

FRIENDS

of the UPPER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, founded in 1982, is an independent, not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the architectural legacy, livability, and sense of place of the Upper East Side.

FALL 2013

NEWS FROM FRIENDS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

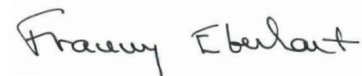
In schools from East Harlem to Beekman Place, FRIENDS' education program has been reaching over 1,000 students every year. That's a lot of kids! The Young FRIENDS program, which started in 1995, works with children in grades one through five, opening their eyes to the history and architecture of our neighborhood. For six years the program has been directed by Sarah O'Keefe, who energetically and creatively expanded both the curriculum and our audience. Sarah and

her family are now on a wonderful adventure, living in Sydney, Australia while her husband finishes Business School. We are very excited to introduce the new coordinator, Heidi Carey, who has a background in both architectural education and preservation. Welcome, Heidi!

In other exciting news, the family of Anne Millard established a Memorial Fund in her honor that the Board of Directors at

FRIENDS has chosen to dedicate to our Young Friends program. With this new resource, we expect to expand the education program in ways not yet imagined, keeping the memory of Anne alive and thriving for another generation of friends of the Upper East Side.

Sincerely,



Franny Eberhart

Young FRIENDS

This summer, FRIENDS had the pleasure of hosting a walking tour for a talented group of high school and college students participating in the *Summer Study Projects* at the Frick Collection. An art museum housed in the former Henry Clay Frick mansion, the Frick is an individual landmark at Fifth Avenue and East 70th Street. The students spent four weeks intensively researching the building's evolution from private mansion to museum, as well as its surrounding gardens and the institution's neighborhood context. Former Education Director Sarah O'Keefe supplemented these studies with a walking tour that explored the history and development of the Upper East Side, visualizing what the area looked like when Frick built his mansion between 1912-14. The students were fascinated to learn that Fifth Avenue was not always a fashionable place to live, and that Madison Avenue was once primarily residential and not the world-famous retail district it is now. Sarah also pointed out the boundaries of the Upper East Side Historic District and discussed how landmark status protects many historic features of our neighborhood and can help define an area's unique sense of place.

The students' research culminated in two days of impressive, in-depth presentations at the Frick. As members of the audience, FRIENDS learned even more secrets about this magnificent landmark building. We look forward to working with the fantastic *Summer Study Projects* again next summer! ♦



(From left to right) Emily Stewart, Bowdoin College; Julia Westerman, Lab School; Dana Malefakis, Horace Mann School; Noah Margulis, Oberlin College; Sarah Lindberg, Emory University; Marley Marius, Dartmouth; Katie Hickson, Durham University; Allison Rosen, Education Intern at the Frick.

WALKING AND TALKING WITH FRIENDS



Neon sign at Neil's Coffee Shop

Last spring FRIENDS hosted a series of events that explored features of New York's architectural legacy that are often overlooked. Thomas E. Rinaldi's book *New York Neon* identifies and catalogues neon signage, significant elements of the cityscape that are quickly disappearing. In an illustrated lecture, Rinaldi discussed his fascination with the flickering advertisements, how they came to be closely associated with New York City via the film industry, and how the signs eventually became a part of the nation's cultural identity. The technological evolution of neon was also explained, and Rinaldi ended with photographs of some of his favorite neon signs on the Upper East Side, including those at Neil's Coffee Shop and the Subway Inn.

Our next program featured another new book, the first illustrated history of Long Island's modern architecture. Caroline Rob Zaleski's *Long Island Modernism: 1930-1980* documents the proliferation and diversity of modern architecture on the island. Based on her architectural field survey for the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, Zaleski's book

includes many forgotten works by internationally-renowned architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Edward Durell Stone, and Walter Gropius. In her discussion, Zaleski presented these diverse works of architecture, focusing on both their design and social history, while highlighting the intriguing crosscurrents and spheres of influence that fostered Modernism.



FRIENDS walking tour visits Huddlestons Arch in Central Park's North Woods.

On a drizzly Sunday in May, David Karabell led an intrepid group of urban explorers through the North Woods of Central Park. Designed to mimic the Adirondack Mountains, this leafy section of Vaux and Olmsted's design enables visitors to escape from the bustling city. Artfully composed cascades, a rambling landscape, and rustic wooden fences all contribute to this woodland aesthetic. The tour visited a series of impressive stone arches, including the Huddlestons Arch, which was constructed in 1866

without mortar or cement, and is held together by gravity alone. Karabell ended at the Blockhouse, the oldest structure in the park, erected during the War of 1812 as part of northern Manhattan's defensive installations.

