



## Annual Report 1991-92

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation is a non-profit educational organization with an open membership, chartered by New York State, the primary purpose of which is to safeguard the rich cultural and architectural heritage of Greenwich Village from exploitation and decline.

The Society serves Greenwich Village as historian, educator, clearing-house, and technical consultant on architectural preservation. It maintains a small staff headed by a professional architectural historian and preservationist. Major services include:

- A variety of public programs, such as slide lectures, walking tours, exhibitions, showings of significant historic interiors, Annual Village Awards, and other events designed to inspire interest in the history and architecture of Greenwich Village.
- An elementary school program, in collaboration with the Old Merchant's House, to teach children about Greenwich Village history and the importance of architectural preservation. The three sessions of the program include an introductory slide talk, a walking tour of the Washington Square neighborhood, and a special tour of the Old Merchant's House which stresses everyday domestic life in the 19th century.
- Consultation on specific preservation problems, such as the identification of a building's original elements, recommendations on restoration and care, advice on the proper treatment of interiors and exteriors, and other information vital to good preservation practice.
- Community watchdog on preservation issues.
- Original archival research documenting the full histories of individual buildings by special arrangement.

## Report from the Benefit Committee

Penelope Bateau, Richard B. Barnett, Elizabeth Greenburg, Tiziana Hardy, Martin Hutner, Regina M. Kellerman, Kendyl K. Monroe, James Stewart Polshak, Elinor Ratner, Julie Rinaldini, Judith Stonehill

On Sunday, May 3, 1992, the Society sponsored a benefit evening highlighting the historical connection between the Village and movies. Entitled *Hollywood on the Hudson: A Celebration of Movies Starring Greenwich Village*, the event netted \$18,700 for the Society and its programs.

The benefit was held at Industria Superstudio, 775 Washington Street near the Hudson River. The studio is now a center for fashion photography and is located in a 1924-25 building formerly used as the showroom and offices of the Rolls-Royce Company.

The highlight of the evening was a montage of scenes from films with Village settings. Continuing the theme, champagne was served with popcorn and other "movie favorites".

## Report from the Nominating Committee

Julie Rinaldini, Chair; Tiziana Hardy, Jack Meserole, Kendyl K. Monroe, James Stewart Polshak, Elinor Ratner

In accordance with the by-laws of the Society, the Nominating Committee has submitted the following nominations to be voted upon by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 11:

Nominated to serve for a first three-year term as a Trustee:  
Cora Cahan

Nominated to serve for additional three-year terms as Trustees:  
Richard B. Barnett                      Kendyl K. Monroe  
Jack Meserole                              Judith Stonehill

Information on the candidates will be available at the Annual Meeting.

## Report from the Awards Committee

James Stewart Polshak, Chair; Penelope Bateau, Richard B. Barnett, Kent Barwick, Regina M. Kellerman, Julie Rinaldini, Judith Stonehill, Calvin Trillin

The Second Annual Village Awards honoring people, places and organizations that have contributed significantly to the quality of Village life will be given at the Society's Annual Meeting on June 11, 1992. Nominations were invited from the Society's membership and the following recipients have been selected after careful consideration by the Awards Committee: Anglers and Writers Café, the Church of St. Luke in the Fields, the Sheridan Square Viewing Garden, Richard Walker, the Washington Square Music Festival, and the West Village Committee Newsletter. The Committee also added a new category this year: The Front Stoop Award for an improvement to the village streetscape. This year's Front Stoop Award goes to the new wrought-iron fence at Village Community School.

The awards presentation will take place at the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace, 28 East 20th Street, courtesy of the National Park Service. In addition to citations, the awards consist of books on Greenwich Village and New York City history which are donated to the Jefferson Market Library.



At the May 3rd Benefit (from left to right): Anne L. Minich, Director of Development at the Village Nursing Home; Assemblymember Deborah Glick; Greenwich Village Society President Kendyl K. Monroe; Nina Streich, Director of the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre & Broadcasting; and Honorary Committee member Caroline Lagerfelt, who recently opened on Broadway in "A Small Family Business" by Alan Ayckbourn.

Tony Alfieri

## Report from the Membership/Finance Committees

Judith Stonehill, Chair; Elinor Ratner, Treasurer

The 1992 budget for the Society estimated total expenses of \$61,650. Sources of income include membership, programs, publications, project funding and income from fundraising events.

