

esna EXTRA

The Bulletin of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

[Volume 22]

Visit our website: www.esna-nyc.com

[Summer 2005]

Weill Cornell Medical College Celebrates Topping Out Ceremony

On a bright May afternoon, leaders of the New York medical community and neighborhood residents gathered at the corner of E. 70th Street and York Avenue to celebrate the raising of the "Last Steel Beam" of the Ambulatory Care and Medical Education Building under construction at the site.



The state-of-the-art 13-story, 300,000 square foot medical complex will be a center for patient care and education at the Medical College's campus, as well as the flagship building for Cornell University in New York City.

The topping-out ceremony - the signing and raising of the final beam - is a venerable building construction tradition. ESNA's Judy and Barry Schneider were invited to participate. Their signatures are now emblazoned on the beam 13 stories above the upper east side..

At the ceremony, Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College, stated that "by consolidating many clinical practices under one roof, patients will have a central location to obtain needed medical services."

ESNA welcomes this new, vital addition to our community, and we look forward to its opening in late 2006.

Paul Rudolph House Tour

A special tour of the East 58th Street townhouse of Paul Rudolph, celebrated 20th-century architect, highlighted ESNA's spring activities. An American icon in the modernist tradition, Rudolph was linked in fame to Frank Lloyd Wright. His innovative use of light and space, as well as his collection of art objects on display, delighted ESNA members and friends as they toured Randolph's spectacular East Side townhouse.



Continued in page 3

Highlights of 2005 Annual Meeting

With a standing-room-only crowd, the East Sixties Neighborhood Association held its 14th annual meeting on Sunday May 15, 2005, at the Mt. Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden. President Barry Schneider opened the meeting by introducing a prominent ESNA supporter, **Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney**. She praised ESNA for its many years of service to the community and for playing a vital role in fostering rational development plans for the East Side. Barry



thanked her and recalled ESNA's beginnings and purpose: to work with community residents, developers and government agencies to bring about the best possible solutions for the neighborhood.

Staff members of the elected officials who represent the ESNA area were also introduced: Adam Szlachetza and Barry Klein for Assemblyman Jonathan Bing; Jane Swanson for Councilman and Speaker of the New York City Council, Gifford Miller; and Andrew Lauck for Councilwoman Eva Moskowitz

Barry then presented the first **ESNA Community Spirit Award** to **Rachel Singer**, Executive Assistant to the President of the **New York Blood Center**. He thanked Rachel for helping ESNA carry out its mission by providing meeting space free of charge for ESNA's various community issue meetings. Rachel and the Blood Center are also making it possible for ESNA's newly formed CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) group to hold its monthly meetings at no charge to ESNA.

The second **award** was presented to **Jonathan Greenspun, Commissioner of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit**. Barry Schneider thanked the CAU for giving ESNA the paint and supplies needed to remove graffiti - an ESNA initiative since its beginning. Without the help of the CAU, ESNA would not have been able to continue its program of graffiti removal. Barry stated that in view of the city-wide anti-graffiti initiative announced by the mayor, it was extremely timely for ESNA to acknowledge and thank the CAU not only for its support of ESNA's graffiti removal initiative but also for its role in establishing ESNA CERT and for the help received from Mildred Duran of the Permit Office for our street fair. Commissioner Greenspun thanked ESNA and said that CERT was the best example of

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Highlights of 2005 Annual Meeting

neighborhood empowerment; that government cannot do it alone, and CAU's partnership with associations like ESNA is the way to make things happen – a way to make a neighborhood better.

NYPD Officer Liam Lynch of the **19th Precinct** told the audience that year-to-date, crime in the precinct was down 18.5 %. Even more impressive were the statistics that over the last four years, crime was down over 30% and since 1993 a whopping 78%. He went on to say that this year there have been 3,700 criminal summonses issued for infractions by bicyclists in the precinct.

Officer Lynch took questions from the audience and said he would follow up on what could be done about cars shooting out of garages without regard to residents on the sidewalks, and vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians. It was such an incident that caused the death, at the corner of E. 64th Street and Second Avenue, of Dr. Jeanne Petrek, world renowned breast cancer surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Barry told the audience that Community Board 8's Transportation Committee is involved in a "failure to yield to pedestrians" initiative, is actively seeking solutions to the problem such as more red light cameras, and greater enforcement efforts by the NYPD. He suggested that everyone consult the Community Board's website: www.CB8m.com, to find out not only what is going on in the community, but also the dates of the various Community Board meetings, so that people could get involved in issues that concern them.



