

# A tourist in my town

By Victoria Schneps / Friday, June 27th, 2014 12:18 PM EDT



Marty Markowitz (left) and Seth Taylor, executive director of 82nd Street BID (right) with staff and customers after cheering on the Mexican soccer team

Whenever I go to the theatre I'm in awe of the multiple-story-high, brightly lit billboards up and down Broadway. With seating opportunities on newly created plazas it's a natural place for street performers and the day I was there two "cow girls" in skimpy outfits were singing their hearts out and collecting money for their performance. I stood in awe and took in the scene as any tourist would do. The wall-to-wall people in the streets told me tourism is alive and well in Manhattan. Now it's the "other" boroughs' chance to catch up!

Last week I had the fun of taking the former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz on a tour of Jackson Heights. In his new role as NYC&Co.'s ambassador to the boroughs outside Manhattan he was on a fact-finding tour to see for himself the wonders of our borough.

We began our tour at Tulcingo, a Mexican restaurant at 40-11 82nd St. It was perfect timing because Mexico was playing their World Cup soccer game to a tie and the enthusiastic customers and staff were beaming in pride. Our "tour guide" was Seth Taylor, the executive director of the expanding 82nd Street BID and his associate, Sofia Davila, and Jeff Orlich, a restaurant blogger, knowledgeable about unique cuisines. Vincent Maniscalco, chief of staff for Councilman Danny Dromm, who lives and breathes the neighborhood, helped us identify unique places for Marty to visit.



Sofia Davila and Jeff Orlich, at Tulcingo Restaurant and Bakery

We walked up 82nd Street to 37th Avenue, and I saw the new Gap and Carter's Outlet being built with "opening soon" signs up. Since Jackson Heights is a large family neighborhood they should do very well on the busy, spotless (thanks to the BID) street.

As we continued on 37th Avenue heading to 74th Street, the street was filled with people of every ethnic mix. We nostalgically recalled the "Kitchen Sink" ice cream sundae as we passed one of the earliest — and now only — Jahn's restaurants.

As we got closer to 74th Street, I felt like I was back in (Bombay) Mumbai. My visit to India a few years ago was my favorite trip. When I came home I needed a few more "trinkets" as gifts, so I went to 74th Street and there were the bracelets I had seen in Mumbai! So here I was back again to the neighborhood with its unique gold jewelry, sari clothing and food stores.

Marty and his wife Jamie, who joined us, were delighted with each site we visited. To end our time in Jackson Heights we had dinner at Delhi Heights, serving Indian, Nepalese and Tibetan food and drinks.

The restaurant is open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. to midnight and offers a lovely environment of wooden tables and square white dishes that show off the colors and shapes of the food served.



*NYC & Company Marty Markowitz showing off the food at Delhi Palace*

I've always loved Indian bread and here they serve 16 varieties. Jamie and Marty love Indian food, too, so they ordered several appetizers from Delhi Heights' clay oven. I liked the tandoori shrimp and chicken Afghani, then on to a vegetarian Aachari mushroom dish. We had several main courses and each was tastier than the next. Several dishes were offered with different levels of spiciness.

It's always good coming to a place with several people because you can share many dishes. We ordered nine different dishes and each one was delicious. It was a memorable visit that called for a return trip!