

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

The 34th Street Transitway Is History, But Serious Concerns Remain

By Marisa Bulzone

On March 14, the Department of Transportation unveiled its revised proposal to install Bus Rapid Transit on 34th Street. As Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer announced to the crowd, “The process doesn’t end tonight, it’s just the beginning.”

We agree. While this proposal is a great leap forward from the debacle presented to us last year, specific concerns remain, and MHNA will be vigilant in our continued conversations with the DOT.

This latest version of the plan remains under review. Following public meetings held at the end of March and an environmental impact study and traffic analysis that will take place over the summer, another draft will be submitted for public review and comment in the fall. Visit www.nyc.gov/html/brt/html/next/34th_transit.shtml#design to review the current proposal and click on “Download the preliminary design” to view the block-by-block details.

Reproduced here are the two blocks between Park and Third Avenues.



It took months and months of meetings, close to 4,000 petition signatures, media outreach, and significant support from our community boards and elected officials, but we succeeded in getting the DOT to listen. Our 34th Street Action Committee brought together a dedicated band of residents from the East and West Sides to press the issues. The Transportation Committees of Community Boards 4, 5, and 6, Borough President Stringer, City Council President Christine Quinn, Council Members Rosie Mendes and Dan Garodnick, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, and Representatives Carolyn Maloney and Jerrold Nadler have been great advocates for our cause and we are grateful for their continued support. Dropped from the original Transitway proposal are plans for a pedestrian plaza between Fifth and Sixth


Avenues, as well as the concrete barriers that would have physically separated the dedicated bus lanes and barricaded the residences and businesses along 34th Street. As for 34th Street: it will remain two-way from end-to-end, albeit with only two lanes reserved for traffic, and the blocks east of Third Avenue and west of Ninth Avenue will have dedicated Pickup/Drop-off Lanes with parking on both sides of the street.

However, because of the narrower roadway, the blocks between Third and Ninth Avenues can only accommodate one Pickup/Drop-off Lane and it floats from the north to the south side of 34th Street on a block-by-block basis. This continues to deny daily access to a number of residences and businesses on East 34th Street and creates a confusing and potentially dangerous traffic pattern.

In addition, a single traffic lane in either direction will still create a funnel effect for cars and trucks moving onto 34th Street, and we continue to be concerned with overflow

traffic on our side streets. The DOT must once and for all design a sensible traffic plan—not just for Murray Hill, but for all of Midtown.

It is also important to note that—as part of this plan—Select Bus Service with curbside fare payment will be installed on 34th Street in late summer of this year. Going forward, this will be the only local bus service on 34th Street. In this proposal, there are no bus stops planned for Madison and Lexington Avenues, while the construction of extended bus “bulbs” may have an impact on our hard-fought curbside trees.

Stop by the MHNA Membership table at the Street Festival on May 22 for further information on this plan and visit our web site at www.murrayhillnyc.org for the latest updates. 

Murray Hill Life

A PUBLICATION OF THE
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From the President's Desk

Diane Bartow

Spring is finally here, the tulips are sprouting and soon the cherry blossoms will be in full bloom, *and* we have good news regarding the 34th Street Transitway.

Yes, there will be no plaza between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, no concrete barriers and no one-way traffic. We have come a long way: after more than 50 meetings, we finally have a new design and we have gotten through to the Department of Transportation. That is the good news, but we have work yet to do. After reviewing the DOT's new plans for 34th Street, we still have concerns: 1) what impact will the construction of bus bulbs and new bus stops have on access to 34th Street apartment buildings and businesses, 2) how many trees will we lose and 3) how will traffic on our other streets be affected.

This column is too short to thank all the Murray Hill volunteers and elected officials who got us to this point. Well done to all! This really is a wonderful victory that reflects all the work, dedication and time spent.

Transportation issues continue to be a high priority for the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association. We are still working on return of the M-1 bus service to Park Avenue, and we are trying to relieve congestion on our streets. We are also reviewing plans for waterfront development on the East Side and assaying the impact of the ferry landings on 34th Street.

The continued greening of Murray Hill also remains a top issue. The winter snow storms damaged many of our beautiful trees and the clean-up effort continues. We have purchased new trash receptacles to continue our *Keep Murray Hill Clean* campaign, a major program and a major success.

I hope you will join us on Sunday, May 22 at our Street Festival, "The Taste of Murray Hill," on Park Avenue. Enjoy a treat from the bake table, buy a book, sample treats from Murray Hill restaurants, take a neighborhood walking tour or bid at the silent auction. Meet new friends, have a little fun, enjoy great music and let your voice be heard on the issues.

Remember to stop at the Association's membership and transportation area to see the updated plans for 34th Street and give us your comments and concerns. And make sure you confirm your e-mail addresses at the membership table, so we can update you on the important issues we face.

I hope you can also enjoy some other coming events, including the ballet on May 18, and a special walking tour in June. In September, we will feature a transportation forum, a follow-up to last year's very effective caucus.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee of the Association, please send us a short bio and what you would like to accomplish. You may either mail it to the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1897, New York, N.Y. 10156-1897, Attn: Nominating Committee or send your interest by e-mail to info@murrayhillnyc.org with "Nominating Committee" in the subject line.

So, join us at the "Taste of Murray Hill" Street Festival on May 22. Stop by and thank the very special volunteers who continue to make Murray Hill a highly desirable place to live and work. 

News from MECA Fred Arcaro, President Manhattan East Community Association

The City School Construction Authority is proceeding with its plan to build the future P.S./I.S. 281 on the southwest quarter of 616 First Avenue, site of the former Con Edison power plant. Construction is to be completed by 2014. Since the school is being built on landfill, workers are driving steel piling into bedrock. Each piling will be cemented and will serve as column support for the building. The six-story building will have a half-size basketball court and a children's playground surrounded by a three-foot-high iron gate on the east side of the school. We do not know at this time the final design for the rest of the site.

As for the First Avenue Development Project, there is nothing new to report.

Alternative TSM Plan for 34th Street Bus Service

As reported in MECA's newsletter, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) had made a presentation to the Public Safety, Environment and Transportation (PSE&T) Committee of Community Board 6 on proposed new or enhanced transit service along 34th Street called Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). I have good news: as a result of many complaints from residents and businesses along the 34th Street corridor and political pressure, MTA and DOT have abandoned the BRT design plan.


This is a victory for our community. At the Community Advisory Committee meeting on March 14, DOT and MTA presented an alternative to BRT for 34th Street -- called the Transportation System Alternative (TSM) -- which we had been suggesting for many months. TSM would include the following features:

- Bus route restructuring
- Expanded use of articulated buses to increase bus capacity
- Signalization improvements
- Express and limited-stop service
- More frequent bus service
- Pre-pay fare station at bus stops similar to the ones on First and Second Avenues

I realize this plan may need more work to address some concerns of residents and businesses, but the new plan did answer many serious objections.

Fewer DEP Trucks to Park on Streets Near 37th and First

There's more good news: In a few months, residents around 37th Street and First Avenue will see fewer of those unsightly DEP trucks that have been parking on many streets in our neighborhood. I have been working with DEP for four years, trying to reduce the number of trucks parked in our area. DEP has informed me that they have nearly completed building another garage facility on the West Side near 25th Street. DEP will transfer these trucks from our neighborhood to the new location. However, there will still be some trucks parked here, since one DEP department will still occupy the present garage.

