Celebrate Our 60th Anniversary at the Street Festival in June

Join us on Saturday, June 6 at The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Street Festival as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the MHNA! The Festival will be held from 11am to 6pm on the west side of Park Avenue between 34th and 40th Streets. This year's Festival will have a few new treats for visitors, including a scavenger hunt of historic Murray Hill where you can win prizes and take home some fun facts about the neighborhood. And, of course, no party would be complete without a birthday cake and great music. We invite all of our visitors to stop by our Bake Table in the afternoon for a cake cutting to celebrate our 60th birthday. Please note that we will continue to follow New York State and City recommendations on holding large events during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We will update our website and social media platforms in the event that the Street Festival dates change or the event does not go forward.

The MHNA Street Festival is unique among traditional street fairs one typically finds in midtown Manhattan over the summer months. All of the proceeds from our Festival are invested directly back into the Association to support our annual programs such as keeping our tree beds clean, our Park Avenue Malls in bloom, and our discount program running.

You will find some of our distinctive and family-friendly offerings at the MHNA-sponsored tables between 35th and 36th Streets. We are happy to note that the Kid’s Toy Exchange will be back this year. Simply bring your gently used toys to drop off and new ones—all for free! The Flea Market will appeal to the treasure hunters among us and the Book Sale will offer titles for all ages on a great range of topics, including many best sellers. And our Silent Auction is unmatched! Last year featured local favorites like brunch at Covina restaurant and gift certificates to Magnifique Hair Salon, Target, Rossini's, City Beer, Sarge’s, wagamama, and Bravest on 38th to name just a few. We welcome donations from our neighbors for all of these tables and will be sending information about donations and pickups in future mailings.

The Preservation & Design Committee will introduce you to Murray Hill neighbors of the past through performances by The Snarks, a group of accomplished local theater performers. Last year’s lineup included Andy Warhol, J.P. Morgan, British General William Howe, and of course Mary Murray! After you meet these past residents of Murray Hill, you can take guided walking tours of Historic Murray Hill to see where these folks lived and worked. Tours will be offered throughout the day.

When you come to the Festival we encourage you to visit with members of the committees of The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association who can speak with you about quality of life issues in our neighborhood such as the Infrastructure...
President’s Corner
By Diane Bartow, President, MHNA

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is officially 60 years young.

There are so many wonderful people who have dedicated themselves to making Murray Hill a highly desirable place to live, work and visit. I wish I could list them all, but it would fill up the entire newsletter. Thank you to all the founding members (1960), past and present board members, trustees, volunteers and our incredible present-day members and supporters. I hope you will consider joining us at one or more of the events being planned to celebrate this very special year.

It is census time, and it is critical that we all complete the census form. We need to be counted and justly get what we deserve. If you need any assistance in completing the form, please call us at 212-886-5867 or email info@murrayhillnyc.org. Please ask your neighbors if they need assistance. We can help.

We continue to work hard on transportation and traffic, empty store fronts, noise, the homeless and construction issues. These issues are addressed at each trustee meeting. We also continue to make advances to increase the number of landmarked buildings in the historic district, keep Murray Hill clean and green and keep the Park Avenue Malls beautiful and flower filled. Hopefully you find the information from the newsletter, the email blasts, the website and social media to be informative and useful.

I hope you will join us for the annual Murray Hill Street Festival, celebrating our 60th year. Come out and enjoy a fun day with your neighbors and friends. There will be some special surprises. Please enjoy a treat at the bake table, buy a book, try your luck at the silent auction and raffle, enjoy the music, and take a look at the flea market table or the young family table. There is something for everyone. Hope you will stop by and say hello. Bring your friends and family. Please note that The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is following Federal, New York State and City guidelines on large gatherings during the COVID19 outbreak and will update our website and other channels of communication if there are any changes.

Information will be coming out soon about the events planned for this year. The 60th Anniversary committee is hard at work planning special events just for you.

Hope to see you all soon and a very happy 60th Anniversary.

---

A good time was had by all at the Love Your Neighborhood Valentine party on February 9. Pictured (left to right) are Lilli Seidman Davis, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Lee Davis, Becky Flig, Marion Weingarten and Adam Padilla.

Photo by Michael-Ann Rowe
MHNA P&D Committee Honored by GANYC

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Preservation & Design Committee was honored by the Guides Association of New York City with an Apple Award for Outstanding Achievement in Support of NYC Preservation. Susan Demmet, Co-Chair of the P&D Committee, received the award on behalf of the committee at the 2020 GANYC Apple Awards event on March 2 held at the SVA Theatre. The P&D Committee has several programs that brought their work to the attention of GANYC. The committee recently produced a new DVD of the Murray Hill walking tour. They also offer monthly walking tours throughout the year and at the annual street festival. They are working with the Landmarks Preservation Commission to get landmark designation for additional buildings in Murray Hill, and they launched a program in 2018 to install Cultural Medallions on buildings in the neighborhood. Cultural Medallions give a short description of significant people who lived in Murray Hill. Four buildings now have cultural medallions.

Changes to the Trustees

Anoop Punjabi has stepped down as Membership Chair; he continues as a trustee. The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is grateful to him for his five years of service handling the mission-critical job of membership operations. You may have met Anoop at the annual street festival, where he recruited new members at his post at the membership table. Anoop has always demonstrated a strong commitment to community. At his “day job” he is President of Gainful Property Holdings, LLC and is a Licensed Real Estate Salesperson with City Connections Realty. He is a founding member of REBSEA.ORG. REBSEA members donate a part of their commission to a nonprofit organization in the community they serve.