The Society will not be receiving any state or federal funding for 1991-92, which means a budget deficit for the coming year. Other sources of funding need to be found and the Society must continue to increase its membership in order to survive as a viable organization.

The examination of financial statements for 1991 is scheduled to be completed before the Annual Meeting by Baum & Baum, C.P.A. Copies of their report will be available at the Society's office for anyone interested in this financial accounting.

## Report from the Program Committee

Martin Hutner, Chair; Penelope Bateau, Tiziana Hardy, Jack Meserole, Judith Stonehill

The Society offered a range of activities during 1991-92:

**June** The 1991 Annual Meeting and Presentation of the First Annual Village Awards took place at New York University's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò on West 12th Street, an historic landmark that was formerly the home of Gen. Winfield Scott.

**September** Colonnade Row, one of the most notable examples of Greek Revival architecture in New York City, was the subject of a new slide lecture by Dr. Regina M. Kellerman. Dr. Kellerman, an architectural historian and former Executive Director of the Society, did extensive original research on the landmark buildings constructed in 1832-33. The lecture combined architectural, cultural and social history.

**October** The Society revived its "Old Churches of Greenwich Village" walking tour covering many of the Village's most historic and architecturally significant houses of worship. Many of the church interiors were opened specially for the tour, which also included an information packet for each participant. The tour began at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields (1821) and concluded with a reception at Grace Church (1846).

**November** Members were given an "Inside Look" into the art of mapmaking at Incentra International by its President Gaylord Hoftiezer and Vice President Leigh Huttick. Participants also had the opportunity to preview a major new map of Greenwich Village recently completed by Incentra. The firm has been located for the past eleven years on the 12th floor of the historic Western Electric Co./Bell Telephone Laboratories complex (now known as Westbeth), which was designed in 1898 by architect Cyrus L.W. Eidlitz.

**December** Friends and members of the Society gathered at No. 58 West Tenth Street to celebrate the illustrious history of this longtime Village landmark. Now the home of the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies of New York University, No. 58 (built in 1835-36) was once the headquarters in the late 19th century for the Tile Club, an artists' club whose membership included Winslow Homer, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Stanford White, among others.

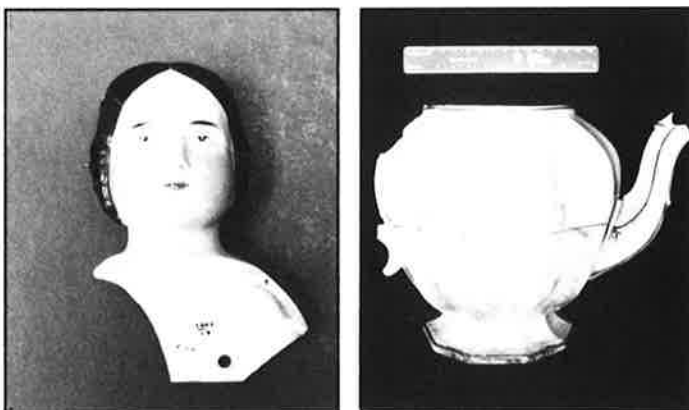
The Society's membership continues to grow due to many initiatives. Several real estate firms that do business in Greenwich Village have recently started a program of giving new memberships in the Society to their clients who have purchased homes (including cooperatives and condominiums) in the neighborhood. Their gift memberships have been excellent ways for new residents to learn about the Society and its work and for the Society to realize important support from prominent local businesses.

A number of Society members have doubled their membership support through matching gift programs at their places of business. The Society thanks them for this significant support and reminds other members that their support can also be increased if they are employed by a firm with a matching gift program.

**February** Two special tours provided Society members the opportunity to have an "Inside Look" at the Edna St. Vincent Millay exhibition at the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library. The tours, led by Francis O. Mattson, the curator of the Berg Collection and of the new exhibition, focused on Millay's connections with Greenwich Village and coincided with the 100th anniversary of the poet's birth on February 22, 1892.

**April** "Wildman" Steve Brill led a walking tour of the Village focusing on edible and medicinal plants and folklore, both historic and present day. In addition to identifying Village plants, the "Wildman" discussed native folklore concerning the peoples who once inhabited our neighborhoods prior to 1609.

