad.

Victorian Society New York—continued from previous page

and was never made again. Lamb Studios, which Samick took over in 1970, was established in 1857 and is the oldest continuously operating stained glass studio in the United States.

Free and open to the public. No reservations required. (For VSNY members only: meet the speaker at our post-lecture reception.)

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They played two *Swedish Folk Songs* by Johan Svendsen. Then, they presented the American Premiere of Tobias Brostrom’s *Belle Epoque*—a concerto for piano and orchestra, with Per Tengstrand on piano. Tobias is a highly regarded and sought after composer, and we were fortunate to have him with us for this evening.

During the intermission, a marimba was brought onstage—for those of you who, like me, didn’t know what this was, it resembles a huge xylophone—and it was expertly played by Johan Bridger. The charismatic violinist Hugo Ticciati joined Mr. Bridger. Both of these exceptional musicians were featured at Carnegie Hall the following evening.



Hugo Ticciati on violin and Johan Bridger on marimba. Photo: Sami Steigmann

A lively Q&A with the personable and gracious artists provided insight into their creativity and concluded a delightful evening. Many thanks to all who helped make it happen.

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The Hearts of the Party

If two things can be said about members of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, it is that we know how to work hard and play hard. And so it was for the 50-odd Murray Hill neighbors gathered at El Rio Grande on Sunday, February 12 to raise a Margarita (or two) in early celebration of Valentine's Day.

Buoyed by the sweet jazz provided by Leviticus Gory on tenor saxophone and Robert Conton on guitar, we never pondered just why there was a life-sized buffalo hanging over the bar. (Hint: it's flying. It has "wings.") Nor did we question how many empañadas we could put away in two-plus hours. Party hearty!



Leviticus Gory, left, and Robert Conton

And when Manhattan Borough President (and mayoral hopeful) Scott Stringer stopped by, we happily congratulated him—and, by proxy, his wife Elyse Buxbaum—on the birth of their first child, Max, in December. "I have the last shift," Mr. Stringer said of the feeding schedule, "and at 5:45 A.M., like clockwork, he's up and ready." Party hearty!



Marilyn Boll



Winifred Meahl and our Hostess Marion Weingarten



Pauline Brooks



Marion Weingarten and the lucky winner of a jug of goodies, Matt Roberts



Joseph and Evelyn Godman



Left to right: Ann Usher, Anne Hughes and Gail Lott

Photographs: Sami Steigmann

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The Association has just been able to reissue this exclusive map by Dean Avery, created in 1976 in commemoration of Murray Hill's designation as an "Official Bicentennial District," celebrating the 200 years since the American Revolution.

This exclusive black-and-white map, 25 1/2 x 17 3/4 inches, is available for purchase for \$45. Prints of many of the individual buildings shown on this map are also available for purchase at \$20 each. We also offer a package of ten assorted note cards of some of the illustrated historic buildings on the map.

All proceeds from the sale of these maps are dedicated to historic preservation in our community.

Visit our website:

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or

smedemmet@aol.com



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Mrs. Mary Lindley Murray and her daughters entertained British General Howe and his troops for tea, while General Putnam and his American troops moved northward. The Murray Home, Belmont, was located at Park Avenue and 37th Street, on their farm known as Inclenberg.

A bronze plaque honoring Mary Lindley Murray, placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, is embedded in a boulder in the mall at Park Avenue and 37th Street.



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Famous (and Feisty) Ladies of Murray Hill: From Mary Murray to Malvina Hoffman



Mary Murray and British General William Howe.

Perhaps it was Mary Murray who set the example for future generations. The proper Quaker wife of Murray Hill's namesake, Mrs. Murray entered the history books when her invitation to tea delayed British troops and allowed the Revolutionary Army to escape and fight another day. She was only the first of many independent-thinking women who would call Murray Hill their home.

In 1872, Victoria Woodhull, an outspoken advocate of free love, announced from her home on East 38th Street that she would become

the first woman candidate for President of the United States. Nominated by the National Equal Rights Party on May 10, she shared the ticket with the former slave and prominent abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Undeterred by her defeat by President Ulysses S. Grant, Woodhull ran again 20 years later, this time with another woman, Mary L. Stowe of California, as vice-presidential candidate.