Ashley Petrylak is Acting Membership Chair.

P&D Offers Walking Tours for Murray Hill Academy Students

by Laurie Sexton, P&D Committee Member

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association’s Preservation & Design Committee is reaching out to neighborhood schools with offers of educational walking tours of historic Murray Hill to students studying American history. P&D members met with administrators and faculty at Murray Hill Academy, a small 300-student NYC public high school at 3 Park Avenue (site of the former Norman Thomas High School) to offer the services of its tour guides who would bring Murray Hill history to life for these students. Tour guides would introduce students to the story of Mary Lindley Murray and her role in the American Revolution, as well as other famous persons who lived in the neighborhood such as Victoria Woodhull, Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, and J.P. Morgan. They could also lead discussions of Loyalist and Patriot sympathies, and the role of the Quakers in Murray Hill.

Another activity that was discussed was holding drawing sessions with art students “en plein air” of some of the neighborhood’s beautiful landmarked buildings. This close study and observation will help to instill in the students a deep appreciation for historic buildings and their preservation. At this point, the school has reacted positively to the initiative, although no specific plans have been drawn up for its implementation.

The committee plans to reach out to the Mary Lindley Murray elementary school (P.S. 116) and other schools in the neighborhood with similar proposals. These tours would be free for the students, and the P&D tour guides have generously volunteered their time.
Tell a friend about The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association  
New Membership/Renewal Form.  
Make checks payable to Murray Hill Neighborhood Association  
☐ $35 Individual ☐ $50 Couple  
☐ $20 Senior Citizen (age 65+) ☐ $40 Senior Couple (age 65+)  
☐ $25 Young Professional (to age 40)  
Business/Nonprofit:  
☐ $60 Small Business (1-9 employees)  
☐ $100 Medium Sized Business (10-24 employees)  
☐ $250 Large Business (25+ employees)  
Co-Op/Condo Board or Building Owner:  
☐ $100 Small Building (less than 60 units)  
☐ $150 Medium-Sized Building (60-200 units)  
☐ $250 Large Building (more than 200 units)  
Managing or Rental Agent:  
☐ $250 Small Building (less than 60 units)  
☐ $350 Medium-Sized Building (60-200 units)  
☐ $500 Large Building (more than 200 units)  
I want to make an additional contribution: $_________  
If you prefer not to be acknowledged, please check here ☐  
Name _________________________________________________  
E-mail ________________________________________________  
Partner Name __________________________________________  
E-mail ________________________________________________  
Company Name _________________________________________  
Contact Person _________________________________________  
E-mail ________________________________________________  
Address ___________________________________ Apt ________  
City _______________________ State ____ Zip ______________  
Primary Phone # _______________________________________  
Cell/Other Phone _______________________________________  
Mail to: Murray Hill Neighborhood Association  
Membership Coordinator  
PO Box 1897, New York, NY 10156-1897  

Members’ Corner  
Our warmest welcome to new members.  

Individual/Couples  
Christopher Craddock ☐ Jay Lloyd ☐ Ronnie Reiman  
Karen Craddock ☐ Mary Lloyd ☐ Rosalind Singer  
Michael Culoso ☐ Rita Marcilic ☐ Anet Sirna-Bruder  
Brooke Davida ☐ Angela Mazzarelli ☐ Sheryl Sprigler  
Paulette Demers ☐ Richard Munic ☐ Antoinette Torrens  
Jennette Erbst ☐ Angelica Novaes ☐ Bernard Weil  
Cynthia Fareed ☐ David Okrongly ☐ Allan Willinger  
Raja Flores ☐ MaryAnn Okrongly ☐ Nina Yacavino  
N Patrick Hennessey ☐ Samuel Panuccio  

Business/Nonprofit  
New York Design Center / 200 Lex  
We invite you to visit the website Directory for details about business members.  

In Memoriam: John Dickerson, MHNA Trustee  

by Marion Weingarten  
John Dickerson, a longtime member and trustee of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, passed away on November 20, 2019, in Wasilla, Alaska, at the age of 80 after a brief illness. John’s mother, Mahala Dickerson, who died in 2007, had established a homestead in Wasilla and it was not until 2010 that John left New York to take up residence there. Even though he lived more than 3,000 miles from New York he would, nevertheless, make sure to telephone me following each and every championship tennis match to applaud a winner or bemoan a loss. If it was a Federer loss, which was not often, we would console each other for we were both avid Federer fans. The only downside was the time difference, as I could receive a call at one o’clock in the morning. While he lived in Murray Hill, very often you would see John in his dress whites, as he was employed by Cunard Cruise Lines for 26 years as a massage therapist, much of this on his favorite ship, Queen Elizabeth II. As a trustee John worked tirelessly at our annual block party and, in particular, making sure that the Newsletter and flyers were delivered to the post office for mailings to our members. However, John’s greatest pleasure was at Christmas when he took charge of lighting the trees on the Park Avenue malls. Over the years John would return to the old neighborhood to resume old friendships and it was always a pleasure to share dinner and a glass of wine with him. He will be missed by all who knew him.
The New York Design Center / 200 Lex Joins the MHNA as a Business Member

The New York Design Center is the design industry’s premier resource for fine furnishings and decorative accessories. Located at 200 Lexington Avenue, it houses nearly 100 showrooms representing more than 500 lines of fine, traditional, contemporary, residential furniture, as well as fabric, floor covering, lighting, wall covering, kitchen and bath and decorative accessory resources. It is the largest East Coast resource for contract furniture and furnishings. It is open Monday through Friday from 9am – 5:30pm. Some showrooms offer extended hours, including Saturdays. Showrooms are “to the trade” but consumers can visit the Access to Design office for information on working with a designer.