Other issues discussed with Officer Lynch were noise abatement, specifically horn honking, and the need for effective traffic control people.

City Council Speaker, Gifford Miller, congratulated ESNA for making a difference in the community and in the city. He praised ESNA for rejecting the "you can't do anything about it" attitude and for getting involved and bringing about change. He cited ESNA CERT as a perfect example of community involvement: getting the community more aware of and ready for various types of emergencies. He talked about issues arising out of 911 Commission findings, the city's emergency management system and the important role of organizations like ESNA. He also praised ESNA and Community Board 8 for putting forth and pursuing a plan for "greening" the 59th Street Bridge Area and developing a parkland concept for the former heliport site at E 60th to 63rd Streets and the East River.

Jay Scofield and Steffani Burd gave an overview of the **ESNA CERT** program, beginning with the origins of CERT. There are now 33 trained ESNA CERT team

Continued in next column

Continued from previous column

members who will be the "first responders" in time of an emergency, until police or firemen can get to the scene. The team will go from building to building, teaching preparedness and gathering information on residents who may need assistance in times of trouble.

Steffani talked about three-pronged preparedness:

- The head – having a household disaster plan;
- The hand – having a "Go Bag" and what should be in it if you have to evacuate your home;
- The home – having a 3-day emergency supply of food, water, medicines, etc. in the event services are shut off.

With a grant from **Speaker Miller**, ESNA's Beautification Committee installed tree guards and plantings in 8 tree beds on Second Avenue. Barry announced a program to install an additional 36 to 37 tree guards thanks to a \$50,000 grant from **Assemblyman Pete Grannis**. Barry asked those interested in joining the "greening" effort to think about becoming one of ESNA's certified citizen pruners or to participate in the planting and maintenance efforts. Vulnerable trees have been identified and efforts to get permission from building owners to put guards around trees in front of their properties will be underway.

Judith Schneider, Executive Vice President of ESNA, has been leading the charge at Community Board 8 for a **parkland initiative** known as the **197-A Plan**. She explained that as co-chair of the 197-A Committee, she and Helene Simon, her co-chair, have had the opportunity to work closely with the consulting firm of **Buckhurst Fish and Jacquemart**. BFJ is developing the formal written plan that will be submitted to the City Planning Department. She introduced Melissa Kaplan-Macey of BFJ, who presented the plan and design for the site encompassing 59th and 60th Streets from Second Avenue to the River and the river front from E. 59th to



63rd Streets. The audience enthusiastically viewed the plan and asked when it would be implemented. Judy enumerated the series of steps that must be taken to ultimately receive approval by City Planning, City Agencies, the Community Board, the Borough President and the City Council, and expressed the hope that they can be taken by early 2006.

Community Board is working toward persuading the state Department of Transportation to construct some elements of the Plan rather than merely restore the site to its prior use after completion of the FDR roadway reconstruction. The Economic Development Corporation had just advised the Community Board that it had agreed to turn the heliport site over to the Parks Department – a shining example of "it can

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Highlights of 2005 Annual Meeting

be done”.

To a question from the audience about the feasibility of a water taxi stop at the site, the answer was no. There will be no ferry landing or water taxi stops from E. 59 to E. 63 Streets, but Community Board 8 has suggested the siting of a landing/stop further up in the East Sixties. To a question about the funding of the 197-A Plan, Judy stated that some funding is already available from previously promised mitigation plans, and funding was going to be sought from developers in the area, in the spirit of community involvement.

Barry Schneider then took the podium to brief the audience on various **construction activities** in the area. He distributed a block map with ten planned construction sites and described what was envisioned for each. See the special 2-page insert included with this newsletter.

He also touched on infrastructure concerns. The FDR reconstruction is on target for having lanes reopened in April and July 2006. **East Side Access** (bringing the LIRR to Grand Central) and the **Second Avenue Subway** are not

Continued on back page



...your key to the east 60s.

...TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT ESNA AND URGE THEM TO JOIN!

