

esna EXTRA

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

The Bulletin of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association

[Volume 25]

www.esna-nyc.net

[Late Spring 2006]

ESNA Celebrates its 15th Anniversary at Annual Meeting

Despite the earlier-in-the day downpours, ESNA members filled an overflowing auditorium at the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum for the association's 15th annual meeting. President Barry Schneider gave special thanks to Mary Sperling who once again treated everyone to her fabulous baked treats. Barry also thanked all of the ESNA merchants who helped to make this year's

meeting possible with gifts for door prizes, goodie bags items and take-away merchandise displayed at several merchants' tables at the meeting.

After the business part of the meeting – approval of the minutes of the 2005 annual meeting and the election of Judy Schneider as executive vice president, Joan Ferrone as assistant treasurer and Gerry Osmond as assistant secretary, Barry began the presentation of the Community Spirit Awards. The first recipient was Gifford Miller who worked tirelessly representing ESNA's residents during his many years as a member of the New York City Council. Mr. Miller thanked Barry for the honor and praised ESNA for creating and promoting a spirit of a real neighborhood.

The next recipient of the Community Spirit Award was Eva Moskowitz who also represented ESNA's residents while she was a member of the New York City Council. In thanking the organization for the award, Ms. Moskowitz said that all areas of the city would be in better shape if they had neighborhood associations like ESNA.

Inspector James Rogers, former Commanding Officer of the 19th Precinct, was the third recipient of ESNA's Community Spirit Award. Inspector Rogers accepted the award as he said, "on behalf of the 19th Precinct". He then introduced Deputy Inspector James Murtagh, his successor at the 19th. Inspector Murtagh promised to continue the excellent working relationship that has existed between the 19th Precinct and the members of ESNA over the years.

The final Community Spirit Award went to Assemblyman Pete Grannis. Barry Schneider thanked Mr. Grannis for his support in enabling ESNA to "green the avenues" under the tree bed program launched a couple of years ago. Assemblyman Grannis said that the award should really be given to ESNA for the collaborative way that the association has worked in the community not just on the greening project but on so many other initiatives that have enhanced the quality of life in the east sixties.

Next to the podium was Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer who presented a proclamation to ESNA which commended the association for "15 years of steadfast commitment to the neighborhood." Barry thanked the Borough President and then took the opportunity to introduce representatives of other elected officials attending the meeting.

City Council Members Jessica Lappin and Dan Garodnick, our guest panelists, were then invited to say a few introductory words and to take questions from the audience on neighborhood issues. Ms. Lappin began her brief remarks by highlighting the various City Council committee activities on which she is currently working. She said that she was going to be heavily involved in hearings on the Tram incident of April 18th and would work to insure that the Tram is reopened.

Dan Garodnick covered his planned activities in the City

Council and opened up the floor to questions. In response to a question concerning the need for a bus stop on First Avenue between 57th Street and 63rd Street, Mr. Garodnick talked about the need for a complete bus service plan for the east side. He said that various alternatives such as dedicated bus lanes and Bus Rapid Transit had to be considered. (See related item on page 2 of this newsletter.) To the point about the needed stop between E. 57th and E. 62nd Streets, it was recommended that the issue be brought to the Transportation Committee of Community Board 8.



Our Guests of Honor

Top row: Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Assemblyman Pete Grannis, Manhattan Boro President Scott Stringer
Center row: Councilmembers Jessica Lappin and Dan Garodnick, Deputy Inspector James Murtagh
Bottom Row: Former Councilmember Eva Moskowitz, Inspector James Rogers, former Council Speaker Gifford Miller

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney continued with additional comments on transportation issues in the neighborhood. She talked about federal funding for the Second Avenue Subway and the planned route for that subway. (Editor's Comment: It should be noted that Congresswoman Maloney has taken a strong leadership position in seeking approval and funding at the federal level from the beginning of the latest 2nd Avenue Subway plan.)

Dan Garodnick then responded to a question regarding the ability to limit tall buildings. He stressed the importance of community based planning. He said that members of the community need to be active with their Community Boards in

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

order to achieve satisfactory resolution of these development projects. Jessica Lappin reiterated that changes in zoning must pass through City Council and that the east side will benefit from strong supporters of community based planning and that she considered herself and Dan among them

The discussion then turned to the shaft and planned mains for the Third Water Tunnel. The shaft will be sited at the northwest corner of 59th and First Avenue. Alternatives are being considered for the mains to connect to Third Avenue: South on First Avenue to 54th Street and 55th Street and then west to Third; or west on 59th Street to Third and west on 61st Street to Third. The choice of the route should not develop into a turf war but the decision should be what is best for the City.