Mrs. William Astor

Certainly the most socially powerful woman to live in Murray Hill was Mrs. William (Caroline Webster Schermerhorn) Astor—the Mrs. Astor who limited acceptable society to the privileged 400 who could fit into her ballroom at Fifth Avenue and 33rd Street. This block became the grounds for society's biggest battle


of wills when Mrs. Astor's nephew, William Waldorf Astor, inherited his father's mansion at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. Having failed in his attempt to dislodge his aunt from her position as supreme ruler of New York society, he razed his father's home in 1892 before emigrating to England to become the first Viscount Astor. By 1893, the Waldorf Hotel had risen in its place as Mrs. Astor's new neighbor.

Mrs. Robert Bacon was one of New York's most famous "hold-outs." The widow of a U.S. ambassador to France, Mrs. Bacon's mid-Victorian mansion occupied the northeast corner of 34th Street and Park Avenue. Her address was One Park Avenue until the late 1920s, when Park Avenue was extended two blocks south to 32nd Street. Despite the fact that Mrs. Bacon lost a suit against the city demanding to retain the original address, her residence continued to be listed in the telephone directory as "1 Park Avenue." A few years later, when the rest of the block was demolished for the construction of 7 Park Avenue, Mrs. Bacon refused to sell, and the high-rise apartment building was built around her. Her mansion stood until 1953.



Malvina Hoffman

Malvina Hoffman's presence in Murray Hill is commemorated by a plaque outside her Sniffen Court studio and the handsome plaques of Greek horsemen that decorate the back wall of the courtyard. In the 1930s, she was truly "the talk of the town." She moved to Paris at the age of 23 and worked under Rodin's tutelage for three years until she struck off on her own in 1911. Her social circle in Paris

included Gertrude Stein, Henri Matisse, Jean Cocteau and Nijinsky. 

(See related item about one of Malvina Hoffman's prints on page 18.)

East Side Access Project Update: Big Noise Above Ground and Intrigue Far Below

When the Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced its East Side Access Project in 2007, it represented a significant expansion of New York's rail network. The \$7.4 billion public works initiative would link the Long Island Railroad's Main and Port Washington lines in Sunnyside Queens to a new LIRR terminal to be built under Grand Central Terminal on the East Side. All this began with almost science fiction tales of giant drills boring channels far underground. These tales were buttressed by buoyant promises "to shorten travel time for commuters, relieve congestion at Penn Station, and to significantly reduce car traffic and associated air pollution" as Ellen Imbimbo wrote in *Murray Hill Life* in 2009.

Then, Murray Hill residents looked with patience and curiosity at the wall-to-wall construction trailers and orange-vested workers. It was all very exciting with most of the action taking place 14 stories below Park Avenue. City politicians went underground to visit the site. News outlets reported on the progress.


Then, project managers announced that they would leave the tunnel-boring drill—all 200 tons and 22.5 feet in diameter—beneath the ground in a cost-saving measure. (The removal would delay further construction, potentially costing millions of dollars in additional wages.)

That brought more curiosity and more coverage. *The New York Times* took us underground with construction engineers in July 2011, to visit "the future crypt" for the dormant beast that would be left behind. Michael M. Grynbaum of *The Times* described "a machine that evokes an alien life form that crashed to earth millennia ago. Its steel gears, bolts and pistons, already oxidizing, appeared lifeless and fatigued. A wormlike fan, its exhaust pipe disappearing into the cutter's maw, was still spinning, its drone not unlike a slumbering creature's breath."

As *The Times* noted somewhat wryly, "There is little precedent for such a Brobdingnagian burial," then quoted Michael Horodniceanu, the MTA's chief of construction, who said, "It's like a Jules Verne story."

The fanciful thinking began to fade in light of grim realities. In mid-November 2011 a 26-year-old digging with his father on the construction team under Grand Central died when a falling concrete slab crushed his chest. And on the Upper East Side, where the East Side Access project has focused attention on the Second Avenue Subway construction, many residents have complained of breathing problems (dubbed "Second Avenue Subway Cough") that they associate with blasting on the site.

Meanwhile, issues of much lesser magnitude continued to bedevil Murray Hill. While (as of this writing) the number of unsightly construction trailers had been reduced to one, the din of the jackhammers could be heard at 37th and Park. The Union League Club absorbed the brunt of the noise. When Grynbaum of *The Times* called the club seeking comment, a man on the other end of the phone would only say that the members were "painfully aware" of the construction.