200 Lex

200 Lex is the country’s oldest furniture and design building. Built in 1926 as the New York Furniture Exchange, 200 Lex was the dream of visionaries in the furniture industry. This historic 16-story, 500,000-square foot building designed by Ely Jacques Kahn was originally available only to furniture and department store buyers. In the late 1970s, the building began to ship its focus towards interior design and architecture, and in 1981 emerged as the New York Design Center. The Gallery at 200 Lex features over 55 galleries of fine antiques and 20th century vintage dealers. Butterfield Cafe at 200 Lex is on the 16th floor of the New York Design Center, open to tenants, clients and building guests. It is open from 8am - 5pm on weekdays and is cashless.

For leasing information and availability of showroom space please contact the NYDC at info@nydc.com.

Congratulations to Murray Hill Businesses and Nonprofits

This year, as we celebrate our 60th anniversary, The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association would also like to congratulate Murray Hill businesses and nonprofits which are also celebrating significant anniversaries.

Church of the Incarnation, Founded 1852, moved to Murray Hill in 1865—168 years
Church of the Covenant, Founded 1866—154 years
Makor Center for Spiritual Judaism (formerly Society of Jewish Science), Founded 1922, moved to Murray Hill in 1993—99 years
El Parador Cafe, Founded 1959—61 years
Metropolitan Synagogue, Founded 1959—60 years
Villa Berulia, Founded 1981—39 years
Galleria on 3rd, Founded 1999—21 years
Pilates on 5th, Founded 2000—20 years

If you are a business or nonprofit member or have sponsored, hosted or donated to a MHNA event or program and are celebrating a significant anniversary, please let us know about it. Email nancysheran@gmail.com and you’ll be included in the Fall 2020 issue.
Public Works in Murray Hill Updates

42nd Street Connection Project. The MTA’s new integrated approach to project management combined several projects between Times Square and Grand Central Terminal, into one project called the 42nd Street Connection Project. The completed work added two new staircases, a new fare control area, and 1,500 square feet of space to the mezzanine of the Grand Central subway station. Work is also being done to make the Shuttle (S line) accessible.

St. Vartan Park Improvements. The Parks Department met on February 27 to gather community feedback for improvements to St. Vartan Park, that will be made in the coming years by the Parks Department. These changes will be funded by $4.9 million allocated by Mayor de Blasio as well as $1.3 million allocated by Council Member Keith Powers’ office and the City Council to help redesign the park. This spring, the blacktop area will be converted to synthetic turf, to provide a safe space for youth sports teams to play. The Parks Department is also beginning to explore ideas for additional improvements. If you have further ideas for St. Vartan Park that you would like Council Member Powers to share with the Parks Department, please reach out to Sara Newman in his office at snewman@council.nyc.gov.

The Queens Midtown Tunnel Marginal Streets rehabilitation. This MTA Bridges & Tunnels project to rehabilitate the QMT entrance and exit streets is making progress and is on schedule. Work began in February to replace fencing. This work entails drilling for new fence posts while sealing up the old fence post holes, followed by the fence installation. This work is expected to run through April and will take place at various locations, including Tunnel Exit Street. The final tasks include painting the historic light poles. This work is very weather-dependent, and likely will be done in May and June. There may be some noise, but not at night, and only low-impact, from 7am to 3pm weekdays unless unexpected conditions arise that require weekend work.

Infrastructure Upgrades along 2nd Avenue (Project MED607). In the summer of 2018, the New York City Department of Design and Construction commenced a three-year project to upgrade infrastructure along 2nd Avenue and surrounding areas. Approximately 60%-70% of the distribution water mains are installed. Gas mains are being relocated or upgraded at those locations. Catch basin and chute connection installation is also ongoing. The city contractor completed a challenging phase of work in the vicinity of the Queens Midtown Tunnel along 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue. Aged distribution water main pipes were replaced with new mains while upgrades to the existing utility infrastructure were being performed. This work was done while maintaining traffic flows in a congested area. Similar work was done on local side streets, including East 35th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenue. During the Holiday Construction Em-
bargo which prohibited work on the avenues, excavation
and installation work was done on 33rd Street between 2nd
and 3rd Avenue for the new 20” distribution water main.
Upcoming work includes excavation for the installation of
the trunk water main pipes along 2nd Avenue just north of
34th Street and just south of 36th Street, installation of new
20” distribution water main pipe and utility upgrades on
the south side of East 33rd Street between 2nd and 3rd Av-
venue, installation of new 12” distribution water main pipes
and utility upgrades on East 35th Street between 2nd Avenue
and the QMT Exit and from the QMT Exit to 3rd Avenue
and finally, excavation for the installation of the trunk water
main along 3rd Avenue.

A bus stop appeared temporarily on Third Avenue between
34th and 35th Street. The placement of this temporary bus
stop interfered with cars trying to get into the right lane on
3rd Avenue, which is designated as a turning lane into the
Queens Midtown Tunnel between 34th & 36th Street. The
bus stop was removed. The regular bus stop between 34th &
33rd Street on Third Avenue is temporarily closed.