If you have not renewed your MECA membership, please do so now. Please send your check (payable to MECA) to 415 East 37th Street, NY 10016, or MHNA (payable to Murray Hill Neighborhood Association) to PO Box 1897, NY 100156-1897. Thank you for your continuing support of MECA. 

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

MHNA TREE "Annuity" Program for our Tree-lined Streets

The beautification of the streets and malls is one of the prime tasks of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association. To plant and maintain our tree-lined streets takes great effort and money. The effort comes from our volunteers.

You can help us with the other part.

- Installation of a tree fence (\$1,200)
- Bent or broken fences (\$300)
- Repositioning (\$300 to repair)
- Painting (\$250 per fence)
- Any amount to help...

Please send us your contribution payable to the
Murray Hill Neighborhood Association
to cover these minimal costs for the repairs.

Mail to:

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212-886-5867 www.murrayhillnyc.org

Thank  you!
The Greening Committee

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Members' Corner

Lists as of March 31, 2011

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Sandra Cecchini
Jane Crafts
Alfred DelliBovi

Timothy Hughes
Susan &
Louis Moschillo
Michael V. Patrizio

Merchant Discount Change

Please note the following change in your discount booklet.
Estiatorio Rafina, 630 First Ave. at 36th St., 212-532-2234
15% discount, cash only. See their ad on page 3.

Join MHNA or Renew on line!

Visit www.murrayhillnyc.org to join or renew your membership online.

Our web site is also a source of late-breaking news, information about upcoming 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.**

- \$35 Individual \$50 Couple \$60 Business/Professional
 \$20 Senior Citizen (age 65+) \$40 Senior Couple (age 65+)
 \$100 Patron \$250 Guardian \$500 Benefactor

I want to make an additional contribution to help you further your work: \$ _____

Contributions will be acknowledged in our Newsletter.

If you prefer not to be acknowledged, please check here

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Please include your e-mail address. We do not share this information.

Name of referring member, if applicable.

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

Thanks to these Members

We are grateful to these members who donated to MHNA along with their dues in 2010.

Benefactor

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Michaela Walsh
Anna Joan Weber
Gloria Weiner
Dee Wills
Carroll & Nick Yanicelli

Condolences

Alice Timothy lost her only sibling, Peggy Custer, unexpectedly, on January 27, in New Rochelle, N.Y., where she lived in the family homestead. Peggy was predeceased by her husband, Terry. They are survived by their children, Laura, Sean, Terrence, Timothy and Meghan, and two grandchildren.

Both Peggy and Alice graduated from the College of New Rochelle, two years apart. Alice sends her thanks for the many notes of condolence from MHNA board members and friends.

We also extend our condolences to long-time member Ruth Freese, whose husband Arthur passed away in December, 2010.

Warming Up a Chilly Valentine's Day

The annual Valentine's Day party on Sunday afternoon, February 13, again matched margaritas and mariachis at El Rio Grande, plus plenty of noshing and nachos, with wine and warbling as chasers.



This year the MHNA faithful knew that to get a good seat to this popular party one had to come early. By the time the balloons had been strung and the guest lists checked twice, the seats around the semi-circular bar had been filled. And there was nothing left for the event's organizer extraordinaire, Marion Weingarten, to do but survey the crowd and revel in pulling

another event out of the (Mexican) hat.

Music mixed with the steady hum of conversation as the two-hour fete gave warmth to this coldest of north-eastern winters. Although there might have been a little jostling in competition for the last seats at the bar, a jolly tone prevailed. The food and the beverages—from ginger ale to wine and beer to, yes, that tasty pale green liquid dynamite named after a woman (no doubt with a flower behind her ear)—all combined as Murray Hill neighbors gathered to hail the patron saint of hearts.



Glorious spring brightens East 35th Street.

Photo: Burt Rubin



Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money.

—Cree Indian Proverb

Join The Ivy League!



Fulfill your "Need to Green"

Plant Ivy and Flowers around Murray Hill and help us clean up our neighborhood.

Meet at Park Avenue and 34th Street at 9:30 AM

May 14: 3rd Avenue and Mall Planting and Cleanup

May 22: Mall Pick-me-up prior to the Street Festival

June 11 & 25 and every second and fourth Saturday after that. Same time, same place.

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The Morgan Library & Museum

Madison Avenue between 36th and 37th Streets

The Diary, through May 22 For centuries personal diaries were used for reflection, records of daily activities, outlets during difficult times, and other private purposes. This exhibit, drawn primarily from Morgan's own holdings, includes diaries of such well-known figures as Anaïs Nin, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

The Age of Elegance: The Joan Taub Ades Collection, May 13–August 28 This exhibit features about 38 French, Italian and Northern old master drawings of the 17th–19th centuries, with emphasis on works by 18th-century French draftsmen. The collection, which represents the personal taste of the music, dance and education patron, Joan Taub Ades, includes works by Boucher, Greuze, Millet, Guercino, Fontebasso and Panini.

Jim Dine: The Glyptotek Drawings, May 20–September 4 The 40 Glyptotek drawings, which form a single work even though each drawing stands on its own, is being shown for the first time in New York. In Dine's view, the work as a whole forms a narrative about learning from the ancient world. He was originally inspired to create a book of etchings based on his first visit in 1984 to Munich's *Glyptothek Museum*, dedicated to antique sculpture.

Illuminating Fashion: Dress in the Art of Medieval France and the Netherlands, May 20–September 2 Illustrated manuscripts and early printed books from the 14th century to the beginning of the Renaissance in 1515 examine the role of social customs and politics in influencing fashion and also demonstrate how artists used clothing as clues to people's identities and characters. The show includes more than 50 Northern European works from the Morgan's collections, and several full-scale replicas of clothing seen in exhibited manuscripts.

Lists: To-Do's, Illustrated Inventories, Collected Thoughts and Other Artists' Enumerations from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, June 3–October 2 This

exhibit celebrates the list as a key to the lives of artists like Picasso, Saarinen and Castelli. Whether dashed off shopping lists, illustrated samples or the Ten Commandments, lists provide insight into their makers' personalities and habits.

Visit the newly renovated 1906 McKim, Mead and White landmark building: 36th Street between Madison and Park The many improvements include new lighting systems, a thorough cleaning from floors to ceilings, reupholstering and reinstalling light fixtures after decades in storage. Open to the public is the original office of Morgan's first director, Bella da Costa Greene, transformed into a gallery exhibiting some of the Morgan's oldest works. Improved lighting in the Rotunda now allows display cases of Morgan's collection of Americana; look for the first Bible printed in America.



Delilah Shearing Samson's Hair (detail), by the workshop of the Boucicaut Master. *Bible historiale*; France, Paris, ca. 1415–20. Pierpont Morgan Library, MS M.394, f. 112 (detail). From section 3: "Luxury in a Time of Madness, 1390–1420."