**May** The Society co-sponsored a new slide lecture: Greenwich Village -- A Decade of Archaeology, in conjunction with the Old Merchant's House, The Cooper Union, and the South Street Seaport Museum. Presented by Diana Wall, Curator of Archaeology for the South Street Seaport Museum, the talk was held in Cooper Union's Great Hall and focused on a number of local excavations that documented the Village's history from the late 18th century, when the area consisted of farmland and country estates, through the 19th century, when it had become a residential area fully integrated into the growing city.

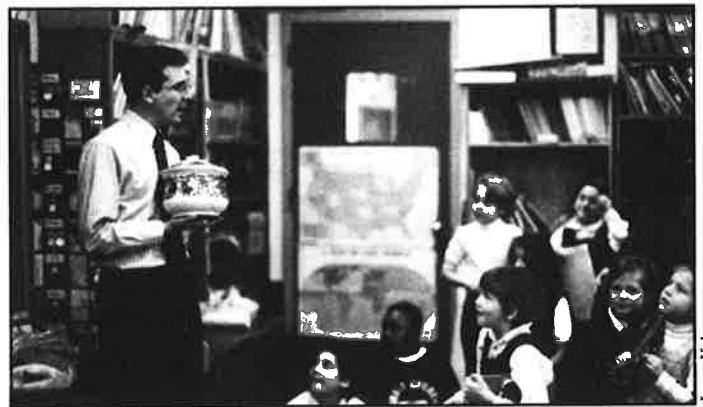


Two artifacts out of many which were excavated in 1987 from the cistern behind 25 Barrow Street were discussed by Diana Wall in her May lecture on Village archaeology. Both the child's tiny porcelain doll's head with its delicate features and the adult's white porcelain teapot with gilt trim date from the third quarter of the 19th century. Courtesy of Arlene and Harry Nance.

## School Program/Preservation Issues

During the past year the Society, in collaboration with the Old Merchant's House, has continued to expand its elementary school program to teach children about Greenwich Village history and the importance of preservation. Participants included a second and a fourth grade class at P.S. 41; two second grade classes at Grace Church School; two second grade classes at the Little Red Schoolhouse and a fourth grade class at P.S. 30 in Harlem.

The Society has worked on other preservation projects and issues, including testifying before the City Council on behalf of the boundaries of the TriBeCa Historic District, which were proposed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission; assisting in securing a grant of \$1,500 from a private foundation for supplementary maintenance for the clock in the tower of the Jefferson Market Library; and responses to concerns involving the historic Edna St. Vincent Millay house on Bedford Street, the Northern Dispensary and Patchin Place. In addition, the



Society Executive Director Scott Marshall working with a second grade class at Grace Church School. A chamberpot from the Old Merchant's House introduces the fact that many local houses were built prior to indoor plumbing.

Joyce Kuh

Society's consultation services on historic preservation and Village history have served a large number of individuals.

## Major Contributors Since June, 1991

*including membership, May 3rd Benefit and other generous support*

- |                                       |  |   |   |
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for Historic Preservation**

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**PRESERVATION CONSULTANT**  
Regina M. Kellerman

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation was established in 1980 to protect the cultural and architectural heritage of Greenwich Village.

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**From the President**

*"What the Society is doing for Historic Preservation is so important that I want to become a member even though I do not live or work in Greenwich Village,"* said an established New Yorker upon requesting membership information. *"I and my roommate are proud new members of the Society,"* wrote a struggling young professional and new village resident after attending the movie benefit. These and numerous other similar statements have made my first year as President of the Society exhilarating. The Society is proud of its members, both new and continuing, and looks forward to another year of expanded service to the entire communities of Greenwich Village and Historic Preservation.



Kendyl K. Monroe  
President

**From the Executive Director**

The past year has been one of the busiest ever for the Society, as should be evidenced from this Annual Report for 1991-92. Programming has increased, the Elementary School Program has been expanded and the frequent requests for the Society's consultation services continue to demonstrate its importance as the largest membership organization in Greenwich Village.

We have been very fortunate to have a large number of generous contributors over the past year; many, but not all, of their names are listed on page 3 in grateful appreciation. But every member of the Society -- through their membership support -- has significantly contributed this year in helping the Society to continue to grow and to do its work. Our thanks to each and every one of you!



Scott Marshall  
Executive Director



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