The pain will not cease any time soon. The projected date of completion is 2016, but who knows for sure? It might help pass the time by imagining the Leviathan "as tall as four men and with the weight of two whales" resting so quietly 140 feet below the grassy Park Avenue mall between 37th and 38th. 

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Community Briefs

NYPL to Sell Two Murray Hill Branches In mid-February, the New York Public Library detailed its ambitious \$1 billion plan to overhaul its branches and renovate its Fifth Avenue flagship. The plan will be funded in part by the sale of two of the system's best-known libraries -- the Mid-Manhattan branch at Fifth Avenue and 40th Street and the Science, Industry and Business Library at Madison Avenue and 34th Street.

The library had already agreed to sell five floors of office space it used in the business library building, the former B. Altman department store. Now it plans to also sell its library space on the first and lower levels.

A new circulating library will be designed inside the main branch to replace the Mid-Manhattan operation. It will be built below the Rose Reading Room, overlooking Bryant Park.

New Phone Line Helps Parents Find Doctors for Kids NYU Langone Medical Center has launched a dedicated phone line that will help parents find physicians who can address their child's specific needs and make appointments. The number is 1 (855) NYU-KIDS. The NYU phone line will connect parents directly to nurses, who will staff the access line during business hours. With their medical knowledge and background, they can offer suggestions to parents who are looking for physicians and services for their children.—*DNAinfo*

Her Name is Lo-la, She is a Ho-tel In January, the Hotel LOLA opened at 29 East 29th Street. With its tasteful décor, dim lighting and background jazz selections, no one would ever guess that on this site once stood the Martha Washington Hotel, a residence for young, single women.

"This was the first hotel catering to all women," general manager Parag Gupta told *DNAinfo*, embracing the location's history. "We tried to channel that same spirit and energy into what you see here."

What you see is a sleek 276-room, 12-story hotel with all the modern amenities, including a business center with high-speed Internet access, the Zana Café and bar in the lobby, offering Mediterranean cuisine, and a 24-hour multilingual staff.

Grand Central Terminal to Turn 100 To mark the February 1, 2013 milestone, this New York institution unveiled a new centennial logo. In its City Room blog, *The New York Times* described the logo as "a stylized but instantly recognizable version of the four-faced clock that crowns the central information booth." *The Times* noted that "the hands of the logo's clock are set at 7:13. In the evening, that would be the equivalent of 19:13 on a 24-hour clock — the year the terminal opened." The terminal will undergo a renovation of the East 42nd Street entrance and will feature a series of exhibits in Vanderbilt Hall. Caroline Kennedy, whose mother helped save Grand Central from demolition back in the 1970s, will serve as honorary chairwoman of the yearlong celebration.

Kudos to Tudor City Cabaret Series Concerts for City Greens, the free cabaret series produced by Raissa Katona Bennett, was nominated for a 2012 MAC Award in the "Benefit" category. The Manhattan Association for Cabarets and Clubs Awards are the Oscars for cabaret.

Bennett and the series, then known as the Concerts at Tudor City Greens, were featured in the Spring 2011 issue of *Murray Hill Life*. The name of the series "was shortened," Bennett explains, "to expand our mission, which is to support the 'greening' of New York, by linking with a range of community groups, organizations and individuals to increase and diversify the audiences for live music in New York, while encouraging public and private stewardship of green spaces across the city."

The 2012 concerts, which run monthly (except July) on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM, start May 30 and end October 3, weather permitting.

Education on the Hill

By Mary Silver

PS 116 Snapshots


Spring Auction Blooms

The Mary Lindley Murray School took its annual Spring Benefit Gala to a new level, once again. Held at City Winery on Monday, March 26, the event included school leaders, teachers, parents and local elected officials coming together to celebrate and raise funds for PS 116, Murray Hill's remarkable neighborhood elementary school. Items ranged from Broadway tickets to *The Book of Mormon* to local restaurants like Nomado to highly coveted teacher treats, including a play date in Central Park with a much-loved, fifth-grade teacher. All proceeds support a variety of critical school needs, including enrichment programs for at-risk students.