Park Avenue Tunnel Rehabilitation. Work on the Park
Avenue Tunnel continues. The tunnel roof was reinforced,
new curbs were fitted and permanent new tunnel lighting
is being mounted inside the tunnel. The contractor is also
installing new traffic railings and precast cement walls at
the north portal. These precast walls are reinforced concrete
segments which are installed against the tunnel walls. This
work is expected to last approximately 3 months until May.
At the south entrance, crews are working in conjunction
with Con Edison to perform steam vault repairs. In Febru-
ary, The New York City Department of Transportation Divi-
sion of Bridges closed the tunnel for several days to inspect
the tunnel’s ventilation, fire and air quality safety systems.

East Side Access. The East Side Access site at 37th Street and
Park Avenue will remain inactive for the coming months.
Beginning later this year, in coordination with City agencies
and Con Edison, East Side Access will complete necessary
utility work and restore the street and sidewalk. They will
continue to provide updates and notification to the commu-
nity in advance of all work. All work at this location will be
completed by late 2022.

Changes to the Discount Program

New
5th & MAD, 7 East 36th Street (between 5th & Madison
Avenue), 212-725-2353, 10% discount when dining in, not to
be combined with other offers, excludes gratuity and taxes.

MarieBelle at The Kitano Hotel, 66 Park Avenue (at 38th
Street), 212-885-7177, 15% discount (please provide the code
MHNA15 along with proof of membership).

Removed
Spring Forest Qigong Practice at The Yoga Collective, 135
West 29th Street (no longer at that location).

Since late 2019, when members join or renew their
memberships, we send membership cards, and are no longer
sending discount booklets. You can use your membership
card as proof of membership to obtain discounts offered to
our members. All discount offers can be seen on The Murray
Hill Neighborhood Association website murrayhillnyc.org/
discounts. These pages have the most up to date information.
If you would like a printed copy of the discount list please
contact Membership at info@murrayhillnyc.org or write
to The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, Attn:
Membership, P.O. Box 1897, New York, NY 10156-1897.

People gathered at the mall on December 22 and 23 for the Menorah light-
ing on Park Avenue at 35th Street to celebrate the start of the Hanukkah
festival of lights. The Metropolitan Synagogue organized these celebrations.

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Young Professionals Group
celebrated the holidays with their “Merry Murray Hill” networking event
at Tara Rose on December 17th. Tara Rose created a custom cocktail
menu and offered delectable bites to guests throughout the evening. YPG’s
purpose is to connect young professionals in the area for networking op-
portunities as well as to foster community initiatives through MHNA. We
welcome professionals in Murray Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods
to join us at our next event in 2020!
Happy Spring To All!
by Victoria Spagnola, Chairwoman, Patrons of Park Avenue

The glorious red tulips, the pink cherry blossoms, the flowering magnolias, the summer begonias, the holiday trees with sparkling lights and the Menorah are all the results of the planning and work of the Patrons of Park Avenue who oversee the Park Avenue Malls from 34th to 39th Street.

This year has been a prosperous one thanks to POPA's generous and loyal supporters. The Murray Hill Malls on Park Avenue are supported almost entirely by the generosity of buildings, small businesses and civic minded individuals in Murray Hill who appreciate that the Park Avenue Malls are a major attraction in Murray Hill and improve all property values in the neighborhood.

Below you will see a list of supporters. If your building or name is not among them, whether you are on Park Avenue or not, please urge your board of directors and your management company to support this neighborhood treasure. Contact Victoria Spagnola, Chairwoman, Patrons of Park Avenue, 50 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016, Email: victoria.spagnola@patronsofparkavenue.org.

**Benefactors**
- 2 Park Avenue
- 7 Park Avenue
- 15-17 Park Avenue
- 20 Park Avenue
- 23 Park Avenue
- 40 Park Avenue
- 41 Park Avenue
- 50 Park Avenue
- 52 Park Avenue
- 52 Park Avenue
- 70 Park Avenue
- 77 Park Avenue
- 90 Park Avenue
- New York Design Center

**Gardeners**
- Theodore Alexander
- Eugene and Diane Bartow
- Church of the Incarnation
- John Chadwick
- Jeffrey Guss MD
- Edwin and Diane Hochberg
- Investors Bank
- Kanaris Contracting
- Metropolitan Commercial Bank
- Karen Starr PsyD
- SP Gramercy

**Tree Sponsors**
- Una Baker
- Bartow Insurance Agency
- Edwin and Diane Hochberg
- Interiors by John Chadwick
- John Murray House
- Lighting Gallery
- Thomas C. Schumacher
- Catherine Spengel & Thomas Horan

MHNA Tree Guard Repair and Replacement Program
by Tom Horan, Co-Chair Green & Clean Committee

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Green and Clean Committee is pleased to announce a program designed to help individual homeowners and residential buildings in Murray Hill repair or replace broken tree guards on their property. Tree guards (hoops) have proven very helpful in protecting our trees.

The Association will contribute 50% of the cost of repairing or replacing a tree guard, up to a maximum of $500 per installation.

In an attempt to maintain a uniform look throughout the neighborhood, we only support one style of tree guard.

Before work can begin, the Association will require the property owner to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement absolving the MHNA from any liability resulting from the work.

Any resident wishing to have the Association help out with a project of this type should contact Tom Horan at horan.tc@gmail.com.

As long as financing is available for this program, we will gladly accept all requests.

It’s Spring in Murray Hill!
by Tom Horan, Co-Chair of the Green & Clean Committee

Your Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Green & Clean Committee will be holding some events to help keep our neighborhood beautiful.

Our Neighborhood Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, May 2nd with a rain date of Saturday, May 9th. This usually takes about 3 hours, from 9am until 12pm. The event centers on cleaning the tree beds on 2nd, 3rd, and Lexington Avenues between 32nd and 40th Streets. Gloves, trash bags, reach extender tools to pick up trash and safety vests will be provided. Join us if you can. Many hands make light (and quick) work!