Finally, FRIENDS developed a walking tour of "Ancient New York" for members of the World Monuments Fund's Moai Circle, a group of young professionals with a shared enthusiasm for preserving global cultural heritage. The ancient world has long been a source of inspiration for American ideals of democracy. Since this country's founding, architects and their patrons have made use of the built environment to promote our nation as a successor to the values of the great, sophisticated cultures of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. A team of FRIENDS' staff, including Tara Kelly, Sarah O'Keefe, and Matthew Coody, explored the significance and hidden meanings of Classically-influenced designs on the Upper East Side. The tour included monumental institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as the more subtle references that appear in Philip Johnson's Postmodern 1001 Fifth Avenue and Central Park's Ancient Playground.

It was a busy season of programs and we hope you had the chance to attend one of our enlightening events. Please see our Fall 2013 Events section in this newsletter to read about upcoming tours and lectures from FRIENDS!

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST AVENUE ESTATE!

A final Public Meeting on the First Avenue Estate Hardship application will be held on Tuesday, October 29th (time TBD) at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Although testimony from the public will not be permitted, we anticipate that the record will remain open for a couple of weeks, during which time written statements may be submitted.

Please send your letter of **OPPOSITION** to:

Chair Robert Tierney, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, Municipal Building, One Centre Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10007

FALL 2013 EVENTS

FIFTH AVENUE VS. CENTRAL PARK WEST: A LECTURE WITH BARRY LEWIS

While the storied thoroughfares of Central Park West and Fifth Avenue both flank Central Park, their history and character are worlds apart. Architectural historian Barry Lewis—host of a popular walking tour series on PBS—will examine how the distinct development of these iconic streets is reflected through their architectural forms and styles. Lewis' comparative exploration will dissect the many eccentricities of the avenues, including Fifth Avenue's opulent though short-lived Gilded Age mansions (many of which stood for less than 20 years) and the origin of the twin-towered apartment building that gives Central Park West its special skyline. Join FRIENDS in discovering the unique histories of these grand boulevards.

Tuesday, October 29th, 6:30 p.m.
Temple Emanu-El, Greenwald Hall
1 East 65th Street
\$15 members, \$20 non-members

ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY: A WALKING TOUR

Founded by John D. Rockefeller Sr. in 1901 as the first biomedical research center in America, Rockefeller University expanded its mission from public health concerns to include graduate education, becoming one of the foremost scientific institutions in the world. So too has the campus architecture evolved, from the neo-Classical forms of York & Sawyer to the Mid-century Modernism of Harrison & Abramovitz. The university continues to develop, with a proposal to cantilever a new building over the FDR Drive. Led by architectural historian John Kriskiewicz, the past, present, and future of this eminent Upper East Side institution will be revealed in this rare campus tour.

Sunday, November 10th, 1:00 p.m.
Please meet at the main entrance of Rockefeller University, East 66th Street & York Av.
\$10 members, \$15 non-members
Co-sponsored by DOCOMOMO US.

GUIDE TO NYC URBAN LANDSCAPES: A BOOK TALK

New York City is easily-recognized worldwide by its skyscrapers and densely-populated urban environment. Robin Lynn and Francis Morrone in their newly-published *Guide to New York City Urban Landscapes* point to the less obvious—the city's low-scale open spaces, as inspiring as those found in nature. Join FRIENDS for an illustrated lecture on places and landscape design, from 19th century cemeteries to the Upper East Side's Conservatory Garden, with stops in-between. Morrone, rated one of the best tour guides in the world by *Travel + Leisure*, provides an exciting insider's look at New York's outstanding and surprising urban oases.

Wednesday, November 20th, 6:30 p.m.
The Arsenal, Third Floor Gallery, 830 Fifth Avenue
\$15 members, \$20 non-members
Co-sponsored by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, the Historic House Trust, and CIVITAS.

FRIENDS RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE ARCHIVAL ASSISTANCE FUND!

FRIENDS is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the New York Preservation Archive Project's (NYPAP) Archival Assistance Fund! NYPAP is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to documenting, preserving, and celebrating the history of historic preservation in New York City. This fund was established to assist local preservation-related organizations in maintaining their archival resources and organizational documents, and to inspire an archival mindset in the civic sector. With this grant, FRIENDS plans to create a comprehensive catalogue of the archival materials that have accumulated over our past 30 years as an organization. These materials are related to our efforts

to preserve the historic architecture and character of the Upper East Side, including correspondence from Halina Rosenthal, our first president; documentation from preservation advocacy campaigns; records of our institutional development; photographs, newspaper clippings, and other media. This project will also help to make our archives available to the public, with the creation of searchable indices for our Web site.

