

# 32 GRAMERCY PARK SOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

November 2011

## BOARD NEWS

- The Board reviewed and approved the revised schematics and materials for the interior design of the elevator cabs, including installing LED screens for programmable content.
- The Board also approved a new design for the roof deck and garden, replacing the “steps” element on the west side with benches. (See page 3 of this issue of *Highlights* for the updated design scheme.)
- The Board has retained a firm of mechanical engineers to run more tests on the terraces.
- The managing agent advised the Board that all alterations requiring a sidewalk shed are required to submit plans to both the NYC Department of Buildings and Department of Transportation. This will likely cause some delay to the start of major capital projects.
- If you’re interested in upgrading, the following apartments are currently on the market: 11M and 12J. (If you are selling your apartment and it’s not listed here, please leave a note with the doorman or contact the editor of *Highlights* at [32GPSboard@gmail.com](mailto:32GPSboard@gmail.com).)

## FYI

- **No Fumar!** A reminder: smoking is absolutely prohibited in the hallways, lobby, stairwells, laundry room and all other public areas of our building.
- **Art in the Park.** *Janey Waney*, a significant Modernist sculpture by world-renowned American artist Alexander Calder, is now on display in Gramercy Park, on loan for one year at no cost to the park.

Longtime Park Trustees Arlene Harrison, president of the Gramercy Park Block Association, and Rev. Tom Pike, a former Landmarks Preservation Commission official, worked with the Calder Foundation and the artist’s grandson, Sandy Rower (himself a Gramercy Park resident) to install the piece.

According to Mr. Rower, one of the reasons he chose Gramercy Park was the fact that the sculpture would be protected, but still visible.



- **The Desirability of City Homes.** Purchases of Manhattan condos and co-ops rose 17% from a year earlier, according to a report released last month by appraiser Miller Samuel Inc. and broker Prudential Douglas Elliman. This represents the highest volume since the third quarter of 2007. Studios and one-bedroom units accounted for more than half of all deals, a sign of demand from first-time purchasers. The median sales price was \$911,333.
- **Did You Know...?** Gramercy Park was once in a war zone. The Draft Riots erupted in New York in 1863 after the introduction of conscription, which made all male citizens between 20 and 35 and all unmarried men between 20 and 45 subject to military duty. However, anyone wealthy enough to pay \$300 could avoid service. Fear and anger rapidly turned to violence, unleashing one of the largest civil insurrections in American history (apart from the Civil War itself). Union cavalry and artillery occupied Gramercy Park, setting up two cannon at the northeast corner to face the rioters.
- **Funny Business.** A group of investors has expressed interest in opening a comedy club/restaurant at 239 Third Avenue, between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Streets (site of the former Truffle). The 32GPS Quality-of-Life Committee is working with Arlene Harrison's Gramercy Park Block Association to research the particulars of the proposed new venue. If you're interested in becoming involved, leave a message addressed to "Highlights Editor" at the front desk or send an email to [32GPSboard@gmail.com](mailto:32GPSboard@gmail.com).

### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Throughout November	<i>Feallan and Fallow</i> , a six-piece installation featuring works by LA-based artist Alison Saar	Madison Square Park
Mon, Nov 1, at 7:00pm	Writer Joan Didion discusses <i>Blue Nights</i> with Susan Cheever	Barnes & Noble Union Square 33 East 17th Street
Wed, Nov 9, at 7:00pm	Iconic photographer Annie Leibovitz presents <i>Pilgrimage</i> , her long-awaited new collection.	Barnes & Noble Union Square 33 East 17th Street
Wed, Nov 16, at 7:00pm	Actress Diane Keaton reads from <i>Then Again</i> , her memoir about her mother and herself	Barnes & Noble Union Square 33 East 17th Street
Thur, Nov 17, at 7:00pm	BASA Committee Meeting Community Board 6	East 54 <sup>th</sup> Street Recreation Center 348 E. 54 <sup>th</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Thur, Nov 20, at 6:30pm	13 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council	230 East 21 <sup>st</sup> St, between Second & Third Avenues
Every Sat, 2:00pm to 3:30pm	"Union Square: Crossroads of New York" Walking Tour	Union Square Park (by the statue of Abraham Lincoln)
Every Sun at 11:00am	Free Flatiron Walking Tour	Madison Square Park (at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street and Broadway, by the statue of Seward)
Every Sun at 1:00pm	Jazz for Kids	Jazz Standard 116 East 27 <sup>th</sup> Street