We hope to be able to resume our tree bed mulching activities in Spring 2021 when the current construction work...
For as little as $500 a year you can sponsor weekly cleaning, watering and weeding for our Murray Hill malls.

In return, your name or your company’s name will appear in all Murray Hill publications showing your civic spirit and your pride in our neighborhood.

Please contact us today to join us in this wonderful cause!

To join, contact:
Victoria Spagnola
Chairwoman, Patrons of Park Avenue
50 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016
Email: victoria.spagnola@patronsofparkavenue.org

www.murrayhillnyc.org The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Spring 2020 9
The MHNA Thanks Rev. Douglas Ousley for 34 Years of Service in Murray Hill

Reverend Douglas Ousley recently retired as Rector of The Church of the Incarnation after 34 years of service. During this time, he was also our neighbor and friend, making his home in the Rectory of the church.

Doug Ousley came to Murray Hill as Rector of the church in 1984. He became involved with the Murray Hill Committee (the original organization that preceded The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association) when developers wanted to put up a very tall apartment building mid-block on 35th Street, across from the church. Reverend Ousley was instrumental in preserving the low-rise character of the side streets in Murray Hill. The proposed building would have required a City Council resolution to rezone the block. A number of Murray Hill organizations and individuals banded together to fight the development, and Rev. Ousley testified against the proposed rezoning at City Hall. The rezoning was not approved, and the street remains light and bright to this day, in large part to the efforts of Rector Ousley.

Rev. Ousley has opened the church doors to the community for many preservation events, tours, community meetings and social events. The most recent MHNA annual meetings were held at the church. He has been a wonderful steward of the church, bringing it financial stability and arranging to have the steeple restored. The church has had landmark designation since 1979.

He loved the restoration and beautification of the Murray Hill Malls on Park Avenue, and for many years bestowed ‘blessings on the community’ at the annual lighting of the Memorial Holiday Trees. He has also taken great pleasure in the church’s garden restoration. This landscaping project was started in 2019 and should be completed in 2020.

Rev. Ousley was always delighted by how much interest his neighbors took in the church. One of his constant concerns when he was rector was making the church accessible to visitors. To that end he established a designated Open Church Fund to help pay for the high costs of security, heat, and lighting when the church remained open. He also had the ramp installed at the door to provide accessibility to the sanctuary.

In January, the church honored him with a plaque that will be installed in the church. The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association thanks him for his contributions to the church, the neighborhood and also to our association.

Rev. Adrian Dannhauser will serve as Interim Priest in Charge until the position of Rector is filled in 2021. She has been Associate Rector for the past 5 years.

Although the reverend and his wife, Dana, will be living on the Upper East Side, we know that he will not forget his friends in Murray Hill, nor will we forget him. Happy, healthy times to you, dear friend!
Helping the SSMAC Live On In Our Community
by Irma W. Fisher

The Soldiers’, Sailors’, Marines’, Coast Guard and Airmen’s Club has called Murray Hill home since 1927. The club was founded in 1919 by Mrs. Cornelia Barnes Rogers, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and General John J. Pershing as an organization dedicated to “Serve Those Who Serve Their Country.” It is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization, dependent on sponsors and contributors so that it can provide subsidized accommodations and club-type facilities for all members of the armed services.

The club offers modest room rates for dormitory-style accommodations as well as a canteen, library and TV lounge. There are a few private rooms available for couples or families. Public rooms are also available to rent for meetings and receptions.

The club home is in jeopardy as they may lose their lease with a new owner and, if that happens, will have to close its doors or relocate. The club is one of the finest neighbors we have in the community and we are concerned for their future. The MHNA is working with the club’s management to see how we can help this “special treasure” live on in our community. Watch for developing news about the SSMAC.

283 Lexington Avenue (between 36th and 37th Street) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Charles Zivancev
Licensed Associate RE Broker
Licensed as Charles S Zivancev
m 917.923.0248
csz@corcoran.com
Since 2005, Gallery35 has prospered as an artists’ collective of The Community Church of New York. It has become known as an exceptionally enjoyable cultural resource in the neighborhood. Over the years the group has become more selective, even as the variety of art has become richer and more diverse. Members include Murray Hill residents and artists from outside the neighborhood.

All Gallery35 members, including past members as well as guests, have been invited to exhibit in the 15th Anniversary Invitational Show, the final show of the season. Join them to celebrate this milestone anniversary at the Artists’ Reception, May 9, and the Closing Reception, June 13, both from 6-8pm.

Gallery35 is located at 30 East 35th Street (between Park and Madison Avenue), gallery35nyc.com, email gallery35ny@gmail.com.

The NYC Landmarks55 Alliance is celebrating the 55th Anniversary of the passage of the New York City Landmarks Law.


