

LAWRENCE PROPERTIES UPDATE

RESIDENTIAL MANAGERS SINCE 1925 • NEWSLETTER • FALL 1998

Sanctuary:

Places to Restore, Refresh, and Renew In the World's Most Stressed-Out City

Farewell to summer, with its long, languid days, its four-day workweeks and vacation getaways. The season has turned yet again and it's back to work, back to reckoning time in the nanosecond-length of New York minutes, back to the frenetic motion of real life here in the world's most stressed-out city.

When the pressures of life in the Big Apple start to crowd the quietude of your mind, it's nice to know that the City That Never Sleeps offers safe havens within its own boundaries — places where you can go to get centered and find yourself again. In fact, one New Yorker, overworked and overstressed like the rest of us, has written a book on this very topic. New York's 50 Best Places to Find Peace and Quiet by Allan Ishac (published by City & Company, NY), is a virtual catalogue of escape without leaving town. Below, some of Ishac's serenity-filled suggestions.

Retreats for the Mind and Soul

The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street, (212) 535-7710), a perennial favorite, has long offered a wonderful retreat for the mind and soul. Go for the art of the ages, to be sure, but make a special point to visit the *Met's Astor Court*,

part of the Asian Art Gallery. Here, within this garden courtyard complete with gentle waterfall, you can truly come back to yourself. And do return once again to *The Cloisters* (at the northernmost part of Fort Tryon Park, (212) 923-3700), the Met's enduring tribute to the art and architecture of the Middle Ages, there to be transported to the otherworldliness of 13th century Europe. Uptown, take yourself on a peaceful Himalayan journey at the *Nicholas Roerich Museum* (319 West 107th Street, (212) 864-7752), a town house devoted to the spiritual artwork of this artist who was nominated for the 1929 Nobel Peace Prize. And downtown, find placidity and beauty on the rooftop of the *Dia Center for the Arts* (548 West 22nd Street, (212) 989-5566), a 35,000 square foot building devoted to contemporary artists that opens its roof for sitting, for contemplating, and for viewing. For another view of serenity far above the maddening crowd, climb to the top of the 392 foot *Bell Tower at Riverside Church* (490 Riverside Drive at 120th Street, (212) 870-6792). Or, in the midst of your busiest midtown day, return to the composure born of introspection with a few moments of peace inside the Gothic salvation of St. Patrick's Cathedral (Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets, (212) 753-2261), or within the pristine, all-white environment of the *Erol Beker Chapel in St. Peter's Church* (Lexington Avenue at 54th Street, (212) 935-2200). Similar meditative tranquility can be found inside *The General Theological Seminary* (175 Ninth Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets, (212) 243-5150), part of the National Historic Landmark that is the Episcopal Church in Chelsea, and also within the *Meditation Room of The Open*

DONALD H. LEVY: OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT



Photo: Bob Newey

Donald H. Levy has been named Lawrence Properties Director of Management effective August 17, 1998.

A native New Yorker born and raised in Manhattan, Mr. Levy is a graduate of Columbia Law School, a member of the New York State Bar, and holds a real estate broker's license. He brings more than three decades of residential real estate management, legal, and supervisory experience to his position with Lawrence Properties.

Prior to joining our firm, Mr. Levy was Senior Account Executive with Insignia Residential Group, where he managed a portfolio of luxury cooperative residences with an aggregate annual operating budget of more than \$20 million. Mr. Levy also has served as Senior Account Executive for Manhattan Pacific Management, and as Vice President and Management Counsel of M.J. Raynes, Incorporated, where he managed a full co-op/condo portfolio, supervised the Transfer Department, performed as sponsor representative on a variety of boards, counseled boards and accounts executives on legal issues, and negotiated and drafted the company's management agreements.