K-1 Chess Team on the Rise

PS 116 continues to be a force to be reckoned with in chess, offered during and after school by international chess master Saudin Robovic and his NY ChessKids teachers. This year's K-1 chess team is a particular powerhouse, with an energetic and passionate squad, including Anish Saxena, a PS 116 first-grader, who was NY ChessKids' student of the month in February. Anish and some of his teammates will represent PS 116 at the U.S. Chess Federation's National Chess Championship in Nashville, Tenn., May 11-13, a huge honor for a wonderful neighborhood boy who has a keen understanding of chess. Once again, PS 116 was the site of the spring break chess camp, April 9-13, for kids from around the city and beyond. The school also played host to a city-wide chess tournament on Sunday, April 22 — for over a hundred kids, ages 3-18, both rated and non-rated. (See nychesskids.com for more information.) Principal Jane Hsu is proud of her amazing and dedicated chess students in every grade. Go 116!

4th & 5th Graders Bonding with Children at Rusk Institute

Keeping with its commitment to community service, 4th and 5th graders at PS 116 will be working to create friendships and bonds to support the children's rehabilitation at Rusk Institute. This invitation from NYU's Langone Medical Center is an honor and privilege for all of the participating PS 116 kids. 

Pedestrian Mall Returns for Summer Tryout on Second Avenue

The Department of Transportation has agreed to turn the three-block-long service road on Second Avenue between 30th and 33rd streets in Kips Bay into a pedestrian plaza for three months beginning in May.

Kips Bay's western neighbors remember the space as the site of the late, lamented Murray Hill Greenmarket.

If all goes according to plan, the area will be filled with organizations providing food, music and entertainment. The move marks the next step toward turning the service road into a permanent public plaza — a prospect that has gathered ample support from Kips Bay area residents and community advocates.

Last year, the DOT agreed to give the proposal a test run, closing down the strip that is only used for parking for three daylong street fairs. (*DNAinfo*)



The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods -
—Robert Frost

Prudential Douglas Elliman

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Faces of Murray Hill

Rabbi Joel Goor: Murray Hill Rabbi—1983–2011

By Ravelle Brickman

Joel Goor, the longtime rabbi of Metropolitan Synagogue, died in December 2011, just a few months short of the issue in which his story was scheduled to appear. Although diagnosed with cancer seven years earlier, he fought the disease for a long time, participating in research studies and taking experimental drugs. This article is based on the recollections of those around him.

Joel Goor didn't plan to become a rabbi. Growing up in the 1940s in Phoenix, Arizona, Joel played the trumpet and sang at school events. At UCLA, he majored in business and joined Hillel, the Jewish campus organization, because he liked singing. "Music was his passion," said Beri Goor, the youngest of his four children, who conducted services with him during his final years. "Through Hillel, he discovered that he loved the pulpit." By the time he graduated, he had switched career goals. Instead of going into business, he headed for Hebrew Union College where he was ordained.

Now Rabbi Goor, his first "official" post was in Paris as an Air Force chaplain in 1959. Two years later, he joined Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego.

"Everyone looked up to him," said Rick Goor, the older son. "Politicians and celebrities often sought his friendship and advice. On Passover, Mayor Pete Wilson—who was later Governor—attended the family seder."

It was in San Diego that the Rabbi's talent for playing jazz shofar blossomed. Applying the techniques of the trumpet to a ram's horn, typically blasted on the High Holy Days, he performed years later at Carnegie Hall with Wynton Marsalis.



Blowing the shofar at Congregation Beth Israel in the 1960s.

By the late '70s, Rabbi Goor and his wife had divorced. He earned a PhD, remarried, had a fourth child and, in 1983, joined Metropolitan Synagogue on East 35th Street.

He chose Metropolitan because it was housed under the same roof as the Community Church of New York—a leading Unitarian Universalist house of worship—and symbolized the

importance of interfaith ties. Under Rabbi Goor, the synagogue was known as a place that welcomed interfaith families as well as gay and lesbian couples.

As a child, Rabbi Goor had hated traditional Hebrew School classes. Determined to avoid the mistakes that others had made, he instituted a Hebrew Home Study Program, which allowed small groups of children to create a learning environment in their own homes.

"He made Hebrew relevant to the children's lives," said Mary Silver, whose husband, Perry, is president of the congregation.

