

Dear Neighbors,

Glorious Gala

Last June, the Beekman Place Association (BPA) hosted our second bi-annual fundraiser gala to celebrate 45 years as a neighborhood association. Almost 100 of our neighbors gathered at the top of the Beekman Tower to enjoy drinks, light fare, music and a mind-blowing magician all to raise money to support our community. Guests were able to mingle with their neighbors, make new friends, and bid on fabulous prizes during our silent auction. Our former city council member Keith Powers spoke at the event about the importance of the neighborhood communities in Manhattan “the Beekman Place Association and the sister neighborhood associations are like mini-Mayors of NYC!” We look forward to our next gala expected to be held in 2027.



Farewell to Turtle Bay Tree Fund

The beloved Turtle Bay Tree Fund (TBTF) who has done the sidewalk planting of the flowers in the tree beds will be closing at the end of 2026. This is a huge loss to our neighborhood and the surrounding community as they will no longer be planting flowers this summer. Bill Curtis, the President TBTF since 2021, was a legend and passed away in the fall of 2025 at 92 years old leading their Board to this difficult decision. Prior to this, Bill was the President of Turtle Bay Association for over 50 years. His longstanding leadership was widely recognized by neighbors and



community organizations. He was known for his deep commitment to neighborhood quality of life, including land use, park enhancements, community safety, and streetscape improvements. Now more than ever BPA needs your financial support! While BPA

was able to support TBTF with a nominal donation of \$1,700 for their work annually, BPA will now have to cover the entire expense of planting in this neighborhood. We expect this will cost \$6k annually. If your building is a member, please ensure your new flowers in the tree beds are being watered daily! If your building is not a member, we need you to join. Annual membership is a small price to pay for a beautiful, safe neighborhood. For details, please reach out to Jenn Gunsberger at Board@beekmanplaceny.org.

Spring 2026 **NEWS**



BEEKMAN PLACE

ASSOCIATION

Security Costs Continuing to Rise

In the past two years, we were able to extend our security hours to 9 hours a night due to the increase in individual donations. Unfortunately, due to the rising minimum wage costs mandated by NY, the additional hour of overtime would cost the association an additional \$15k in 2026. With the closure of TBTF and the additional unexpected costs we will absorb to plant the tree beds, the BPA Board members had to make the difficult decision to cut the security guards' hours back to 8 hours for 2026. If these costs continue to rise, without more buildings as members and increased individual donations, the BPA Board will have to continue to review the guards' hours for affordability. Explorer Security Services (ESS) is one of the more financially competitive security companies out there, and we know how much everyone appreciates our guards Salif during the week, and Jermaine on the weekends. Please help us by donating to continue to keep our neighborhood safe.

Popular Parties

Our neighborhood continues to be recognized for our family friendly close knit block parties, which we will continue to provide to our neighborhood for free! On a gorgeous fall day last October, approximately 225 ghosts, monsters and witches came out to the end of East 50th for our annual Halloween party for families. We were treated by the NYPD with a trunk full of candy and the FDNY closing off Beekman Place to allow children and adults to board their fire truck. If you were not there, you may have heard some shout outs from the children on the megaphones inside those vehicles! We did face painting again with the addition of temporary tattoos back by popular demand. This year we will add one more balloon twister so everyone who wants one of these incredible balloons will be able to get one! Even though it may have been chilly to hold onto, there was no denying that the donation of ice cream cups from A La Mode Ice Cream shop, a nut-free establishment, was a hit with all the kids. This year Halloween will fall on a Saturday, and we will continue our tradition of hosting the event the Sunday before Halloween on October 25th from 3-5pm so it won't compete with all the other local Halloween events. Mark your calendars!

Caroling Continues

What started out as a small event on a cold rainy night in 2022, has now turned into another popular neighborhood event for all ages, our annual holiday caroling party! This year on a very chilly evening in December, approximately 125 of our neighbors gathered around our Beekman Place tree at the end of East 50th Street which was covered in snow from the morning snowfall! We welcomed our new performers Bianca Disarro and Drew Wutke who helped us sing the holiday classics while we enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and of course the wonderful pastries donated by Chez Les Frenchies, our neighborhood meeting spot. This year, we will host the event on Sunday, December 13 from 5-6pm. Mark your calendars and come out promptly as we keep the event to 45 minutes due to the chilly weather this time of year.

Doe Fund Shout Out!

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) has an archaic rule that considers garbage stations throughout the city as "private" and will not pick up our garbage stations on Beekman Place. The Doe Fund continues to support our neighborhood and others around the city in this situation. Yes, you read that correctly... DSNY certainly drives through our neighborhood to pick up garbage from the buildings but will not stop to pick up garbage from the garbage stations. We are eternally grateful for the Doe Fund and their commitment to keeping trash off the streets of NYC.



