

Have You Heard ...



FRANCES KATZEN

FORMER Burger King CEO Bradley Blum just bought a swanky condo you won't find on any dollar menu.

City records show the Ohio born restaurant biz guru — who held a stint leading Olive Garden when he was with Darden Restaurants — purchased unit #32 at 141 Fifth Avenue for \$3.7 million.

The high-end conversion project is situated just a few blocks from Madison Square Park, and exclusive sales are being handled by CORE Group. Blum is currently CEO of Macaroni Grill.

ROLLING STONE magazine founder and publisher Jann Wenner has relinquished his share of the 6,540 s/f townhouse he purchased with ex Jane Wenner.

According to city records, he sold his portion of the 4-floor, 2-unit townhouse at 37 West 70th Street to Jane for \$4 million.

JAPANESE actress Keiko Ibi recently sold her 15 Central Park West abode for \$3.2 million.

City records show the 1,084 s/f, 1-bed, 1.5-bath unit #7H sold to a New Jersey-based buyer.

Keiko, who came to New York University to study film and acting, is an Oscar Award winner. She's directed,

produced and edited a number of short films and documentaries — the most notable being 1999's "The Personals."

A \$700,000 apartment slap bang in the middle of Times Square is going under the auctioneers hammer and could sell for as little as \$150,000.

The 668 s/f unit at 1600 Broadway on The Square is being auctioned by Sheldon Good & Company as part of a bankruptcy bonanza.

At the order of Chapter 7 Trustees trying to recoup bad debt, the 1600 Broadway unit is one of several individual resort and vacation homes nationwide to be sold at the March 19 auction.

The homes will be offered opening bids as low as \$150,000 and will be sold absolute, regardless of price.

High Country Club originally bought the homes at prices ranging from \$690,000 to over \$1 million.

The Broadway On The Square residence was originally bought for \$690,000.

The furnished apartment has a birds-eye views of Times Square through floor-to-ceiling windows. Building amenities include a rooftop observatory and terrace, outdoor shower and lawn.

It has fully-equipped conference center, entertainment lounge, bar, putting green, virtual golf, and fitness center.

There's also a 24-hour doorman and concierge.

TOP PDE broker, Frances Katzen was recently invited to address the women of the international law firm Lovells LLP for the company's Women's Initiative program.

The Women's Initiative is aimed at assisting the law firm's female employees in meeting their unique career challenges, whether it relates to professional development or their work/life balance.

Katzen spoke to the women about the challenges and rewards of being a woman in real estate, what many believe is still a male-dominated industry, and the secrets to her success.

FOURTH quarter survey by HomeGain revealed that 41% of homeowners believe that their homes should be listed 10 to 20% higher than what their Realtors' recommend.

Seventy-six percent of home sellers believe that their homes are worth more than their Realtors' recommended listing price, up from 74 percent in the third quarter survey and 71 percent in the second quarter survey.

Conversely, 62% of home buyers think that homes are overpriced, down from 64% in the third quarter and up from 59% in the first quarter.