For information about public programs: lectures, concerts, gallery talks and special events, call 212-685-0008 or visit the website at www.themorgan.org. Enjoy Friday evenings until 9 PM. FREE from 7–9 PM.

The New York Public Library

42nd Street and Fifth Avenue (The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building)

Centennial Celebration of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, starting May 20 After being hidden behind coverings and scaffolding for three years, the newly restored façade of this landmark building is finally revealed, looking as magnificent as it did the day it opened as "The People's Palace" on May 23, 1911. There will be a year-long 100th-birthday celebration, starting the weekend of May 20–23. In addition to gala events the public can enjoy this exhibit:

Know the Past: Find the Future, Gottesman and Wachenheim III Galleries A visual history of the building and a selection of the best of the Library's collection.

The Declaration of Independence: Annual Summer Special Exhibit (check for exact dates and location) The Library has a copy of the Declaration of Independence in Thomas Jefferson's hand, a clean, full-text version without corrections or alterations. After ratification on July 4, 1776, Jefferson made several copies that he submitted to the Continental Congress. The Library's copy is one of two known to survive intact. It is shown with the first Philadelphia and New York printings of the final version issued by Congress.

In addition to exhibits there are on-going 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 www.nypl.org.

NOTE: Also check SIBL (5th Avenue at 34th Street) and Mid-Manhattan (5th Avenue at 40th Street) for their on-going schedules of free lectures and computer classes.

CUNY Graduate Center Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets

CUNY continues its offerings of Public Programs for the Public Mind, concerts, lectures, readings, discussions and exhibitions. Following are some examples, now with small fees to cover costs. Order tickets at 212-868-4444 or at www.smarttix.com. See membership information below for discounts.

Music in Midtown, lunchtime concerts, Thursday, May 5 at 1 PM, Elebash Hall, \$8; members \$6. The final concert of the season: Prometheus Chamber Ensemble, piano and strings.

Gotham Center History Forums, 6:30–8 PM, Elebash Hall, \$8; members \$6. To buy tickets, click on the "Online Box Office" at the website below, or call 212-868-4444.

Book Launch, "A Moment in the Sun," by John Sayles (writer and filmmaker), Wednesday, May 4 A novel set at the turn of the 20th century as America struggles to define itself in a rapidly changing world.

Dressing America: Tales From the Garment Center, Wednesday, May 18 A screening of a documentary about the development of the garment industry through the rough-and-tumble efforts of an "interesting" assortment of characters.

Extraordinary Lives: Calvin Tomkins and Dodie Kazanjian Monday, May 2, 6:30 PM, Elebash Hall, Graduate Center President Bill Kelly speaks with long-time New Yorker art critic, Calvin Tomkins and his wife, Dodie Kazanjian, author and arts writer. FREE: "e-Vent: Online Reservation" or 212-817-8215.

The Making of America, through July 2 Exhibit in James Gallery, 35th Street and Fifth Avenue An innovative approach to the modern narrative of art history, particularly in the period following World War II. FREE; information: 212-817-2005.

MARTIN E. SEGAL THEATER, ALL EVENTS ARE AT 6:30 PM AND ARE FREE, WWW.MEST.ORG:

Thursday, May 5, Contemporary Dramaturgy in the United States: an Evening with LMDA (Literary Managers & Dramaturgs of the Americas). Experts discuss changes in the play development process, collaboration, cross disciplines and the new shape of dramaturgy.

Monday, May 9, 25 Years of Off-Broadway Theatre: Founders Look to the Future. Representatives from Primary Stages, Theater for a New Audience and New School University School for Drama discuss the beginnings, history and future of off-Broadway theater.

Monday, May 16, Blasphemy in Contemporary Spanish Theater: An Evening With Inigo Ramirez de Haro. A playwright, director and actor, Ramirez draws on a long Spanish tradition of dark humor and blasphemy in the arts. He serves as Cultural Attache of Spain in New York.

Monday, May 23, The Animated Al Hirschfeld: A Commemoration. Louise Hirschfeld Cullmen, President of the Al Hirschfeld Foundation, leads an evening dedicated to the animated films of the legendary caricaturist, followed by a Q&A.

Monday, June 6, Chilean Theater On the edge: Manuela Infante's "What's He Building in There?" Co-presented with TeatroStage Fest. A rich exchange of views, references and opinions featuring playwright and director Infante and her innovative work.

Monday, June 23, Contemporary Austrian Theater: Ewald Palmetshofer. Named "most promising author of the year" in 2008, this playwright is author-in-residence for 2010-11 at the National Theater in Mannheim.

For updated information, check www.gc.cuny.edu/events or call 212-817-8215. Various levels of membership, starting at \$25, are available. For information, contact a new website to be available by September at www.gc.cuny.edu/events/membership.htm or call 212-817-8215.

Scandinavia House Park Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets

Milestone Events: 10th Anniversary of Scandinavia House; 100th Anniversary of the American Scandinavian Foundation.

Centennial Exhibit: North-by-New York: New Nordic Art, through August 19, Tuesdays–Saturdays. 12–6 PM, FREE.

Included are ground-breaking paintings, sculptures, photographs, graffiti and multimedia works from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Aspects of this show are available through multimedia channels, the organization's website at www.scandinaviahouse.org, on its Facebook page, and are complemented by a free audio tour by calling 646-205-8057.

Centennial Concerts: Per Tengstand Presents a Musical Evening with Northern Stars, Tuesday, May 3, 8 PM, \$15, \$10 ASF members. Swedish Pianist Per Tengstand performs Grieg and Alven with guest musicians. For reservations and tickets, call 212-847-9740 or e-mail event_reservation@amscan.org

Thursday, May 19, 8 PM. Members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra join Tengstand in works for piano and strings as a tribute to Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Ongoing Concert Series: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 PM, \$10, \$8 members

Out of Scandinavia: New Indie Music from the Nordics May 5, Hafdis and the Migrant June 2, TBA

Film Series: New Nordic Cinema, Wednesdays, 6 PM; Fridays, 6:30 PM, \$10, \$7 (ASF members)

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 7

Iceland: May 4 and 6, "King's Road"; May 11 and 13, "Clean" (short) and "Mr. Bjarnfredarson" (full length)

Denmark: May 18 and 20, "Little Soldier"; May 25 and 27, "The Red Chapel"; June 1 and 3, "The Escape"

For Summer Film Series, check for details on the Web and by phone.

Family and Children's Programs

Saturday, May 14, 11 AM Hans Christian Andersen Storyteller, Stories from Finland & Norway; FREE, age 5+

Saturday, May 21, 1 PM Scandinavian Sing-Along and musical games, ages 1-7; \$7, \$5 members

For information about specific activities and events: Visit Scandinavia House's extensive website at www.scandinaviahouse.org. To receive on-going information, submit your e-mail address by clicking on the right "Join the Scandinavia House e-list and receive weekly program updates." Or call 212-879-9779. Or stop by in person. Or become a member and get discounts.

Bryant Park

For Spring and Summer Activities, visit the web at www.bryant-park.org and sign up on "My Bryant Park" to receive on-going information; or call 212-768-4242. Also check postings on Facebook, Twitter, the Bryant Park Blog and in brochures in the park.