FRIENDS is excited about this opportunity to organize and increase accessibility to our collection. Many thanks to NYPAP for allowing FRIENDS to embark upon this worthwhile project! ♦

YORKVILLE UPDATE



The First Hungarian Reformed Church at 344 East 69th Street, one of the many gems the Yorkville Survey has unearthed!

FRIENDS' work to document the social, cultural, and architectural heritage of Yorkville continues! Our survey of this vast swath of the Upper East Side is ongoing and we would like to thank our volunteers for generously donating their time to

this worthy initiative. Over the course of the summer, the Yorkville survey inventory has grown, yet we are always looking for those who are interested in assisting with our efforts! For more information and to volunteer, please contact Matthew Coody at mcoody@friends-ues.org.

One of the ways FRIENDS is using the information gathered in this survey is to help protect

continued on page 4

the neighborhood's significant architecture by submitting a number of Request for Evaluations (RFE) forms to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). As many of our readers know, the submission of an RFE form is the first step in proposing potential properties for landmark status. Once submitted, the LPC staff will evaluate the property or district to determine if it meets the criteria for landmark designation, and may recommend it for consideration by the Commission.

Any member of the public who wishes to propose individual properties and districts for landmark status can fill out an RFE form. Please visit the LPC website or contact our office for guidance on how to complete an RFE form. With your help, we can move forward in our fight to protect the architectural heritage of the Upper East Side!

Do you have a special building in mind, or memories of Yorkville which you would like to share with us at FRIENDS? Let us know! Submit your stories of favorite places in the neighborhood to Matthew Coody at the email listed above. ♦

SUMMERING AT FRIENDS



Elizabeth Fagan Surveys the Upper East Side

Meet Elizabeth Fagan, the latest intern to spend a summer with FRIENDS! A recent graduate of the University of South Carolina, Elizabeth began Columbia University's Historic Preservation Program this fall. Her interest in preservation started with an Introduction to American Architecture course in college, which inspired her survey and research work

at such sites as the 19th century South Carolina State Hospital and the historic Volcano House Hotel in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. After moving to the Upper East Side early this summer, Elizabeth was drawn to FRIENDS' community involvement and advocacy for the City's architectural heritage. During her internship she has performed various tasks, such as contributing to the ongoing Yorkville architectural resource survey, completing and submitting Request for Evaluations for potential new landmarks, researching historic buildings and images, and testifying at the Landmarks Preservation Commission for appropriate alterations to our neighborhood's protected architecture. Elizabeth, an avid equestrian, is also a part-time intern with the Mounted Unit of the New York City Parks Enforcement Patrol, where she rides and assists in equine care alongside Park Sergeants. As a newcomer to New York City, she looks forward to learning more from FRIENDS about historic preservation and is excited to begin her graduate studies at Columbia University. ♦

PRESERVATION ACTION!



FRIENDS' Preservation Committee Reviewing a Proposal for Alterations to a Landmark Building

FRIENDS was created to be a source of information and encouragement for property owners and neighborhood residents, and an active participant in public decisions that affect the historic and cultural resources of the Upper East Side. FRIENDS regularly monitors, attends, and testifies before the Community Board, Landmarks Preservation Commission, City Planning Commission, Public Design Commission, and City Council, acting as com-

munity advocate to encourage appropriate development in our neighborhood.

A large part of this process is our Preservation Committee, which is made up of board members who have a special interest or expertise in the preservation process. Our Committee typically meets twice a month to review upcoming Upper East Side Certificate of Appropriateness items at the

Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). Before embarking upon certain kinds of work on landmark properties, building owners or tenants need to apply for a permit from the LPC. The Commission must review any proposals for alterations to landmark buildings and determine whether they have any effect on the significant features of a building or a historic district. Any change must be deemed harmonious or appropriate. After reviewing

these proposals, FRIENDS writes advisory testimony, which is then presented at each LPC public hearing. As one might expect, the Committee views a wide assortment of projects, ranging from food kiosks at the Guggenheim Museum to new storefronts on Madison Avenue, landscape redesigns in Central Park to alterations of Park Avenue apartment buildings—and everything in between!

As a driving force for our organizational mission, FRIENDS takes this aspect of our work very seriously. To increase public awareness of current and past proposals, FRIENDS has dedicated a portion of our website to Certificate of Appropriateness items, with supporting materials such as photographs, descriptions of the proposed work, and our testimony. You can view the webpage by visiting the following address: <http://www.friends-ues.org/cofa/>. FRIENDS also sends email notifications of upcoming items at the LPC to a special list of our constituents. If you are interested in joining this mailing list, please notify Matthew Coody at mcoody@friends-ues.org. ♦

AMBASSADOR AWARD DINNER

On Monday, September 30th, friends from around the city attended the *Tenth Annual Ambassador to the Upper East Side Award Dinner* at the Colony Club on 564 Park Avenue, presenting the award to the Honorable Raymond W. Kelly.

