

AROUND and ABOUT

THE TOWNSLEY

245 East 35th Street, New York 10016 ☀ *February 2010*

HAPPY 2010

This month marks the beginning of a new decade. For residents of the Townsley, that means lots of new plans for the building, a few new faces in the lobby and a whole new look for the newsletter.

After two years of great work, Doug Stallings has stepped down as editor. Replacing Doug are Ravelle Brickman, 7C, and Cigall Daboosh, 2C, who thank everyone who responded to the building survey. Please let us know if you have any news or information for future issues.

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Useful contacts

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WELCOME TO AL RUIZ

If you've noticed a good-looking stranger in the hall—carrying a wrench and a lot of keys—just introduce yourself to Al (Alfonso) Ruiz, our new superintendent, who joins the Townsley after nearly 20 years of building experience in New York.

Al and his wife, Lucrecia, will move into apartment 3G when renovations are completed. They look forward to moving back to Manhattan now that their sons have grown.

Last month residents bade farewell to former superintendent Tony Torro, who retired after 35 years in the building.

Turnover in the Townsley has always been low. Other longtime staffers include John Rosado, senior doorman, who has been here for 29 years. Tony Queylin, Derrick Tenn and Carlos Perez have served more than 15 years each. And Felix Sanchez, who retired a few years ago, still works as our relief doorman!

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Marathon Man

Kenneth Tso has run 12 marathons, 9 of them in the last year. A specialist in Information Technology at Morgan Stanley, Ken enjoys live music, especially Indie Rock.

Engaged in 2C

Cigall Daboosh, a strategic planner at Canon USA, is engaged to Jeff Goldman, a sports writer and producer for SNY-TV. The couple is planning to marry in July.

Miracles and blackberry jam

After a long career at the United Nations, German-born Jennifer Borchers (9E) teaches a course in miracles and conducts meditation groups. She loves going berry-picking in local parks and often makes her own jam.

Volunteer work on a reservation

A senior research analyst at CNN, Jennifer Sabella (2D) spent part of her vacation last summer volunteering at a Native American reservation in South Dakota.

Volunteering in Murray Hill

Recently retired from teaching, Stanley Grochala has plunged into full-time volunteer work. He tackles traffic problems for the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, socializes with abandoned cats and dogs at Bide-a-Wee and, starting next month, will be mentoring teenagers at Covenant House.

Tennis Practice on 35th Street

Joelle Kheel (3E-F) spends her summer months practicing tennis serves at the handball courts across the street. Joelle has lived in the Townsley since 1963. A longtime member of Actors Equity, she is a retired actress, tap dancer and singer. Joelle has two sons, both screenwriters in Los Angeles, and a movie star dog named Harry.

Kidstuff in 2B

While there are only a few children in the Townsley, their ranks are growing. Allison and Becca Starishevsky are among the most visible. Their parents are both prosecutors. Ted is a member of the coop board, and Jill is the author of a new children's book called *My Body Belongs to Me*.

Neighborhood Restaurants:

When it comes to American fare, residents recommend the following restaurants:

Benjamin's - 603 2nd Ave (33rd St)

- Join their e-mail list to receive information about specials

Duke's - 560 Third Avenue (36th St)

- Join their e-mail list and receive complimentary meals

Hudson Place - 538 3rd Ave (36th St)

Patrick Kavanagh's - 497 3rd Ave (33rd St)

Rare - 303 Lexington Ave (37th St)

- When it's warmer, check out Rare View, their rooftop bar

In future issues, we will list other local favorites. Send your feedback to

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Tenants Tone Up at the NYSC

The New York Sports Club, located on Second Avenue between 34th and 33rd Streets, is a popular hangout and exercise space for Townsley residents. Those with daytime jobs work out in the morning or evening hours, while the stay-at-home group—retired, unemployed or freelancers—can be spotted during the day. Newcomers should see Brian Mastel, the manager of the club, for the best deals on membership fees.

SO LONG SOUPY SALES

Soupy Sales, the TV comic and long-time resident of the Townsley, died last month at the age of 83. Adored by millions of fans in the 1960s and '70s, Soupy was the quintessential slapstick comedian, following in the footsteps of Groucho Marx and Charlie Chaplin.

"Soupy loved this building. He said it was the best place in New York City," said his widow, Trudy Sales. The two met when both were appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1965. Two years later, they reconnected in the cast of *Hellzapoppin*, and began dating, moving into the Townsley in 1968.



Soupy and Trudy, Houston, 1980

In 1995, a bad fall at the Emmy Awards brought on the first of what became multiple health problems. Six years ago, a series of strokes left him dependent on those around him. Neighbors who pitched in included Darryl Ortega and Marlin Swing (a former producer for Walter Cronkite on CBS-TV), who lived down the hall, and Michael Gregorio of 6H.

"Everyone in the building helped, but the doormen went way beyond the call of duty," Trudy said, adding that Soupy's wheelchair had to be lifted up and down the steps every time they entered or left the lobby. "Everyone was cheerful and kind. This building is a wonderful community. I want to thank everyone for their friendship and for the kind, caring help they gave us."

BUILDING NEWS

Water Tunnel Update

Neighbors are happy to finally have their street back. Wondering what all the construction was about?

City Tunnel #3 is the largest construction project in NYC's history, and is one of the world's engineering marvels. Construction began in 1970 and is expected to be completed in 2020 at a total cost of almost \$6B! The tunnel is being built in 4 stages, and will total more than 60 miles in length. Our street was part of the second stage. It was scheduled for completion in December 2009, and finished right on time!

House Rules

Please remember that no furniture can be moved on weekends and holidays.

Property Taxes

We are pleased to announce that the bill that State Senator Foley was going to introduce to increase the amount of real property tax paid by commercial, apartment house, cooperatives and condominium property owners has been taken off the table and will not be submitted to the senate. Thanks to everyone for their efforts!