Free Classes: Returning classes: Yoga, tai chi, knitting from early May through September; fencing, Wednesdays, 1-2 PM through June 22; birding, Mondays 8-9 AM through May 30.

New classes: Modern dance with Limon Dance starting early June; juggling, starting early July

Music Programs: Jazz piano, Mondays-Fridays, lunchtime.

Accordion, (new), Mondays-Fridays, lunchtime

Broadway in Bryant Park, Thursdays, lunchtime, July 14-August 18

Bryant Park After Work, Wednesday concerts, early evening starting in June

HBO Bryant Park Summer Film Festival, Monday nights, June 20-August 22

Bryant Park Reading Room, author and poetry events, writers' workshops, book club

The Carousel, fun for kids of all ages, plus book children's parties

Doctors Orchestra Concert

Season finale

Thursday, May 5, 7:30 PM, at Norman Thomas High School. FREE (small donations welcomed). This amazing group is in its 73rd consecutive season. Get more information at www.doctorsorchestra.org, or subscribe to the mailing list by contacting their e-mail at info@doctorsorchestra.org, or call Dr. Pauline Hecht at 212-228-3911.

Kips Bay Library

The Hawthorne Reading Group, Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21, June 4, 10:30 AM Group reading and discussion of *House of the Seven Gables*.

Film Program Every other Friday, 1 PM: May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24 FREE POPCORN!

Exercising for Seniors Every Monday, 2 PM The New York Public Library and Department for Aging are jointly sponsoring weekly "Stay well Exercise" classes for older adults.

Resume workshop Every Tuesday Do you need to spruce up your resume and learn basic interview skills? Join our Career Workshop.

Clutter group May 5, 19, June 2, 16, 30, 5:30 PM

Meditation for Healthy Living June 21, 5:30 PM

Knitting & Crochet Circle Every other Saturday of the month

Teen Events

Irish Folk Dancing Friday May 13, 2-3:30 PM

Teen Wii Games Every Friday, 3:30 PM

Teen Tech Time Every Thursday, 4 PM

Children's Events

Summer Reading Kickoff Tuesday, June 14 Children sign up for NYPL Summer Reading Program. A special program, "Princess who Escaped from Pirates," will be presented by the Talking Hands Theater.

Baby Lapsit Mondays, 11 & 11:30 AM Babies can enjoy great books, lively songs, rhymes, and meet other babies in the neighborhood. Ages birth to 18 months old with baby's parents/caregivers.

Wii Games, every Monday, 4 PM Show off your skills with the Wii remote and challenge your friends in game tournaments. Ages 4 to 11.

Toddler Time, every Wednesday, 11 AM & 11:30 AM Toddlers can enjoy interactive stories, action songs, finger plays, and spend time with other toddlers. Ages 18 months to 3 years old with baby's parents/caregivers.

Fairy Tale Story Time, every Wednesday, 3:30 PM A read-aloud of classics and new fairy tales, followed by a coloring activity. Ages 3 to 11.

Reading Aloud every Thursday, 3:30 PM Children will be introduced to the wonder of books, the joy of reading, and an activity or coloring page afterwards. Ages 3 to 8.


For further information about events and programs, call the Kips Bay Library at 212-683-2520, or check the Kips Bay website kbay@nypl.org, or drop by the library at 446 Third Ave (31st Street).

Victorian Society in America

2011 Spring Lecture Series

Presented by the New York Metropolitan Chapter of VSA at The New York New Church, 114 East 35th Street.

Kitchens of the Victorian Era, Tuesday, May 10 at 6 PM Franklin and Esther Schmidt, writer/photographers and contributors to *Victorian Homes* magazine will draw on research from their 2005 book *Victorian Kitchens & Baths* to describe how early Victorian cooking rooms became today's kitchens.

Free and open to the public. No reservations required. 



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Sounds of Broadway Fill Murray Hill 'North' Enclave

Free Outdoor Concerts in Tudor City Greens

Perched high above the bustle of 42nd Street—almost invisible to the crowds below—is Tudor City, a 1920s-style apartment complex that looks like a miniature kingdom, complete with castle-like towers, pedestrian walkways and two small parks.

The parks, which are known collectively as Tudor City Greens, were rescued by the residents of the apartment towers in 1987. Today they are part of the Tudor City Historic District and the setting for an award-winning series of free summer concerts, featuring performers from the Broadway musical stage, cabaret, opera and jazz. Some of the glittering names that have graced the outdoor podium in the past include Norm Lewis and Rosemary Loar of Broadway, cabaret singers Scott Coulter and Lennie Watts and jazz greats Daryl Kojack and Laurie Krauz. All the artists donate their time and talent to benefit Tudor City Greens.

The concerts have been hosted since 2008 by Tudor City resident Raissa Katona Bennett, whose Broadway credits include Phantom of the Opera, Cats and Parade. Her husband, Garrett H. Bennett, M.D., provides the sound system.



Raissa Katona Bennett

“Garrett and I are both passionate about community,” Raissa said. “We see the concerts as a way to bring people together and increase awareness of Tudor City Greens as an amenity for the entire Murray Hill neighborhood.” The parks, which are privately owned, are open to the public.

The couple, who met on a cruise—she was a headline singer and he was a ship’s officer—eloped in 1997, while Garrett was completing his medical studies at the University of Rochester. They have lived in Tudor City since 1999.



In addition to his surgery practice, Garrett is an accomplished songwriter who also sings and plays guitar. Raissa, who performs frequently at Feinstein’s at the Regency, has recorded several CDs. Last month, the two performed together at a benefit in Norwalk, Ct, where they shared the stage with Lucie Arnaz and others.

Ravelle Brickman is a freelance writer who lives in Murray Hill.

By Ravelle Brickman

The Concerts at Tudor City Greens
Wednesday, 6 PM
May 25, June 22, August 3, September 7
(October 5—optional, on weather and schedules)
(In case of rain, performances are held the following day.)
Bring blankets or lawn chairs.
Enter at 41st Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues
DONATIONS WELCOME
www.TudorCityGreens.org

In Good Company: A Musical Afternoon with Father John Sheehan

There might be better ways to spend a Sunday afternoon than in the company of Father John Sheehan, but none come to mind after sharing two-plus hours with him at his “Broadway to Murray Hill” concert on March 20. The show in Victor Borge Hall at Scandinavia House was presented by the Preservation and Design Committee to benefit future landmark designation in Murray Hill.

Father Sheehan presented a genial, Santa Claus-like persona in his engaging onstage patter, and he also passed lightly through a versatile musical repertoire. He not only hit a tenor’s operatic high notes but a baritone’s more challenging (for him) lower ones. With equal aplomb, he embodied a Broadway showman’s Tevye (“If I Were a Rich Man”), and brought swinging touches to jazz standards. He even delivered on “Happy Birthday” for Scott Glascock, a longtime MHNA member as well as an actor and officer of the Amateur Comedy Club.



Preservation and Design Committee chair and event co-chair Susan Demmet.

Photo: Jini Johnson

Accompanied by Woody Regan on piano, Father Sheehan was witty, graceful and big-hearted, as befits someone who is presently Chairman of the Xavier Society for the Blind. He also assists at St. Malachy’s Church (the Actor’s Chapel) on West 49th Street.