Construction Distruption

We hear you...it's loud, messy and annoying. Our little enclave in NYC has been invaded...with the new building being erected on the corner of East 51st and First Ave, to the local law 11 mandate in process for 439 East 51st Street, Two Beekman Place and with more buildings to come, there has been no shortage of trucks, noise, and workers for these projects in our neighborhood. While we love to share our neighborhood, anyone who has renovated their apartment knows how painful construction work is while you are going through it. But what happens after they finish? A quiet neighborhood with a beautiful new building and new neighbors who we hope will become members of the BPA, allowing us to add back additional security guard hours and to afford planting the flowers in the tree beds in the neighborhood. We recognize the inconvenience this has had for all of us, especially the work on Saturdays, evenings, and even some holidays. Rest assured, the construction company has all the necessary permits for their work on those days. Our motto is "let them work" because the more they work, the faster the building goes up, the faster the buildings are repaired, the faster we will get our quiet neighborhood back.

Dog Poop Patrol

We all love our furry friends, but the mess they often leave behind in our neighborhood is unwelcome. Please do not allow your dog to use tree bed planters as their toilet!! If you haven't noticed, BPA installed a dog poop bag dispenser at the end of East 51st Street for all to use in case you forgot your own bag for removal. Please be respectful of your neighbors, especially on East 50th Street where it can be like a game of hop scotch trying to navigate all the dog poop, especially after snowstorms, which we have had no shortage of in 2026!

Mail-In Donations

Over the past 4 years, BPA board members have worked hard to add additional electronic ways to make it easy to make a donation. This is becoming a way of life for many people who no longer write checks. For those of you who prefer writing checks, we kindly ask that you hand deliver them (save on the postage!) to 420 East 51st Street to the attention of Ken and Jenn Gunsberger. For reasons we still can't quite understand after numerous meetings with the manager at our local post office, we continue to see a lag of 1-2 months for receiving our mail. We have had checks lost and appear finally 4 months after they were postmarked. We have seen some improvement since staffing issues were addressed, but the lag is still very concerning.

If you wrote a check in 2025, and realized it has not been cashed, please ensure you put a stop payment on the check, and we would welcome your donation in 2026!

New Board Members

We are excited to have some fresh blood on our Board who are really willing to take on more to help our neighborhood. We thank those who have served previously, and are excited about working with Edward Cardimona of 2 Beekman Place, Susie Stamler of 439 East 51st Street, and Andrew Gothelf of 455 East 51st Street. We also congratulate Carol Ying, of 10 Mitchell Place, who was appointed as Vice President of BPA and Karla Leon of 405 East 50th Street who was appointed as Secretary of BPA.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our member buildings and individual donors who make all of this possible! Witnessing the loss of the Turtle Bay Tree Fund (TBTF) reminds us how grateful we are to all of you who continue to contribute to BPA every year, but those 300 individuals, 10 Co-Ops and 10 townhomes can't bear the financial burden for all of the luxuries we have of living in the Beekman Place neighborhood. Any size donation helps a small organization like this! If you have been making donations to TBTF in the past, please consider donating that money to BPA in 2026. If you have never made a donation to BPA, please consider us as you think about where to donate your precious dollars to so many well deserving non-profits. This is your home, this is your investment! For those of you who are able to increase your annual donation, we are eternally grateful for your support. In this environment, security and quality of life through beautification and neighborhood events is our top priority. You chose to live in Beekman Place for a reason...imagine what it would be like with no nightly security guard, no flowers in hanging baskets or tree beds, no neighborhood block parties...You could live anywhere in the city if you want that quality of life. We know what we choose...Beekman Place!

Protect Your Asset and Donate Today!

If this newsletter has not yet conveyed the importance of donating, the most crucial reason is to safeguard one of your valuable assets—your home! People want to live in this neighborhood because it is clean, beautiful and safe. Real estate agents use our private security guard as a selling point when you want to sell your home.

We now have more ways to donate than ever!

- **Zelle:** to board@beekmanplaceny.org (last 4 digits of phone number 5366)
*Please be sure to mention your name and email in the notes so we may thank you!
- **Credit Cards:** Write your credit card number and billing address on the appeal envelope enclosed or call Jenn Gunsberger at 415-533-5366
- **Donate Online using PayPal:** Scan the QR code or visit www.beekmanplaceny.org and click "Donate"
- **Checks:** enclose in the appeal envelope and mail to:
Beekman Place Association, PO BOX 20042-DHCC, New York, NY 10017-0001
- **Drop off:** Jenn and Ken Gunsberger at 420 East 51st Street