A lifelong New Yorker, Raymond W. Kelly was appointed New York City police commissioner in January 2002. He also served as police commissioner from 1992 to 1994. Commissioner Kelly was formerly Senior Managing Director of Global Corporate Security at Bear Stearns; Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service; Under Secretary for Enforcement at the U.S. Treasury; and Director of the International Police Monitors in Haiti. In addition, Commissioner Kelly served on the executive committee and was elected Vice President for the Americas of Interpol for four years. He is a 44-year veteran of the NYPD and a combat veteran of the Vietnam War who retired as a colonel from the Marine Corps Reserves after 30 years of service. He holds a BBA from Manhattan College; JD from St. John's University School of Law; LLM from NYU's Graduate School of Law; and an MPA from Harvard University. He has received numerous awards and citations for his service to New York City and the country. These include the French government's *Legion d'Honneur* in 2006.

It was a wonderful evening for all, and special thanks go out to the Benefit Committee for their assistance in organizing the event and making it such a great success! With the funds raised, FRIENDS can continue our mission as steward of the Upper East Side's six historic districts and 128 individual landmarks. ♦

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Each year, FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts awards outstanding achievements in the fields of preservation, architecture, and advocacy on the Upper East Side. Nominations are sought for our 2014 Annual Awards. If you know of a restoration or renovation project, or even a new building that is sensitive to its historic neighbors, please let us know! Projects must be completed between December 1, 2012 and December 1, 2013.



Council Member Jessica Lappin (with son, Miles), FRIENDS President Franny Eberhart, and FRIENDS Executive Director Tara Kelly.



Mary Kay Judy, Javier Robles, Elizabeth Graziolo, former FRIENDS Executive Director Seri Worden, and FRIENDS Preservation Associate Matthew Coody.



Michael Armstrong, Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Robert Tierney, Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, and former Police Commissioner Richard J. Condon.

OUR MISSION

Founded in 1982, FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts is an independent, not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the architectural legacy, livability, and sense of place of the Upper East Side by monitoring and protecting its six historic districts and 128 individual landmarks. FRIENDS reviews and actively responds to all Landmarks Preservation Commission and other city government actions affecting the Upper East Side. FRIENDS educates the public about the benefits of historic preservation and appropriate urban planning, responds to residents' concerns about landmark laws and encourages compliance with those laws. FRIENDS also has played, and continues to play, an important role in maintaining and improving zoning laws governing the area's avenues and residential side streets. Through effective advocacy and successful educational programs, FRIENDS acts as a steward safeguarding the future of all Upper East Side historic districts and the designated and contributing buildings that make those districts special.

2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Halina Rosenthal
President 1982-1991

Anne L. Millard
President 1991-2013

Franny Eberhart, *President*

Rita C. Chu, David I. Karabell
Vice Presidents

O. Kelley Anderson, *Treasurer*

Alice McG. Concagh, *Secretary*

Christina R. Davis, Andrew S. Dolkart,
Lionel Goldfrank III, Erin Gray, Thomas Jayne,
E. William Judson, Rev. John A. Kamas,
Christian K. Keesee, David L. Levinson, Mimi
Levitt, Annie MacRae, Hermes Mallea, Joyce
Matz, Peter DeF. Millard, Frederic S. Papert,
Judith Price, Robert C. Quinlan, Genie Rice,
Patricia B. Selch, Gretchen Siebel,
Andrew P. Steffan, Daniel B. Strickler, Jr.,
Patricia F. Sullivan, Margot Wellington

Tara Kelly, *Executive Director*

IN GRATITUDE

FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts wishes to acknowledge the generous support of: The Gilbert & Ildiko Butler Conservation Fund, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the Vilcek Foundation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Council Member Daniel Garodnick and Council Member Jessica Lappin through the Department of Cultural Affairs.

INFORMING OUR FRIENDS

FRIENDS continues to be a good neighbor. Via an e-mail list, we inform the community about important preservation issues on the Upper East Side, as well as items under review at the LPC. Members can subscribe by visiting our website at www.friends-ues.org or joining us on Facebook!

FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts
966 Lexington Avenue, #3E New York, NY 10021
t. 212-535-2526 f. 212-535-2155
www.friends-ues.org



966 Lexington Avenue, #3E | New York, NY 10021

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

New York NY
Permit No. 1347