But on Sunday, March 20, he was completely committed to Murray Hill...and we thank him for his special presence.



Enjoying a chat with Fr. Sheehan at the reception are, left to right, Robert Gross and Evelyn Kittay, Fr. Sheehan; Irma Worrell Fisher, event co-chair; and former MHNA trustee Ellen Imbimbo.

Photo: Jini Johnson

Special thanks also go to Scandinavia House for the use of the hall, to McAdam Buy-Rite for the wine at the après-concert gathering, to VividbyJini for the floral decorations, and to Smörgås Chef Restaurant for staying open late for concert dinner guests and extending a 15% discount.



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A Winter's Tale: Clean Mall Sidewalks

By Robert Cohen

If you crossed by the Park Avenue malls during this winter’s storms, you should have been surprised to find them clear of snow. The supers/managers of the fourteen buildings on Park Avenue listed below graciously and enthusiastically agreed to clean the mall sidewalks after each snow storm. If you live in any of these buildings, please thank those who did the heavy lifting as well as those who authorized participation in this initiative.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 7 Park Avenue | 35 Park Avenue |
| 10 Park Avenue | 40 Park Avenue |
| 15 Park Avenue | 41 Park Avenue |
| 16 Park Avenue | 45 Park Avenue |
| 17 Park Avenue | 50 Park Avenue |
| 20 Park Avenue | 70 Park Avenue Hotel |
| 30 Park Avenue | 80 Park Avenue |

We have asked the even-numbered buildings to be responsible for the even-numbered years (2010-11; 2012-13, etc.) and the odd-numbered buildings for the odd-numbered years, beginning next winter (2011-12 and so on), and they have agreed.

We hope to get other buildings involved.

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When Sandy Met Sally: My Home Through a 50-Year Prism

By Sandra Driesen



Left, Sally Kemp, Joe Weishar and Sandra Driesen.

Photo: Sami Steigmann

It is one of those New York stories that happen all the time. You are invited to a gathering and you meet someone who has unexpected ties to your life. This past fall it happened to me when I met a lovely woman named Sally Kemp at a friend's home on the Upper East Side.

We chatted, and I asked the inevitable New York question, "Where do you live?" I told Sally that

my husband Joe (Weishar) and I live in Murray Hill, and she said, "Oh, I used to live there." I responded, "Really, where in Murray Hill?" She told me her childhood address, and I got goosebumps.

"That's where we live!" I immediately realized that Sally lived in our brownstone when it was a single-family home. We hugged each other as if we were long-lost kin which, in a very Manhattan kind of way, we were.

I learned that Sally (Throckmorton, then) lived in our brownstone from 1948 to 1959 with her family. Sally told me that her brother Hal had the bedroom in the front half of the fourth floor (which is now our living room and dining room) and she had the back half (our neighbor's apartment). Her parents had the whole third floor as their suite. The second floor, which was the original entrance, was the elegant "parlor" floor where the ceilings are 14 feet high.

Our brownstone has been a co-op since 1960, and Joe and I have lived here since 1993. We live in the front half of the

fourth and fifth floors, and also have an office on the ground floor with a private garden. I like to say that our garden is a "little slice of heaven." Sally told us that when she lived there the garden was used for the family dog to do his business.

Sally grew up to become an actress of stage and screen. If you visit her web site, you learn that she appeared in such series as "Days of Our Lives," and had a recurring role on "Dynasty" (1982-84, Marcia) and "Hope and Faith" (2005-06). On stage, she appeared on Broadway ("The First Gentleman," 1957; "Advise and Consent," 1960-61;), Off and Off-Off Broadway (as Dorothy Voysey in "The Voysey Inheritance," 1999; as Mrs. Hardcastle in "She Stoops to Conquer," 2002), and in Central Park ("Richard III," 1997).

Impressive genes run in the family: Sally and Hal Jr.'s father was Hal Kemp, a famous orchestra leader, composer, jazz alto saxophonist, clarinetist and arranger in the 1920's until his death in a car accident in 1940. Her mother remarried John Wickcliff Throckmorton, whom Sally calls "my remarkable step-father, who was head of the American branch of the ancient Throckmorton family who came to England with William the Conqueror." Sally adds, "The Throckmortons were one of the few noble families given the privilege of being piped into dinner by a bag-piper on state occasions."

On March 5, Joe and I invited Sally to see her home for the first time since 1959. "The present house kept getting mixed up with the old, childhood house until I was really muddled. There was a lot to process," she wrote in a "thank you" e-mail. "I must tell you I'm GLAD you are living there and giving it the care and affection such a beautiful old home deserves."

After our friend Sami Steigmann took many pictures, we all went out for a lovely lunch to celebrate these wonderful, serendipitous New York moments that bring our lives together. 📷

This Old House: The Details

Date of construction: 1869
 Architect: William P. Esterbrook
 Original Owner: Abraham C. Pulling
 Builder: Marc Eidlitz
 Type: Row house
 Style: Renaissance Revival
 Stories: Four and basement
 Structure/Materials: Brownstone covered with pigmented cement stucco

Mr. Pulling had a malt supply company on Broome St. He lived there through at least 1881.

The Throckmortons lived there from 1948 to 1959.

The stoop was removed in 1959 when it was converted from a private dwelling to a multiple dwelling.



It is well that you should celebrate your Arbor Day thoughtfully, for within your lifetime the nation's need of trees will become serious. We of an older generation can get along with what we have, though with growing hardship, but in your full manhood and womanhood you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed; and because of that want you will reproach us, not for what we have used, but for what we have wasted.

—Theodore Roosevelt, 1907 Arbor Day Message

When Margaret Met Frank Sinatra

By William J. McClure

I was excited when *The First Deadly Sin* had its premiere on October 23, 1980 at the Loews Theater in Times Square. I was excited because my cat Margaret was making her debut in that film with Frank Sinatra. To my amazement, Margaret and I were not invited to the premiere so I went the next day to see Margaret on the big screen. It turned out the movie's reviews were mixed and the public didn't favorably respond. But what was really disappointing to me was that there was no mention of Margaret in the reviews! Margaret's movie debut was a flop and my career as the manager of the first lady feline of the screen was crushed. But the experience had its moments.

The road to *The First Deadly Sin* movie set was a long time in coming. I had taken Margaret to an animal agent and he was impressed because she was not spooked: she sat in the middle of the floor and looked around. Then, as if on cue, she rose on her hind legs and posed with her paws up looking at the agent. "Margaret, you got yourself a cute trick," he said. About a year later the agent called and asked if I was interested in Margaret's being an understudy in a movie with Frank Sinatra. Needless to say, I was.

I was told to take Margaret to a warehouse on the Hudson River where the filming was to take place. This was her first trip out of Murray Hill. I was puzzled about the location but upon arrival, I found Sinatra's movie apartment had been built inside the warehouse, and there was a waiting room for the cast.