The final question to the council members had to do with what their priorities would be in the coming year. Dan Garodnick talked about the Con Ed site development, congestion pricing to relieve traffic overcrowding; quality of life issues – sidewalk vendors, newspaper boxes and bicycles. He told the audience that a forum would be held on May 22 at Marymount College to address these quality of life issues again. Jessica Lappin reiterated her involvement with the Tram; a plan to bring a greenmarket to the east side; and a park at the former heliport site.

Barry Schneider thanked the council members for coming to the ESNA meeting and responding to the concerns of the neighborhood. He told the audience that ESNA was indeed fortunate to have such bright and energetic people representing the community.

Barry Schneider then turned to What's Happening In The Neighborhood. The What's Up at ESNA Map that Barry referred to at the meeting is enclosed with this newsletter and highlights the status of the various construction and development projects. He also told the audience the Chase Manhattan Bank is moving from 64th and Second Avenue to 62nd and Second Avenue in August and that the FDR exits and entrances will be fully back on track in July. Barry also covered planned stations and entrances for the Second Avenue subway and told the audience that the plan to remove excavation material at E. 66th Street and Second Avenue has been abandoned.

Judy Schneider then took the podium and advised that the 67th Street library was now reopened with many new activities. She talked about how the greening plan for E. 59th and E. 60th Streets to the river, known as Community Board 8's 197-A Plan, was progressing. She pointed out that the crowning jewel of the Plan is the proposal for a new waterfront park right in our own backyard! She advised that talk was underway to split Zip Code 10021 into three separate Zip Codes but that ESNA did not have any more details on the split locations. In summing up, Judy called for volunteers for ESNA's various committees. She then paid special tribute to Ruth Simpson who passed away this

year. Ruth had been a truly valued member of the Communications Committee and a long time contributor to ESNA Extra. Drawing upon her professional journalism background, Ruth transformed the dry-as-dust minutes of our meetings into compelling narratives. She will be greatly missed.

Just before closing the meeting, Barry pulled the winning door prize tickets. Prizes were won by Bernice Rotondi (dinner at Portofino); Edna Viega (1-year membership to Mount Vernon Hotel Museum); Edward Bradfield (gift certificate for Patsy's Pizzeria); Joan Wolf (gift certificate for Brasserie 360), and Amy Miller (silver bracelet from Jewelers on 2nd). And even for those who did not win a door prize, a good time was had by all - the goodie bags certainly helped!

- Joan Fabio

**Our Website Is Now - www.esna-nyc.net
- under construction!**

What is Bus Rapid Transit? And What Will It Mean to Me?

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) can be defined as a flexible rapid transit mode that combines stations, vehicles, services, traffic lanes and Intelligent Transportation System elements into an integrated system with a strong positive identity. Some suggested components of a BRT system includes Specialized Roadways, Improved Vehicles, Expedited Fare Collection Systems, Anti-Bus Bunching Measures and Improved Customer Service. A combination of as many of these features as possible will greatly increase the speeds of buses on the M15 route on First and Second Avenues.

A Very Special Thank You!

...to the neighborhood commercial and institutional members who participated in our **SEE WHAT OUR MERCHANTS HAVE TO OFFER** table. They were: Affinia Hotel, Apple Bank, Angels Italian Ristorante, Avis, Bloomingdale's, Brasserie 360, Commerce Bank, Dunkin Donuts, Hertz, Jewelers on 2nd, The Lighthouse, New York Presbyterian Hospital, No Place Like Home, North Fork Bank, Patsy's Pizzeria, Portofino Grille, Richland Equity, Salon Capello, Serendipity and, of course, Mount Vernon Hotel Museum our most generous hosts who once again provided the auditorium for our use.

Contributors: Joan Fabio, Lee Kaye, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

(Circle One)

Individual Coop/Condo Owner	\$25.00
Senior Coop/Condo Owner (65+)	\$20.00
Renter	\$15.00
Senior Renter (65+)	\$12.00
Townhouse Owner	\$50.00
Commercial/Business/Professional	\$50.00

Membership Dues Enclosed \$ _____

Contribution Enclosed \$ _____

ESNA's COMMITTEES
(Circle those you want to join.)

Beautification • City Services
Communications
Fund Development & Social Activities
Government & Community Relations
Mailing & Distribution • Membership
Sanitation • Zoning & Legal



Mail your payment to:

ESNA, Inc.
1173A Second Avenue #110
New York, NY 10021