When Leah, the youngest of the three Silver girls, became a Bat Mitzvah in March 2012, her speech was a tribute to Rabbi Goor. Lamenting the loss of her mentor, she described his arrest for praying with Martin Luther King outside a segregated hotel. "He fought for the things he believed in," she said, adding that the arrest led directly to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In addition to children like Leah and her sisters, Rabbi Goor reached out to many young people with learning disabilities, helping them to overcome the difficulties of reading the Hebrew words in a Bar or Bat Mitzvah portion.

Adults also benefited. Sue Salmansohn, a semi-retired marketing executive, celebrated her own Bat Mitzvah a few years ago. One of three women

who studied with the rabbi, she described him as a superb teacher and the "cornerstone of the synagogue."

Continued on next page



Rabbi Goor (center) flanked by his children in 1999: from left, Caroline Goor Hutchinson, a singer and former cantor; Rabbi Don Goor, Temple Judea; Rick, a real estate lawyer, and Beri, a Hebrew teacher and chef.

From "Why We Went," a letter written by Rabbi Goor and 15 others who were arrested in 1964:

"We went because Martin Luther King asked us to ... and because we could not stand silently by our brother's blood."



Leah (left) and Julia Silver with Rabbi Goor at their sister Natalie's Bat Mitzvah.

Rabbi Goor—continued from previous page

An enthusiastic supporter of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, Rabbi Goor conducted the annual menorah lighting on Park Avenue and other community events. His final official act was a conversion ceremony for one of the many interfaith couples in his fold.

"He was a man of religious tolerance and worldly wisdom," said Valentina Kurosch, administrator of the synagogue. "He'll be hard to replace." ^{MH}

Ravelle Brickman is a writer and editor who teaches at NYU.

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“Many times during the week, we see chambermaids coming in and out of the building and apartments that are being cleaned. We have seen piles of used towels left in the hallways, and trash left in the service area rather than dropped in the compactor chute.” Ms. Rauch also complains that building staff, as part of the rental agreement, services the short-term apartments, often dominating washers and driers in the laundry room at the expense of full-time residents.

Another renter said short stays had economic and civic consequences. “This practice raises rents because it shrinks the inventory of available apartments, it denies the city the usual hotel taxes, and skews statistics at census time,” she said.

“Residents are frequently extremely concerned that the safety of their buildings is undermined by strangers coming and going at all hours,” State Senator Liz Krueger told a City Council committee in December. She represents the 26th district, which includes Murray Hill. Together with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Assemblyman Dick Gottfried and City Councilmember Gale Brewer from the West Side, Ms. Krueger has been working to enforce regulations and stiffen penalties for violators of the 30-day-minimum rule. Senator Krueger said, “The law is clear that all units in residential buildings must be rented for a minimum of 30 days at a time.”

Yet Ms. Rauch and other tenants say that they “have observed tourists and [others] who stay for as short as a weekend.” A writer for this publication called several of the agencies advertising temporary apartments in Murray Hill and was turned down when asking for reservations for less than 30 days. However, a cursory glance of several online websites where people can post their apartments for rent revealed many listings for short-stays in Murray Hill at \$90-\$250 a night.

The appeal of short-term rentals is easy to grasp: a one-bedroom apartment can command \$200 or more a day,

depending on the season. That’s at least \$6,000 a month, significantly more than what a long-term rental would fetch. For guests it is less than a hotel room, for which they are also charged State and City sales taxes plus a Hotel Room Occupancy Tax (HROT). The HROT adds 5.875% to a hotel bill plus \$2.00 per day.

Systematic short-term rentals do not seem to be a major issue in co-ops and condos, which have stringent by-laws and house rules. Arline Kob, a vice president at Key Real Estate Associates, a property manager for co-ops, condos and rental buildings, says “it’s not an enormous problem.” When owners or tenants have contended that short-term occupants of their apartments were relatives or non-paying guests, Ms. Kob said, “it’s difficult to prove” otherwise.

In any case, violators need to be verified by inspectors from the Mayor’s Office of Special Enforcement (OSE), which acts on complaints received via 311. The very nature of a short stay works against the time elapsed between receipt of a complaint and an inspection. OSE is “forced to prioritize those illegal hotel operations posing immediate safety threats,” Senator Krueger said.