15th Anniversary Invitational Show Opens in May at Gallery35
by Ellen Mandelbaum

Palumbo’s Paradise (detail) by Phyllis Tracy Malinow.
Tom Miller Talks About McKim, Meade & White on Murray Hill

Tom Miller, blogger extraordinaire about New York City’s historic buildings and the people who lived in them, entertained and informed his audience on March 2 at the Makor Center for Spiritual Judaism with a talk, McKim, Meade & White on Murray Hill. The talk began with a short history of the Gilded Age architectural firm, McKim, Meade & White, and took a detailed look at four of the buildings they designed, as well as the building’s owners. All of these build-

ings are now designated as New York City Landmarks. Three of the buildings discussed by Miller were designed by Stanford White. The Italian Renaissance revival style J. Hampden Robb House at 23 Park Avenue (35th Street) was built in 1888-92 as a private residence. In 1923 the building was purchased by The Advertising Club of New York. It was sold to a developer in 1977 and converted to a co-op apartment building. The Thomas B. Clarke House at 22 East 35th Street was built in 1902. Clarke was a renowned collector and dealer in fine and decorative arts, and the 35th Street townhouse was transformed into a gallery. The building was purchased by the Collectors Club in 1937. The 1905 Tiffany Building at 401 Fifth Avenue (37th Street) was the Tiffany and Company headquarters until Tiffany moved to 57th Street in 1940. The building now has retail at the street level with offices above.

The grand Classical Revival building at 225 Madison Avenue (36th Street), designed by Charles McKim, was built in 1906 to house the private library and art collection of J. P. Morgan. In 1924, it became a public institution, The Morgan Library & Museum (formerly the Pierpont Morgan Library). This event was hosted by The Makor Center and organized by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association’s Preservation & Design Committee. Stein Berre and Britt Smith sponsored the reception following the talk.
Arts, Culture & Leisure

The Morgan Library and Museum
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street
themorgan.org

EXHIBITS:
Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect-Drawings from the Bibliothèque National de France, through May 10. Morgan is the first U.S. institution to present the works, 60 of several 100 imaginary monuments and invented landscapes of Lequeu, 1757-1826.

The Drawings of Al Taylor, through May 24. Taylor, 1948-1999, found inspiration for his lyrical and witty compositions in banal objects and everyday situations. This exhibition and catalogue will be the first in the United States devoted to Taylor's important contribution as a draftsman.

Alfred Jarry: The Carnival of Being, through May 10. The subversive works and personality of French writer Jarry (1873-1907) were touchstones for Dada, Surrealism, and the Theatre of the Absurd. He applied his genius to poetry, the novel, operettas, graphic art, acting and puppeteering and was the inventor of a science of “imaginary solutions” called pataphysics. He is considered a link connecting the 19th to the 20th century avant-garde.

The Book of Ruth: Medieval to Modern, through June 14. This exhibition celebrates the 2018 gift by Joanna S. Rose of her illuminated Book of Ruth to the Morgan. The accordion-fold vellum manuscript, 9 inches tall and 18 feet long was designed and illuminated by New York artist Barbara Wolff. The Hebrew side is illuminated with gold leaf, silver and platinum, and the English side, in black and white. Included are several Morgan holdings on the Christian tradition of the story of Ruth.

Bettye Saar: Call and Response, May 29-September 13. Los Angeles based Saar, b. 1926, is known for collages and assemblage sculptures that reclaim racist images. Her ideas are drawn from popular culture, family history and spiritual traditions. Included are her travel sketchbooks from worldwide journeys.

Sublime Ideas: Drawings by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, May 29-September 13. Known as a printmaker, designer, architect, archaeologist, Piranesi’s (1720-1778) lasting fame is based on his etchings. The Morgan holds the largest and most important collections of his works, including views of Pompeii and Rome.

Ferdinand Hodler Drawings. Selections from the Musée Jenisch Vevey, June 12-September 13. Swiss painter Hodler, 1853-1918, created works ranging from symbolist compositions to intimate, realist portraits and nearly abstract landscapes. This exhibit of about 60 works will focus on the artist’s role of drawing, mostly preparatory sketches for his large-scale compositions.

Please Send to Real Life: Ray Johnson Photographs, June 26-October 4. New York artist Johnson (1927-1995) was best known for his multimedia collages. After 1991 he used 137 disposable cameras to create staged collages in settings like parking lots, sidewalks, beaches and cemeteries near his Long Island home.

Public Programs: Lectures, concerts, gallery talks, films, family events: themorgan.org; 212-685-0008. Friday open until 9pm; 7-9pm FREE. Dining: Morgan Café or Dining Room and the new coffee and wine bar. NOTE: The Morgan offers discounts to MHNA members for certain public programs. When ordering online click “member.” When ordering by phone say that you’re a MHNA member. MHNA members joining the Morgan for the first time get an extra month (13 instead of 12).

The New York Public Library
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, 476 Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street
www.nypl.org/schwarzman

Exhibits:
100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment: Giving Women the Right to Vote, dates TBA: The Library will host an exhibition of historic materials from its collection to commemorate this event.

Jill Kupin Rose Gallery, ongoing. Large wall panels display the history, collections and services of the NYPL.

NYPL Digitizes Complete Jewish Oral History Transcripts: 2250 transcripts of Jewish notables by the American Jewish Committee. digitalcollections.nypl.org/american-jewish-committee.

Online Exhibitions: nypl.org/events/online-exhibitions.

SIBL (Science, Industry and Business Library) will be closing the 188 Madison Ave. location on March 13 and will reopen on May 15 at their new location (Fifth Avenue and 40th Street) under their new name, The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library’s Business Center.
**Arts, Culture & Leisure**

**Mid-Manhattan (Fifth Ave. at 40th St.).** Some of the library services have been relocated to the Schwarzman Building. The building on 40th Street is expected to reopen on May 15.

**Kips Bay Branch (446 Third Ave., 31st St.)** Fully Accessible. Family-friendly activities, book discussions, movies, senior exercise sessions and more.

**Grand Central Branch (135 East 46th St. at Lexington Ave.)** Fully Accessible. Family-friendly activities, Spanish conversation circle, movies, meditation, book talks, and more.