There was a woman in the waiting room with another black-and-white cat. I thought there was no way Margaret would have a chance to step in and save the show as the substitute. After what seemed like an eternity of waiting a voice yelled out over a megaphone: "Bring the cat to the set." I told Margaret, "There goes your chance for fame and fortune." Margaret didn't respond. I continued reading and Margaret continued napping. After a while, the megaphone voice said, "Bring out the other cat." That's when my knees began to shake.

It seems the first cat wouldn't stay on the kitchen counter and was dismissed. I was nervous because I had no idea if Margaret would be any different. I put her on the counter, patted her head and told her to stay. She sat for a few seconds and then lay down. Sinatra appeared out of nowhere. When I left the set I couldn't see or hear what was happening. Eventually, the kitchen scene ended because the crew was scurrying about getting ready for the next scene. I ventured onto the set and found Margaret was still lying on the counter.

She made the final cut: Approximately 21 minutes into the film, there is a shot of Margaret on the counter. Sinatra goes into the kitchen with a bag of groceries and Margaret meows. This was a stock meow dubbed on to the soundtrack—it certainly wasn't Margaret's. Sinatra puts the groceries on the counter and walks into the living room.

We spent two-and-a-half days on the set, and Margaret was getting very restless. She started to walk around the living room set where filming had continued. Also, I could tell she wasn't happy because she refused to eat while in the waiting room. Finally Sinatra, being the producer and the star of the film, said, "Get rid of the cat." He walked by me as I held Margaret in my arms, petted her on the head and said, "You haven't got it kid." He did not pet my head.

I knew Margaret's short film career was over. She had, maybe, two minutes in the spotlight. I went back to my day job and Margaret retired to her sunny perch in the living room window—and ate regularly again. 📷



Margaret, watching the Oscars anyway.

Photo: William J. McClure



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Community Briefs

A Magnet for the Young Anyone who has set foot on Third Avenue in the 30s after sundown knows it is something of a Street of Dreams for those in their 20s and 30s. But on January 18, *The New York Times* made it official. Under the headline, "In Murray Hill, the College Life Need Never End," Joseph Berger chronicled life in a tall apartment building called Windsor Court (which, at 155 East 31st Street, is located in what we would generously call *Lower Murray Hill*, but never mind). Berger quoted former MHNA trustee Joshua Schwadron, who lived in another "post-graduate hive" until recently. "You leave college and you think you'll be nostalgic for your community," Joshua said, "and you realize that the community never goes away—if you live in the right place."

A New Role Thayer Hochberg, a singer, actress and cabaret performer, has added journalist to her other roles: wife, mother, Murray Hill resident and homeowner. Thayer is the arts columnist for The Six-O'Clock Sun website, an online amalgamation of news and features. She writes "Around Town with Thayer,"—"I wanted to call it 'Toolin' Around Town with Thayer,'" she says—which presents entertainment venues throughout the city that are free, or charge only a nominal fee. A good example is Midtown

Jazz at Midday, 1 PM Mondays at Saint Peter's Church, 54th and Lex.

NYPL Names New President The New York Public Library has named Anthony W. Marx, currently the president of Amherst College, as its next president. Dr. Marx is a native New Yorker, who attended P.S. 98 and the Bronx High School of Science, spending hours after school at Inwood Library. He will assume the job in July 2011, replacing Paul LeClerc, who is retiring.

More Notes From Afar Albert Geduldig reports that following his son's graduation from Colgate University last June, Matthew Geduldig received a Fulbright Grant. Matthew is now in Korea teaching English and studying Korean while being exposed to other Asian cultures by visiting China and Japan.


In the Oops Category Alice Timothy's photo credit was omitted from the last newsletter's coverage of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association's 50th Anniversary Gala held at Trattoria Alba on December 5. Alice's pictures were so colorful and plentiful that we chose no fewer than 18 and spread them across two pages in the Winter 2011 issue of *Murray Hill Life* to do justice to the photographs, the photographer and the occasion.

Polish Passion and Eloquence Mark Holocaust Remembrance

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, seven survivors gathered at the Polish Consulate in Murray Hill to discuss their memoirs of that infamous time of tragedy and staggering courage. The evening, hosted by the Polish Consul General in New York, Hon. Ewa Junczyk Ziomecka, drew a rapt, standing-room crowd of 150.

The panel was introduced by the renowned *Forward* columnist Masha Leon. "Leave it to the Poles to have the audacity and chutzpah to have seven authors in one evening and allow them only six minutes each," Ms. Leon remarked with a smile. "The Poles and the Jews are known for doing the impossible."

The emotional evening included remarks and excerpts from Inge Auerbacher & Bozena Urbanowicz-Gilbride (*Children of Terror*); Bronislaw Bergman, speaking about his brother Eugene's *Survival Artist*; Alexander Harris (*Breaking Borders*); Luna Kaufman (*Luna's Life*); Renate Kessler, the editor of her father's *The Wartime Diary of Edmund Kessler*; Joseph Kutrzeba (*The Contract. A Life for a Life*), and Jehuda Nir (*The Lost Childhood*).

For Alexander Harris, it was a short commute to the consulate from the apartment he shares with his wife Judy McDaniel at 38th Street and Third Avenue. But Alex had already covered the journey of a lifetime, from his boyhood in Lodz, Poland, to a Soviet gulag, to New York City, where he started a successful travel business promoting friendship between nations and where, in 2005, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The medal recognizes the contribution made to America by immigrants and the legacy they leave behind in the successes of their children and grand-children. 



Bozena Urbanowicz-Gilbride and Inge Auerbacher, authors of *Children of Terror*, with Alexander Harris, author of *Breaking Borders*, sign copies of their books at the Polish Consulate. Standing is Masha Leon, the *Forward* columnist who moderated a panel discussion with seven authors on the Holocaust Day of Remembrance.

Photo: Judy McDaniel

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Eat, Stay, Love: Vintage Merchants Provide a Lasting Impact

Murray Hill is blessed with small businesses that have brought a special and lasting character to the neighborhood for 30 years and more. A random roundup of these vintage small businesses, in roughly chronological order, is below.

El Parador Café, 325 East 34th Street, is the oldest Mexican restaurant in New York City. Launched in 1959 and nurtured by Carlos Jacott, El Parador moved from its original location at Second Avenue and 31st Street around the time LBJ (or was it Nixon?) was president. Carlos, a gifted maitre d' made a lasting mark as a restaurateur and sold his successful enterprise to Manuel Alejandro in 1990. Now, Manny's son, Alex, a 1994 graduate of The French Culinary Institute, is in charge. One Zagat comment captures El Parador's spirit: "It is a delightful break from the nuevo invasion." Another catches its essence: "so comfortably dated, it's soothing."

Pasteur Pharmacy, 53 East 34th Street (between Park and Madison), opened in Murray Hill sometime after Mary Lindley Murray deflected the British Revolutionary War General Howe with an invitation to tea in 1776 and sometime before Isidore Farber began his career as a community pharmacist in 1961. (It has been here a long time.) Compared to the slick, modern super drug stores, Pasteur packs its long and tiny space with everything from shampoo and vitamins to "shave geek" lathers and Japanese-imported mascaras. One anonymous devotee noted on the Web, "If

you can't find any product here, they'll usually be able to order it and have it shipped to the store within a few hours." (See their ad, page 19.)