ESNA Salutes These New Commercial Members

- Chirping Chicken**
- Corcoran Group**
- Dominick's Delicatessen**
- Eastside Hardware**
- Lenscrafters**
- Lighthouse International**
- Madison Capital**
- Mainland Restaurant**
- Manana Restaurant**

Change of Name

The UPS Store formerly Mail Boxes Etc.

ESNA would like to welcome back the following Professional members who recently renewed their membership:

Drs. Fishman, Roth & Chase

Continued from page 1

Rudolph House Tour

A stimulating briefing by Donald Luckenbill, friend of the architect and trustee of the Paul Rudolph Foundation, focused on Rudolph's background and philosophy of design.



Refreshments and wine capped the tour, which all agreed was a very interesting, successful event.

Several ESNA members who were unable to attend have asked for a reprise.

We will keep you posted.

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

E-mail Address _____

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

Continued from previous page

Highlights of 2005 Annual Meeting

presently fully funded, but may receive further funding if a successful bond issue is passed in November. A **water tunnel** shaft is planned for E. 59th and 1st Avenue. These and other infrastructure issues are more fully described in the 2-page insert included with this newsletter.

Barry also summarized some commercial changes: restaurants closing (Muggs), and restaurants coming (an Argentinian steak house; Mainland, upscale Chinese; and a reborn Le Cirque).

The meeting concluded with the awarding of 6 door prizes and the distribution of overstuffed goody bags, thanks to the contributions of:

North Fork Bank
Apple Bank
Lighthouse International
Serendipity III
Commerce Bank
Bloomingdale's
Lenscrafters
Lyden Gardens Hotel

The door prizes were won by

Bob Warnick—Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden Membership
Kathleen Kinne—Bed Bath and BEYOND Pillow
Sid Silberman—Four Tickets to Clearview Cinemas
L. Herndon Werth—Brunch for Four at Portofino
Edgar Traina—Brunch for Four at Manhattan Grille
Paul Biegel—Gourmet Garage Gift Certificate

Ballots for the officers standing for election were tallied after the meeting. The following were re-elected:

M. Barry Schneider, President
Joan Fabio, Treasurer
Sally J. Oleon, Secretary

8th Annual Street Fair Set for August 14

Mark your calendar now for Sunday, August 14. The place: E. 60th Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues. The event: ESNA's Annual Street Festival, from 11 AM to 5 PM. Stroll the fair with friends, neighbors and summer visitors to the city and enjoy the food and drink, the crafts and gifts. And be sure to visit our fabled White Elephant Table! It's sure to once again be hit of the Festival with the incredible bargains. See you there!

Contributors: Joan Fabio, Lee Kaye, Gerry Osmond, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Julie Ziercher

ESNA fêted at Garden Party

On a bright early May afternoon, the ESNA community gathered in the incredible soaring space that is Guastavino's. Despite the slight chill in the air, the generous spirit and the convivial atmosphere of Guastavino's First Annual Garden Party cast a warm glow over the afternoon's delights: complementary tea sandwiches and Pimms #1. Scores of ESNA members and friends ooh'd and ah'h'd at the spectacular views from the East 59th Street restaurant's mezzanine while acquainting or re-acquainting themselves with Chef Michael Lamonica's destination dining spot under the Queensboro Bridge. For ESNA, the Second Annual Garden Party can't come soon enough!

Growing, growing, gone . . .

You may find them working in your neighborhood early in the morning, steadily pruning or painting or digging. They're the members of the ESNA Beautification Committee, involved in many community enhancing activities:

Tree pruning. A team of qualified tree pruners maintains a June to October weekly schedule.

Graffiti removal. The members' vigilant elimination of graffiti from mail boxes and elsewhere is ongoing.

Outreach. In cooperation with the 19th Precinct Explorers Group, the committee removes graffiti from and maintains the newly renovated Causeway Alleys between E. 61st and 62nd Streets.

Tree beds. With Speaker Miller's grants, the committee has installed 9 new tree guards and plantings on Second Ave. Many more will come thanks to a very generous grant provided by Assemblyman Pete Grannis.

St. Catherine's Park. Under the guidance of the NYC Parks Dept., members plant bulbs, prune and maintain our East Side neighborhood park.

Tree replacement. The semi-annual Tree Survey assures that NYC Trees and Manhattan Trees replaces all dead and missing trees on schedule.

And the work goes on, improving our East Sixties neighborhood improving quality of life.