**CUNY Graduate Center**

365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street, in the landmark B. Altman building

From September-June CUNY Graduate Center presents a wide range of public programs: concerts, lectures, plays, screenings and exhibits. Many events are free, but you can get discounts for events with fees if you become a member for $50 a year. Support a great NYC neighborhood cultural institution. 212-817-7130, gc.cuny.edu/membership. Events: gc.cuny.edu/publicprograms; 212-817-8215. Note below several spring events:

**City of Science:** with Nobel Prize winner molecular biologist Phillip A. Sharp and Pulitzer Prize winner cancer physician and researcher. Monday, May 11, 6:30pm.

**Artistic Visions of Democracy:** Wednesday, May 13, 6:30pm.

**Music in Midtown:** Free concerts Thursdays at 1pm by CUNY doctoral candidates, renowned faculty and guest artists. No tickets or reservations needed. Elebash Hall. Main floor. Also free evening recitals. **May 14** (final concert of the season): Chamber works performed by a wide variety of artists in the doctoral program. Works by Arthur Bliss; Frank Bridge and Schoenberg.

**Live@365: A Global Music Series. Rwanda: The Good Ones: Three Tribes United in Music,** Friday, May 29, 7pm. Phone 1-888-210-4283.

**American-Scandinavian Foundation–Scandinavia House**

58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Street)

**EXHIBIT:**

**Play: Imagine: Learn: Celebrating The Nordic Childhood,** May 2-July 25, Tues.-Sat. 12-6pm, Wed. 12-7pm. FREE. A Pan-Nordic exhibit that celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Heimbold Family Children’s Playing and Learning Center at Scandinavia House. Included are interactive spaces, a reading nook and storytelling, a performing arts stage and interactive programs for children and families. Check website for a full schedule of events.

**CONCERTS:**

Geirpruour Anna Guomundsdottir, cellist & ASF Fellow and Rannveig Marta Sarc, violinist. Tues. May 12, 7:30pm, $20, $15 ASF members. Works by Hallgrimsson, Kodaly and Ravel.

**Summer Jazz Series.** Dates TBA, check website for details.

**FILMS:** Check website for summer film series.

**New Nordic Cinema: Female-Focused.** Final Film: **The Reformist: A Female Imam.** Fri. May 15, 7pm. $14, $12 ASF members.

**Summer Film Series:** TBA, check website for details.

**NORDIC BOOK CLUB:**

**They Will Drown in Their Mothers’ Tears,** by Johannes Anuru, Tues. May 26 at 6pm.


**Bryant Park**

40th to 42nd Street, between 5th & 6th Avenue: behind the 42nd Street Library

bryantpark.org: 212-768-4242. Facebook, twitter, blog, newsletters, brochures.

**EATING SPOTS:** Kiosks, cafes, restaurant.

**SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES:** Carousel (all year); Ping Pong, Tai Chi, Yoga, Adult and Kids Game Tables; Reading Room; Birding Tours; Juggling; Fencing; Petanque; Lunchtime Jazz Piano and Broadway performances; after work music performances; HBO Film Festival Monday evenings during the summer.
Marijuana Legalization and the Big Tobacco Playbook
by Raja Flores, MD

Since 2014 the number of marijuana users has tripled to 55 million in the United States, according to the latest Marist Poll. The cannabis industry is thriving. Recreational pot is all but certain to be legalized by the new legislature in Albany, New York. Industry lobbyists are elated and I have a sense of dread.

Corporate marijuana has adopted the Big Tobacco playbook using a number of tactics. Advertising suggesting that the product is safe and good for you is the first deception. One ad in a health magazine shows an athletic-looking, pony-tailed young woman running. The caption reads: “Marijuana, organic – tobacco free!” But unreliable and poorly designed studies are being used to prove that marijuana is not harmful. And very artfully, medical marijuana has been used as a Trojan horse for recreational marijuana.

A well-designed study must follow a large number of well selected subjects, and it must follow them over a long period of time. The selection of subjects is critical—a patient who smoked one joint in their lifetime is of no value scientifically. The time period is equally important—lung cancer often takes many decades of smoking to develop.

In 2017, the National Academy of Medicine gathered a panel of sixteen experts who issued the statement: “There is moderate evidence of no statistical association between cannabis smoking and the incidence of lung cancer.” The studies that this statement was based upon are not reliable because they included people with low marijuana use, were conducted over a too short 3- to 6-year study period and had an insufficient number of subjects.

A well-designed study headed by Dr. Russell C. Callaghan from the University of Northern British Columbia, assessed 49,321 Swedish males for cannabis use and tracked them for forty years. Its conclusion: “Our primary finding provides initial longitudinal evidence that cannabis use might elevate the risk of lung cancer.” The study also yielded the finding that marijuana use was an independent predictor of lung cancer, regardless of cigarette smoking history. This study is ignored by corporate marijuana proponents.

Another study by Dr. David Moir from the Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Health Program in Canada demonstrates that the same carcinogens that cause lung cancer in the tar of tobacco cigarettes are equivalent to those in the tar from marijuana cigarettes.

The distinction between medical and recreational mari-
Juanita is essential. When prescribed properly, medical marijuana can help certain patients. I have recommended it to some of mine.

In my practice, every working day I cut into the cancer-ravaged lungs of patients. The majority were exposed to cigarette smoke in their lifetime. But I am seeing a growing number of lung cancers in marijuana smokers. My fear for the future is a new generation of thoracic surgeons trying to save the lives of a new generation of lung-cancer victims—this time, from cannabis. We must learn from the history of tobacco and slow down the cannabis steamroller.