The Kitano Hotel, 66 Park Avenue at 38th Street, opened its doors in 1973, and more than 27 years later it remains the first and only Japanese-owned hotel in New York. A rare blend of the traditional East and modern West, the Kitano's smaller size (149 rooms) allows it to emphasize its hospitality in an understated way. The vest pocket bar on the mezzanine level offers a small, quiet refuge daily from 5-8 PM, and on Wednesday through Saturdays the bar lounge plays host to two reasonably priced live jazz shows a night. Also, Maria Sharapova stays there when she's in town.

Rossini's, 108 East 38th Street (between Park and Lexington), opened its doors on February 8, 1978 when Romano Bernaz brought his vision to "our little area of Murray Hill." Rossini's is now owned and operated by Romano, his two sons Raymond and Gerry Bernaz and his nephew Josip Cernjul. They ascribe Rossini's success and longevity to the family's constant presence and culinary evolution. Specifically, they point to the combination of Romano's acumen and use of the finest ingredients with Gerry, Raymond and Josip's search for new and innovative approaches to their Northern Italian repertoire. (See their ad, page 18.)


Continued on next page

Villa Berulia, 107 East 34th (between Park and Lexington) has been owned and operated by John (Ivo) Ivanac since it opened on March 9, 1981. He and his wife Silva live in Murray Hill on 36th Street. "Our restaurant is really an extension of our family," Ivo says, "that's how I look at it." And with good reason: Ivo's sister, Maria Ivanac-Besson, has been here from the beginning, and his daughter, Alexandra (Alex), has worked at Villa Berulia for 10 years. The rest of the staff, including the original bar maid, Mira Linardic, is similarly long-tenured. The unique Italian-Croatian menu includes Dalmatian Coast specialties from "chefs who have researched some ancient recipes, fused them with modern techniques and added a touch of their own flair." The Dalmatian cannelloni or the seafood Buzara come highly recommended. And then there are the exotic wild-game dishes (depending on the season: osso buco; wild boar sausage; pan-seared ostrich fillets). In 2001, Zagat's called Villa Berulia "a miracle on 34th Street," and Derek Jeter is said to hail the chicken parmigiana as the best in the city. (See their ad, page 8.)

Domenico's, 120 East 40th Street (between Park and Lexington) in the Bedford Hotel, has been turning out the traditional regional specialties of Italy since 1980. The owner Jack O'Brien calls his restaurant "comfortable, very unpretentious – a setting, I think, Italian food should be served in." Mr. O'Brien says Domenico's is a hangout for politicians, financiers, high-powered lawyers as well as just folks. Certainly, the oil paintings, Mediterranean-style arches and stained glass add to the warmth. The place has also been called a NYC bastion of giant veal chops and the Key West-sized red snapper.

Fagiolini at its original location, 334 Lexington Avenue (between 39th and 40th Street), has been in business since 1986. Here, Fagiolini offers dinner on Saturday and Sunday in addition to lunch and dinner Monday through Friday. As the sister restaurant of Domenico's, Fagiolini shares a location at 120 East 40th Street, where lunch and dinner are served from Monday through Friday.

Toledo Restaurant, 6 East 36th Street, gets the asterisk prize: Although the restaurant opened in 1975, it only moved from 55 West 35th Street to Murray Hill in 1991. The spacious 36th Street location showcases artifacts from all over Spain, including Seville, Madrid, Galicia and, of course, Toledo. Much of the staff has remained with the restaurant for more than 20 years. From diner reports, the red snapper in a clay pot is a specialty not to be missed: "excellent to dip your homemade potato chips in ..."

And since we've let Toledo into the club, we would be remiss not to mention **Hudson Place** (1990) and **Trattoria Alba** (1991), two staples of Murray Hill's culinary landscape. And a personal favorite, **Scotty's Diner** on Lexington, has been in Murray Hill since the editor moved here in (was it?) 1975. 

Save These Dates

Sunday, May 22

from 11 AM to 6 PM

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50/50 Raffle and Membership Info

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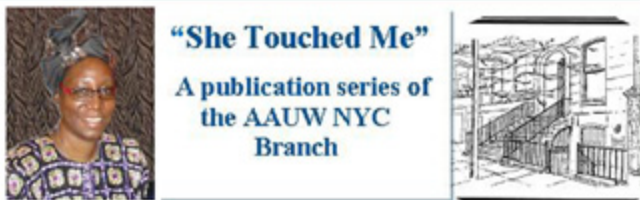
Saturday, May 28

MHNA at the Ballet

The New York City Ballet will present
the vampy "**Slaughter on Tenth Avenue**"
Stroman's tribute to Ellington "**For the Love of Duke**"
and
the Bernstein/Robbins classic "**West Side Story Suite.**"

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Understanding Medicaid Eligibility

People are living longer. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the average American life expectancy is about 75 for men and 80 for women. The number of persons aged 65 and over is expected to double by the year 2030 and the fastest growing segment of the population consists of people who are 85 and older. Issues of aging, mental disability, and long-term care will reach a critical point as early as this year when the "baby boom" generation first starts to reach the age of retirement. For some, aging will bring continued health, enjoyable retirement, and financial freedom. For others, aging will bring mental disability, terminal illness, and poverty. For all, aging will bring an increased complexity to life.

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The Need for Long-Term Care and Long-Term Care Solutions

Besides needing help with basic self-care tasks, such as bathing, dressing, toileting, and eating, most people needing long-term care also need help making personal, medical and financial decisions. A proper Health Care Proxy and/or Power of Attorney will recognize the appointment of alternate decision-makers, and a good Elder Law attorney will help secure these written authorizations.

A good Elder Law attorney will also help evaluate the financial situation, prepare a realistic and appropriate budget to pay for long-term care needs, and, when appropriate, prepare more long-term planning solutions, such as qualifying for Medicaid benefits.

The Costs of Long-Term Care

According to a Genworth 2009 Cost of Care survey, a person aged 75 years needing long-term care should anticipate paying, at a minimum, around \$45,000 per year for home health care costs,

By Jeffrey A. Asher

around \$48,000 per year for assisted living facility costs, and around \$133,000 per year for nursing home care. According to the same survey, a person currently 55 years old and anticipating care in 20 years' time will pay, at age 75, approximately \$124,450 per year for home care, \$127,258/year for an assisted living facility, or \$354,165/year for a nursing home. Needless to say, this can become very expensive very quickly.

Medicaid Eligibility

There are generally two types of Medicaid coverage: Medicaid home care, which provides home health care, some hospital coverage, doctor appointments, etc. And, Medicaid nursing home care, which is care in a skilled nursing facility or similar institution.


To qualify for Medicaid, Medicaid recipients (whether for home care or nursing home care) may only keep a small amount of assets and income. As of the time of writing this article, a Medicaid recipient living alone may keep no more than \$13,800 in non exempt assets and have no more than \$767 per month in income (both of these amounts increase depending on the number of family members who live with the Medicaid recipient). An individual in a nursing home or similar institution is restricted to a personal needs allowance of \$50 per month. Income includes Social Security payments, distributions from IRAs and other retirement accounts, interest and dividends, etc.