While Mr. Levy's professionalism and expertise in the field of residential management are well-known and

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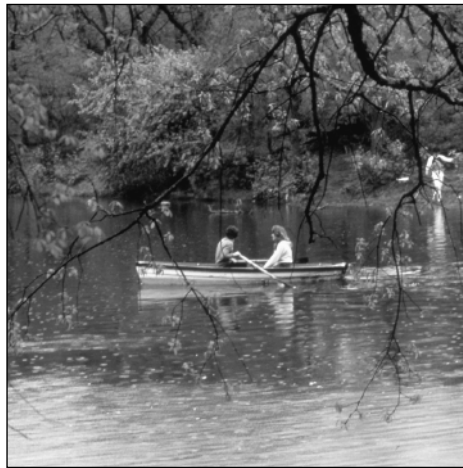
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Center (83 Spring Street, (212) 219-2527), one of the world's largest holistic centers. Close by, the 30,000 volumes of poetry and the gentle, unrushed ambiance of the reading space at **Poets House** (72 Spring Street, (212) 431-7920), offer true nourishment for the soul.

Return to Your Senses ... Return to Nature

With more than 1,600 parks and playgrounds, New York provides ample opportunity to return to the earth. Certainly, among the world's most famous and beautiful are the 250 acres of **The New York Botanical Garden** (200th Street at Southern Boulevard in The Bronx, (718) 817-8500), and **Central Park** and its miraculous **Strawberry Fields** (Yoko Ono's living memorial to John Lennon at Central Park West at



A couple enjoying the peaceful sanctuary of rowing a boat in Central Park

72nd Street) and **Shakespeare Garden**, a horticultural return to the bard's own Stratford-upon-Avon garden (Central Park near 79th Street, just below the Belvedere Castle and within walking distance of the Delacorte Theater). But all throughout the city, smaller and equally splendid gardens and parks allow for wonderful experiences of communing with nature. Uptown, the Victorian **Conservatory Garden** and its **Secret Garden** (105th Street and Fifth Avenue) are the stuff of which fairy tales are written. **Carl Schurz Park** (84th to 89th Streets and East End Avenue), is a bastion of historic quietude with views of Gracie Mansion, the East River, and Roosevelt Island all within its purview, and a place for the children to play. In midtown, the **United Nations Garden** (First Avenue at 45th Street, (212) 963-1234), with its 16 acres of flowers, trees, and esplanades, makes one wonder what all the fighting is for. Downtown, **Battery Park** (Battery Place and State Street), and its water views, grass, and walking paths, is perhaps the best-known. But just between Battery Park and its neighbor, the

Museum of Jewish Heritage, is **Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park** (Battery Place and West Street), a more quiet, and even more green oasis of tranquility.

To Rest, If Only For A Moment

Need just a few precious moments to sit and unwind in the course of your busy day? New York offers many spaces that are open to the public where you can just sit and be. Almost but not quite a real park, **Paley Park** (53rd Street between

Fifth and Madison Avenues) is a small island of waterfall-cascading calm where the world-weary can rest and regroup. For shelter from the storm, the **Equitable Tower Atrium** (787 Seventh Avenue between 51st and 52nd Streets), is an interior space full of light, air, and art. Similarly, the **Ford**

Foundation Building (320 East 43rd Street between First and Second Avenues) is a landscaped escape perfumed with the fragrances of the earth's most luxurious seasonal flowers. And let us not forget the silent warmth of the **New York Public Library** (42nd Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, (212) 930-0800), where the two lions, Patience and Fortitude, stand guard outside and the brilliance of all time is collected within.

To Relax The Body

If you believe that your body, your mind, and your soul are all connected, then surely you appreciate the value of pampering your physical self to reduce stress and restore balance. At the **Tej Ayurvedic Clinic** (162 West 56th Street, (212) 581-8136), you can heal your body and make your skin radiant through the art and science of India's 5,000 year old Ayurvedic formula. Or, enjoy the rejuvenating effects of massage and aroma-therapy at **Carapan** (5 West 16th Street, (212) 633-6220), and return to your day renewed. And if you are adventurous, treat yourself to a full-day

spa experience at **La Casa Day Spa** (41 East 20th Street, (212) 673-2272), including an hour in the ultimate in relaxation: A floatation room where you can experience physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being in total silence or accompanied by music. The New York Times says that La Casa, "comes close to magical realism and leaves you feeling otherworldly."

If, within the hustle and bustle of this world, 'otherworldly' is what you long to feel, then the New York sanctuaries listed here are sure to help you restore, refresh, and renew. Enjoy.

YOUR OWN LAWRENCE PROPERTIES PHONE DIRECTORY

To reach the professional you want, dial our main number, **212-868-8320** and the extension listed below.