Dr. Raja M. Flores, is Professor and System Chair of Thoracic Surgery at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. Flores received a B.A. in biochemistry from New York University, M.D. from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, M.S. in biostatistics from Columbia. His internship and residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center were followed by a Thoracic Oncology Clinical Research Fellowship in Intraoperative Chemotherapy, Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer at Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and a Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency at Harvard Medical School, both in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a Trustee of The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association.

If you or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor of this year’s Festival, please let us know by contacting info@murrayhill.org. Your sponsorship package includes a full booth set up at the Festival, as well as special acknowledgements on the MHNA social media channels, in email blasts, and through an article in the MHNA newsletter to be published and distributed after the fair. This is an excellent way to advertise your business to not only your Murray Hill neighbors, but to visitors from all over the city.

We also welcome all volunteers! If you would like to get more involved with the Festival (either day of or preparation for), please email Ashley Petrylak at info@murrayhillnyc.org or leave her a message at 212-886-5867. We would love to work with you and can’t wait to celebrate 60 years of MHNA with you!
Helicopters Over Murray Hill
by William Ried, Newsletter Contributor

On October 28, Representatives Maloney, Velázquez and Nadler introduced in the House the Improving Helicopter Safety Act of 2019 (HR 4880). The bill would ban “non-essential” helicopter flights over New York City to protect the safety of people living under the flight paths, limit environmental damage and decrease noise pollution. The Brooklyn Heights Association, Carnegie Hill Neighbors, West 80s Neighborhood Association and Cadman Park Conservancy joined the press conference announcing the bill. “Non-essential” flights exclude police, military, emergency services, disaster response, medical services, “heavy-lift” construction and news helicopters.

Helicopter Association International asserts the bill “will have no positive effect on aviation safety over New York City, but will threaten the viability of the helicopter industry.” HAI does not address pollution or noise or the possible use of unmonitored helicopters to mount terrorist attacks on the city.

Tour operators agreed with the city in 2016 to reduce flights from the Downtown Manhattan Heliport by 50%, or nearly 30,000 flights per year. This agreement did not limit tours originating in New Jersey or Westchester, which are regulated only by the Federal Aviation Administration. However, the FAA does not restrict or monitor tourist helicopter flights over Manhattan. These helicopter pilots operate under “Visual Flight Rules,” which only require them to communicate with nearby aircraft, unless they approach an airport. The FAA does restrict flights over Disneyland, Disneyworld and Washington, D.C., and during events such as the UN General Assembly. Some of the 30 Manhattan tours on TripAdvisor will not fly over performances at Shakespeare in the Park or games at Yankee Stadium, but most stress the chance...
for tourists to “rise above the noise of Manhattan on an unforgettable helicopter ride.”

There are also precedents in other countries for the proposed NYC law. Paris is a strict no-fly zone. London dictates specific routes for helicopters into and through the city, and permits no flights over Downing Street or Buckingham Palace. These routes are under constant air traffic control. Flights are strictly controlled over Beijing, and Tokyo’s restrictive noise ordinances make flights rare except for news crews or government officials.

Helicopter tours regularly cross Murray Hill at about 31st Street from the East River to the Empire State Building, then return east to Park or Lexington Avenue and turn south. Flights have been observed from 7am to 10pm. During peak tourist times, flights may pass over Murray Hill every ten minutes, sometimes three at a time.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that 311 complaints about helicopter noise hit a record level in 2019. Noise complaints also may be directed to Congresswoman Maloney, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and City Councilwoman Carlina Rivera.

William Ried practices law in New York City, has lived in Murray Hill for 33 years, and is a long-standing member of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association.
And The Oscar Goes To…

by Elaine Silber, Co-Chair Preservation & Design Committee

It all started with Minor Bishop, preservationist, architect, former trustee of The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, and leader of the original Murray Hill walking tour. Minor’s filmed tour, originally a videotape and later transferred to DVD, has been a classic for years. When the Preservation & Design Committee decided to make a new production of the walking tour, it was only natural to dedicate the film to Minor, who passed away earlier this year.

The film premiere of the new Walking Tour of Historic Murray Hill was held on Saturday, November 2nd at the Bowdoin Carriage House, a NYC landmark, now the Henry George School of Social Science. This beautiful space was a perfect setting for this sold-out event.

The program began with a welcome by Susan Demmet, Chair of the Preservation & Design Committee, followed by touching tributes to Minor Bishop by longtime friends Enid Klass and Barbara Kraebel and Minor’s neighbor, Michael-Ann Rowe. Remarks by Steve Weingrad, past president of the MHNA, focused on the history of Murray Hill and the importance of preserving this unique neighborhood. The film was introduced by producers and editors Jon Gilbert of Videotex Global Networks and Pattie Meyer of Edge City Design, who spoke about its production, a labor of love for those involved.

Led by professional tour guide and P & D member Robin Garr, with 7 participating tour members, this lively and captivating film shows spectacular footage of our historic neighborhood. Vintage photos are interspersed with fascinating historical and architectural commentary that accompany Robin’s talk about each of the landmarked buildings.

At a reception following the movie, guests were able to purchase the new walking tour DVD, along with Minor Bishop’s sketchbook, Sketching on Murray Hill. A book on the history of the Murrays, The Murrays of Murray Hill, by Charles Monaghan was also for sale.

The audience left with a much greater knowledge and appreciation of the historic treasures we have right here in Murray Hill.

DVD’s of the walking tour film can be purchased at murrayhillnyc.org/dvd.