Giving assets away to qualify for Medicaid is not permitted. A Medicaid applicant who does so is "penalized" – denied Medicaid benefits – for a period of time following the transfer.

So what can a person do if he/she needs help, either in the home or in a nursing home, or anticipates needing help in the future? By following certain steps and techniques outlined by a qualified Elder Law attorney, the person can get the help they need now, or plan for it in the future. Eligibility comes with planning and getting the right advice.

Elder Care/Medicaid planning works for those people who want to preserve the assets they have worked hard to accumulate. The bottom line is that a proper Elder Care/Medicaid Plan enables a person to receive qualified care in their home, the community, in an alternate living facility, or in a nursing home – without having to give up everything to get it.

Jeffrey A. Asher is an attorney with Eaton & Van Winkle LLP.



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It's Greenmarket Time

By Marisa Bulzone

It's sad that we've lost our Murray Hill Greenmarket, which graced Second Avenue for many years, but New Yorkers are blessed with 49 greenmarkets throughout the five boroughs—and now is the perfect time to get out and support our friendly local farmers. In addition to the granddaddy of them all at Union Square, which is open four days a week, give the Murray Hill Market @ PS 116 a try. Open every Sunday, you'll find locally grown produce and baked goods in addition to a lively flea market. Best of all, you'll be supporting our local school.

In these early months of Spring, you might think greenmarket merchants have only the last remains of the root cellar to offer—but you can find some vegetables that are actually at their peak in April and May. Here are some different twists on cooking some seasonal favorites.

Roasted Asparagus

Before the weather turns too warm for a hot oven, consider roasting those tender bundles of asparagus that are so nicely affordable this time of year. Roasting brings out the best in many vegetables, and that's especially true of asparagus—you'll love the slightly sweet flavor it brings to these tender spears. If your asparagus is pencil-thin, there's no need to peel the stalks.

Serves 4

2 pounds fresh asparagus
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Toasted slivered almonds or chopped hazelnuts for garnish, optional

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Wash the asparagus and trim the ends. Place on a baking sheet, drizzle the oil on top and season with salt and pepper, then toss to coat. Spread flat to a single layer.

Roast the asparagus until lightly browned, about 15 minutes. Transfer to a serving platter and garnish with toasted nuts, if desired.

Braised Radishes

Sure, radishes are available year-round, but in April and May they are at their best flavor. We always think of them sliced over a salad or eaten out of hand, but they are delicious when cooked, too. Their peppery bite would be a nice side served with simply grilled chicken or fish. And don't discard the leaves—they can be sautéed or added raw to a salad.

Serves 4

2 bunches radishes (about 1 pound)
1 1/2 cups chicken or vegetable stock or water
2 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces
Generous pinch of sugar
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Scrub the radishes and trim the tops and roots; cut larger radishes in half, if necessary. Place in a sauté pan and add the stock, butter, sugar, and season with salt and pepper. Cover the pan and bring to a boil. Then remove the lid and reduce heat to medium. Continue to cook the radishes, uncovered, until tender, 10 to 12 minutes. The stock will cook down to create a nice glaze for the radishes.

If the radishes are done and you're left with too much liquid, remove them to a serving dish and let the stock continue to cook about 2 minutes more, then pour it over the radishes and toss to coat.

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Faces of Murray Hill

Sami Steigmann: Murray Hill Photographer, Professional Volunteer and "Living National Treasure"

Sami Steigmann has had his ups and downs in life. Rounded up by the Nazis at the age of 18 months, he and his parents—unlike most of his



On the deck of the *Intrepid*, in his signature yellow uniform shirt, Sami pauses while giving a tour of the massive air craft carrier.

relatives—survived. They emigrated to Israel in 1961 and Sami, despite the scars of incarceration, went on to university and half a dozen careers, including that of Corporal in the Israeli Air Force, physician's representative for a drug company in Milwaukee and business owner in Brooklyn. He learned English by reading voraciously and watching commercials on TV.

Along the way he married and divorced. The marriage produced one son, a rabbi in Westchester.

Then he lost his job in the economic downturn 14 years ago. At the time, he despaired of ever getting back on his feet again.

"I was very lucky," he said. Just as his immediate family survived the Holocaust, including three years at Camp Mogilev in the Ukraine, Sami survived a personal crisis, helped by a support system designed for people like him. Settling on East 35th Street, he was determined, from that moment on, to give back for all the good fortune that had befallen him.

Murray Hill, not surprisingly, was one of the first recipients of this determination. Within a year of moving to the community, he joined the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association and was named a trustee. As part of the Preservation and Design Committee, he was involved in securing the area's official designation as a Historic District. Over



Sami (far right), the deputy commander of cadets of the Civil Air Patrol, poses with the squadron commander, Jacqui Sturgess (far left), and four cadets.

the years, he has served as the group's official photographer and participated in every aspect of its work. His biggest accomplishment, however, has been in transportation.

"The intersection of 35th and 2nd Avenue was known, at the time, as a Boulevard of Death," he reminisced. "Cars speeding in and out of the tunnel made

it almost impossible to cross." Teaming up with Bob Cohen, who works with the DOT, the two managed to get a seven-second delay on the traffic light at the intersection. "It took three months, but there hasn't been a single accident since."

Since then, Sami has gone on to become a full-time professional volunteer who often works two to four jobs a day. Whether teaching school groups about the Holocaust or guiding tourists around the city, he loves sharing his knowledge of history and his joy at being alive. Some of the organizations that have benefited from his largesse are Big Apple Greeter, The Museum of Jewish Heritage, Make-a-Wish Foundation, the *Intrepid*, the Civil Air Patrol (the civilian auxiliary of the USAF), Fraunces Tavern, Governors Island and the Red Cross. He is particularly proud of his impact on children.

"To be given the opportunity to change someone's perspective on life," he said, "is a gift." The walls of his apartment are lined with letters, testifying to his ability to influence members of the younger generation.

One note, from a 10-year-old girl at the Hewitt School, sums it up. "I hope that in future I can be a leader and make sure that no other group experiences such a tragedy."

Two of Sami's proudest moments in recent years were being honored as Volunteer of the Year in 2006 by

Make-a-Wish Foundation and as Big Apple Greeter of the Year in 2008. An official "greeter" since 2002, he enjoys creating New York City visits that explore the specific interests and needs of travelers from all over the world. Often the visitors reciprocate. On a visit last year, Sami met a tourist who was planning a Holocaust memorial in her native Jersey, in the Channel Islands. She invited Sami to attend and to lay a wreath in honor of those who survived.

Described as a "Living National Treasure" and "an advertisement for New York" by an Australian couple, Sami is planning a three-month trip "Down Under" next year. He will be staying with several Big Apple families who have become good friends as a result of Sami's guiding them around town. "To be able to give back, to make new friends around the world, these are truly things to celebrate," he said.

Murray Hill is proud to celebrate with him.

Ravelle Brickman is a freelance writer who teaches at NYU.

By Ravelle Brickman



Sami presents a certificate of appreciation from the Make-a-Wish Foundation to New York City children, who collected money at their school as part of the foundation's children's program.