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Donna Weinberg	422
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SUCH INTERESTING PEOPLE

Such interesting people live in Lawrence Properties-managed buildings. We thought you might like to meet some of them, so each issue we introduce someone we think you'd like to know. This issue, meet:

Aida Turturro: A Very Working New York Actor



Today, Aida Turturro is tired. She has just returned from Mexico where she was filming the upcoming Warner Bros. action movie, *The Deep Blue Sea*, starring Samuel L. Jackson. Shot on the same watery lot where Fox made *Titanic*, the movie is about a group of scientists who try to save the world by experimenting with the healing qualities of sharks. "The sharks get a little out of hand in the story," says Turturro, who, ironically, meets her scripted demise not within the jaws of the sea's most terrifying creature but rather in a pyrotechnically brilliant explosion. "It's a big production," she says of the film scheduled for release in about a year.

She is tired, too, from her recent visit to the Cannes Film Festival, where she went for the screening of the soon-to-be-released movie, *Illuminata*, in which she appears with Susan Sarandon and Christopher Walken in a part written specifically for her by her director/cousin John Turturro of *Quiz Show* and *Barton Fink* fame. "It was intense," she says. "The whole experience of seeing your movie with thousands of people in what must be the world's hugest theater, and afterwards they gave us a standing ovation ... it was very exciting. I told myself, 'I could get used to this.'"

And she is tired from the eager anticipation of her appearance in Woody Allen's new movie, *Celebrity*, scheduled for release this Fall, and from preparing for her upcoming scenes in Martin Scorsese's new movie, *Bringing Out The Dead*.

In short, Aida Turturro is tired because she is a working actor. Her cinematic credits include *Fallen*, *Sleepers*, *Money Train*, *Angie*, *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, *What About Bob?*,

and more than two dozen other flicks. She has appeared on such top-rated television shows as *Oz*, *The Practice*, *Law & Order*, *Sesame Street*, and others. And her Broadway and off-Broadway experience includes *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Working*, *Cabaret*, and *Three Penny Opera*.

But despite her impressive and growing list of professional accomplishments and her membership in a family of ever-increasing thespian fame (her sister, Olinda, is also an actor, and another cousin, Nick Turturro, stars on *NYPD Blue*), Aida Turturro is a genuine, hard-working, down-to-earth 'everywoman' who says that she's more interested in having a family than a career. "It's not like my career is number one," she says. "I'd love to have a house and a family. Home is one of the most important things to me."

Indeed, it is the people in her life that Turturro values most. "I love to work with people. For example, I'm a great organizer. I help people organize their homes, their filing systems, their attics and closets." In fact, Turturro organized the closets of her friend, singer Cyndi Lauper. "But I don't do it as work," she says. "It's an art for me, a creative way to help."

And when it comes to home, New York is the home Turturro loves most. Born in Brooklyn and raised in Manhattan, Turturro says she won't ever move out of this city. "I don't like the West Coast as much as New York. There's more work out there, but you can always get on a plane. I love it here. I like being able to walk to the places I want to be. I like the shopping. I like the people. I like that there's a sense of community."

Even when Turturro talks about her busy career, she talks more about her experiences, what she's learned, and the people she's worked with than about her own success. "I rarely go to see my own movies," she says. "There are times I get uncomfortable seeing myself on screen. I guess we all judge ourselves. In Cannes, I was more proud for my cousin than anything else."

As for herself, Turturro says, "I'm not into the Hollywood scene. I just hang out with the regular people. I'm a person who goes to work so I can pay the rent. Sometimes I have money and sometimes I don't. It's hard to live like that. And it's hard work sometimes to keep my eyes open, act, and look good when I have to be on a set at six in the morning and then wait around all day for my scene."

But obviously, it's what she loves to do. And, in a final comment typical of her unpretentious attitude, Aida Turturro adds, "I guess I've been pretty lucky. And lately, things are looking good. I'm appreciative of what I have."

Aida Turturro ... Such Interesting People.

OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT

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acknowledged, one event in particular demonstrates his outstanding responsiveness and ability to take charge in the most trying of circumstances. During his tenure with M.J. Raynes, Mr. Levy was the senior management professional assigned to 32 Gramercy Park South, the 18-story cooperative that was most dramatically affected by the August 1989 explosion of a Con Edison steam pipe. That devastating explosion, in which three people were killed and many more were severely injured, completely contaminated the residence with asbestos and resulted in the evacuation of all 185 families living there. It was Mr. Levy who, at great peril to himself, walked from floor to floor evacuating the building's residents. Moreover, it was through Mr. Levy's ongoing leadership throughout the entire crisis and its aftermath that coordination of the necessary City agencies, outside professionals, the cooperative board, and its residents was accomplished. As a result of Mr. Levy's work, all the myriad logistical, legal, health, and communication issues surrounding the residents' relocation, their access to information, and the building's overall management and rehabilitation were achieved in a manner that to this day remains a model of management excellence.

Now a member of the Lawrence Properties family of extraordinary professionals, Mr. Levy characterizes his position as Director of Management as the logical evolution of his career. "I chose to work with Lawrence Properties," says Mr. Levy, "first and foremost because of the company's reputation for quality. I'm also pleased to work within an organization that gives me the opportunity to shape an ever-changing industry without compromising service or care."

Lawrence Properties is proud to welcome Donald Levy.

Habitat Magazine Honors LP's Karen Dooley

Lawrence Properties is proud to announce that Senior Management Executive Karen Dooley has been awarded Habitat magazine's Bronze Management Achievement Award in the category of Projects and Improvements. Congratulations, Karen.



Karen Dooley

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UPDATE
LAWRENCE PROPERTIES

Brokerage Report

Our Brokerage Department is pleased to report on the following activity. If you wish to rent, sublet, buy or sell, call 212-868-8320, ext. 224.

RENTALS

SOHO

160 Prince St. 1 Bed \$1,375/mo

GREENWICH VILLAGE

25 Cornelia St. 1 Bed \$1,725/mo

39 Christopher St. Studio \$1,250/mo

CHELSEA

35 West 16th St. 2 Bed \$2,700/mo

MIDTOWN

8 East 30th St. 1 Bed \$2,000/mo

255 East 49th St. 2 Bed \$4,200/mo

424 West 53rd St. 2 Bed \$2,600/mo

UPPER WEST SIDE

131 West 85th St. Studio \$1,250/mo

131 West 85th St. 1 Bed \$1,750/mo

2790 Broadway 1 Bed \$1,250/mo

SALES

GREENWICH VILLAGE

2 Cornelia St. 1 Bed \$465,000

140 Charles St. Jr. 4 \$325,000

39 East 12th St. 1 Bed \$275,000

LOWER MANHATTAN

260 West Broadway Loft \$960,000

66 Crosby St. 2 Bed \$1,275,000

GRAMERCY PARK

22 Irving Place Studio \$146,000

CHELSEA

135 West 16th St. 2 Bed \$187,336

MIDTOWN

225 East 46th St. 1 Bed \$299,000

UPPER WEST SIDE

60 Riverside Drive 4 Bed \$807,000

186 Riverside Drive 4 Bed \$875,000

UPPER EAST SIDE

153 East 57th St. Studio \$84,000

420 East 58th St. Jr. 4 \$430,000

40 East 61st St. Jr. 4 \$800,000

168 East 74th St. 2 Bed \$720,000

983 Park Avenue 5 Bed \$2,700,000

EXCLUSIVES FOR SALE

GREENWICH VILLAGE

67 East 11th St. Studio \$160,000

CHELSEA

250 West 15th St. 1 Bed \$300,000

GRAMERCY PARK

26 Gramercy Park S. 1 Bed \$140,000

MIDTOWN

430 West 34th St. Studio \$79,500

430 West 34th St. 1 Bed \$145,000

420 East 58th St. 1 Bed \$340,000

UPPER EAST SIDE

401 East 74th St. 2 Bed \$450,000

401 East 74th St. Studio \$99,000

220 East 87th St. Studio \$64,000

UPPER WEST SIDE

214 Riverside Dr. 1 Bed \$160,000

741 West End Ave. 1 Bed \$130,000

4-10 West 101st St. 1 Bed \$ 60,000

Lawrence Properties Welcomes Our Newest Management Assignment:



983 PARK AVENUE

This elegant, 16 story cooperative with 55 units and 5 professional suites is on the northeast corner of Park Avenue and 83rd Street. Built in 1928 and converted in 1982, it is a full-service, luxury residence.

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