

Friday January 27, 2017

Mayor and the Village Board,

As some of you know I was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. I came to this country in 1977 with many frequent trips thereafter.

What you may not know is how Constantinople was captured in 1453 by a then, 21 year old Mehmed II commanding the army.

This is what Wikipedia says on this:

Mehmed ordered the construction of a road of greased logs across [Galata](#) on the north side of the Golden Horn, and rolled his ships across on 22 April.^[69]

Yes, you read right. They had ships hauled on greased logs and then dropped on the other side of the Bosphorous bypassing a critical entry point, what the Greeks thought could not be passed through.

This is in 1453 before Columbus set foot here. It defies the modern mind just contemplating such a feat. To this day, Europe is still trying to figure out how this was accomplished. They come in droves and stare with mouths agape at the Golden Horn where it all happened and conclude they could not possibly have defended Constantinople faced with such an incredible and resourceful adversary.

You have heard I hope of Ataturk, the man who took the Turks from the era of the Ottoman Empire and formed modern Turkey. He reformed the language, dress code, legal code, essentially overnight. This is after Gallipoli, another "miracle" the UK and ANZAC forces cannot grasp still after more than 100 years...

Anyway, if Mehmed II in 1453 could capture Constantinople in this

manner and if Ataturk could accomplish so much in such little time, I can only imagine what a very competent group of Scarsdale residents can accomplish under Mayor Jon Mark's leadership in the USA in 2107 AD.

You have to figure out how to mend this Non-Partisan system. It has not worked in decades. Nobody even tried to fix it. *You have to fix it.* Our volunteer boards are dysfunctional and delusional.

There is "no free lunch" and everyone knows this.

Please see my entry on my website here <http://www.save-scarsdale.org/2017/01/resident-volunteers-on-boards-versus.html>: and explain to me why our taxes are so high, even though we have so many volunteers working for "free" ...

This system is not working. We need professionals who are accountable, whose work is fully transparent.

We have to stop hiring consultants at every turn and instead have responsible competent individuals do their jobs. Our building and land use laws have to change. Our code has to change.

I cannot bear to hear one more time from the BAR or the Planning Board or CHP that they cannot effect change. If they can't effect change, the VB can. Let us see you do it.

You are the body who can legislate change, and you have to do it.

All this before you step down. By February 15th.

We cannot have another "phony" election. Nobody votes, there is no electing, but in Scarsdale they call it an "election" ...

Just like the CHP does not preserve, the ZBA only listens to the resident

requesting development, the BAR caters again to the resident developer, etc. I am tired of all this and not particularly proud I live in such a dysfunctional, delusional town in total denial. If this were a human being, (s) he would not get off the therapy couch for years.

We have to call a spade a spade and say "STOP" to all this.

Burn the midnight oil, let Staff work over-time. Yes, this time hire consultants. But get this off the ground and running.

No bureaucracy, no red-tape, no excuses. Pure and simple results.

Results I have been looking for since I started writing about this way back in 2010 when Mayor Mark was a Trustee when we had the 2-4 Weaver Street problem. I can still not forgive you for selling Village Land there for next to nothing when you could have asked for the sky... Yes, it hurts. Time to heal.

If you have any questions or comments, you know I will only be delighted to help. This country gave me my life, what little I can do in return is nothing in comparison.

With my very best wishes for success and looking forward to a Scarsdale we will all be proud to belong,

Lika L. Levi
(U.S. citizen as of 1993)