A spokesman for OSE said, “Since 2006, more than 3700 violations have been recorded.” This includes illegal hotels where overcrowding has led to “over 100 ‘vacates’ issued for extremely dangerous conditions. It’s a concern that we take seriously.” In Murray Hill, he said, “following complaints received about 30 Park Avenue, OSE inspected in August 2011 and the third week of February and found no transient use of apartments as mentioned in the complaint.”


Senator Krueger added, “Anyone who suspects that illegal hotels are operating in residential buildings should call 311 to file a complaint. It is essential to use the phrase ‘illegal hotel’ when calling, to ensure that operators properly input the complaint.” 




Photo: Pamela Selensky

Klein Donates Hoffman Print to the Met

A print of two dancers in classical costume by world-renowned American sculptor Malvina Hoffman was donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art recently by Charlotte Klein. It was created in 1915 and signed by the artist.

“Contributions such as yours enable the Museum to sustain its position of pre-eminence in the world, and we greatly appreciate your generous support,” wrote Pamela Butler, Senior Deputy Chief Development Officer, in an acceptance letter.

Hoffman was commissioned by the Field Museum of Chicago to travel the world sculpting people of various ethnic groups for the famous Hall of Man exhibit. She completed 104 life-sized bronze statues.

Hoffman lived on 35th Street in Murray Hill until her death in 1966. She created two friezes on the back wall of Sniffen Court depicting men on horseback. The back door of her home led right into the court. 

Greenmarket Recipes: Frittata Time!

By Marisa Bulzone

Despite the mild winter weather, spring is always the most welcome of seasons — especially at the greenmarkets. Tender lettuces, bright green sugar snaps, baby veggies, and all manner of shoots and blossoms are waiting to be tossed into salads, sautéed and stirred into risottos, or simply steamed and gently seasoned.

I love a good brunch dish—whether it’s a breakfast casserole, or a frittata, these egg-based concoctions are so simple and so versatile that you can easily adapt them to whatever vegetables are best on a given week. Make one for a Sunday celebration and have the leftovers at room temperature for lunch or dinner during the week. You don’t need any special equipment, just a deep sauté pan with an oven-safe handle.

Here are two very different takes on the classic frittata—each filled with the bright colors and flavors of the spring season.

Squash Blossom Frittata

Although often stuffed, battered, and fried, squash blossoms can lend their delicate flavor (reminiscent of the squash to come) to salads, soups, and cooked dishes like this frittata. In spring and early summer, look for zucchini blossoms in the market; for this recipe, it’s even better if you find them with the baby zucchini still attached. Just remember the flowers won’t last long; plan to use them within a day of purchase.

Serves 2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 to 4 large zucchini blossoms | 1/4 cup milk | 1 tablespoon butter |
| 2 baby zucchini (green, yellow, or 1 of each) | Chopped fresh parsley and snipped chives (optional) | 2 green onions (white part and a bit of the green), thinly sliced |
| 4 large eggs | Salt and freshly ground pepper | 1/3 cup grated Asiago cheese |


1. Preheat the broiler to low. If still attached, twist the blossoms from the zucchini. Remove the stamens or pistil from the center of the blossoms and discard; gently wash the blossoms and set them on a paper towel to dry. Slice the zucchini into thin coins. 2. In a mixing bowl, beat together the eggs and the milk. Toss in the parsley and chives, if using, and the salt and pepper. 3. In an 8-inch non-stick, oven-safe pan, melt the butter and sauté the sliced squash and green onions, just until soft, about 3 minutes. Add the squash blossoms and sauté for just 30 seconds more. Remove the vegetables from the pan. 4. Pour the egg mixture into the sauté pan, arrange the onions, squash, and blossoms on top, and cook over low to medium heat until almost set. Sprinkle with the Asiago cheese and place under the broiler until lightly puffed and browned, 2 to 3 minutes. Cut the frittata in half and serve hot or at room temperature.

Salmon, Potato, and Asparagus Frittata

Here’s a frittata that’s packed with spring flavors. True to the adaptable nature of the dish, feel free to substitute ingredients to suit your taste and what looks good at the market: use smoked salmon instead of fresh, baby spinach (2 to 3 cups, chopped) instead of asparagus.

Serves 4

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| 3/4 pound new potatoes (about 8 small potatoes), cut into 1/2-inch cubes | Freshly ground pepper | 3/4-inch pieces |
| Salt | 2 teaspoons olive oil | 1 (12-ounce) salmon filet, skin removed, cut into bite-size pieces |
| 6 large eggs | 1 cup chopped leeks, white and a bit of the green | 1 teaspoon chopped fresh dill |
| 3 egg whites | 1 cup asparagus, trimmed and cut into | |

1. Place the potatoes in a medium saucepan with lightly salted water. Bring to a boil and cook until the potatoes are just tender (about 7 minutes); drain the potatoes and set them aside. 2. Preheat the broiler to low. In a mixing bowl, beat together the eggs, egg whites, and salt and pepper. 3. Heat the oil in a 12-inch non-stick, oven-proof skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté the leeks until soft and transparent, about 3 minutes. Add the asparagus and potatoes and continue to sauté until the asparagus is crisp-tender, about 3 minutes. Add the salmon and sauté until the fish is opaque, 3 minutes. 4. Pour the egg mixture into the skillet and reduce the heat to low. Sprinkle in the dill. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the eggs begin to set but are still wet. Cook without stirring for 5 minutes more. Place the skillet under the broiler until puffy and golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Cut the frittata into 4 wedges and serve warm or at room temperature. 

Continued from page 1

As regular readers of *Murray Hill Life* know, we are reaching the end of more than two years of discussions and planning for the implementation of the 34th Street Select Bus Service project. In late February, the DOT released its final environmental impact report, which revealed no major impediment to the project (to read the full report, visit http://www.nyc.gov/html/brt/downloads/pdf/201201_brt_34th_project-analysis-report.pdf).

We continue to fight for the return of bus stops to Madison and Lexington Avenues (see the sidebar Transit Lines for the current status). Meanwhile, MHNA representatives will continue to work closely with project planners to ensure continued building access for residents and business owners on 34th Street and provide practical and safe traffic patterns for the entire neighborhood.

Beginning on the west end of 34th Street in August 2012 and moving east block by block, the SBS construction will result in:


- New offset bus lanes to improve bus speeds;
- Curbside loading and unloading zones on every block of the corridor;

- Ten right-turn lanes at key intersections to reduce congestion;
- One left-turn lane at the intersection of First Avenue and 34th Street (We have requested to have a left turn signal on

Second Avenue and 34th Street);

- 24 new SBS stations, with new shelters, benches, signage, and passenger information (Lexington and Madison Avenues are not included as SBS stations—yet);
- 14 sidewalk extensions at a total of 18 SBS stations that will provide about 20,400 square feet of new pedestrian space;
- Seven express bus stops;
- Overhead and mounted signs;
- Transit signal priority equipment; and
- Adjustments to signal timings at certain intersections along 34th Street.

While the details of the construction schedule have not been finalized, it is expected that the construction west of Lexington Avenue will be completed by April 2013, taking into account the city-wide embargo on any street construction between Thanksgiving and January.

Look to future issues of *Murray Hill Life* and our website, www.murrayhillnyc.org, for the latest information on these important projects. 

Transit Lines

The DOT has kept us hopping this spring, as we study a number of new programs and projects for their impact on the neighborhood while continuing to fight existing battles.

- **Lexington and Madison Avenue bus stops** In February, Community Board Six passed a resolution calling for the reinstatement of these vital bus stops. MHNA brought the resolution before Community Board Five and has urged its endorsement. At press time, CB5's decision is pending.
- **NYC Bike Share** This program, which will scatter 600 public rental bicycle stations across the city, begins this summer. MHNA is working with CB6 and the DOT to ensure appropriate placement of these stations within Murray Hill.
- **29th and 30th Street Bike Lanes** The DOT is proposing the installation of bike lanes on this pair of crosstown streets, from First to Eighth Avenues.
- **BusTime comes to 34th Street** MTA BusTime—which provides estimated bus stop arrival times based on GPS coordinates—is now available for the M34 and M34A routes. And yes, there's also an "app" for that: visit www.onthego.mta.info for more information.



52-foot section: four travel lanes with "bulb out" section for bus boarding and fifth-lane loading zone to the left rear of the standing bus.

The figure at the left shows an example of a "bulb out," which will appear at some corners along 34th Street. These will decrease the lengths of crosswalks, the time to cross the street, and thus the potential conflict time between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Renderings courtesy MTA/DOT



60-foot section: five travel lanes with no loading zone.