



# THE ANTHEMION

Spring 1997

Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Vol. 11 No. 2

## Annual Report 1996-1997

### Archive Committee Report

*Anthony C. Wood, Chair*

The Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project has accomplished a great deal since its inauguration last year. The Committee is grateful to Furthermore, a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, which funded GVSHP's oral history interviews with Doris Diether, Margot Gayle, Edith Lyons, Norman Redlich, Verna Small, and Claire Tankel. These preservation pioneers offered their recollections of preservation efforts of the 1950s and 1960s, and we thank them for their generosity and willingness to share their stories. The Archive was fortunate to receive a number of gifts, and is grateful to Doris Diether, Community Board #2, William Eppes, Pierre Epstein, Carol Greitzer, Miriam Lee, New York Bound Bookshop, Julie Rinaldini, Tom Romich, Verna Small, and Claire Tankel for donating important archival materials to the collection.

### Awards Committee

*James Stewart Polshek, Chair*

The Seventh Annual Village Awards will be presented at GVSHP's Annual Meeting on June 12th. The Committee thanks all those who sent in nominations, and congratulates the recipients: Charterhouse Antiques, Chez Brigitte, Church of the Ascension, Greenwich Village Girls Basketball League, Mrs. Brooke Astor and the Vincent Astor Foundation, The Caring Community, Zito and Sons Bakery, and our Front Stoop recipient -- 71 Jane Street. In addition to bestowing a certificate upon each awardee, GVSHP donates books in the recipients' names to the Jefferson Market Library.

### Benefit Committee

This year, the Committee organized a wonderful Twilight Toast to Greenwich Village at the home of Tiziana and Hugh

Hardy. Over 65 members and friends enjoyed wonderful views of Lower Manhattan, and were treated to readings delivered by Joel Grey and Cynthia Harris. Rita Gardner provided charming musical selections from the long running Village play *The Fantasticks*. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in the event, and reports proceeds of \$10,000.

### Education Committee

*Shelly Fremont, Chair*

GVSHP's educational programs for children continue to delight crowds of elementary school students from the city's public and independent schools. A number of new volunteers have joined the Committee, and we thank them for their important contributions of time and expertise. For the second year, the Committee participated in a successful week-long art and architecture program for children in temporary housing in the Bronx, sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs, bringing the history of the Village and its architecture to 25 enthusiastic third through fifth graders. The Committee is gearing up for the free summer walking tour series, and is happy to hear from interested teachers, parents, architects, and Villagers who wish to participate as volunteers.

### Membership/Development Committee

*Arbie Thalacker, Chair*

The Committee recently unveiled GVSHP's new brochure, which includes an excellent map and guide to Village landmarks, and has made it available to members and friends. The Committee projects that the membership total for 1996-97 will be close to 1,200 individuals and families. In addition to its membership income, GVSHP is grateful to have received important support from

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Even as we celebrate the triumphs and challenges of the past year, we are looking ahead to the future. Plans are underway for our much anticipated conference *Connecting Historic Neighborhoods: Greenwich Village and Harlem*; thanks to the Vincent Astor Foundation we're moving forward with the Village Committee for the Jefferson Market Area on a new fence for the Jefferson Market Garden; plans are being made for the exhibition of the Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Design Competition; and advocacy continues to be crucial as we work on such projects as the Federal Period Houses.

Three loyal members become new Trustees in 1997:

Mary Ann Arisman was an attorney for the Coast Guard on Governors Island for 2 decades, developing an expertise in real estate and environmental law. She lives on St. Luke's Place and plans to be active on our membership and preservation committees.

Jonathan Russo represents writers and directors through the talent agency he founded many years ago. A Bank Street resident, his interest in history has lead to many special projects including an upcoming television series about architectural history. He intends to be active on our program and preservation committees.

Linda Yowell is an architect with a home and a practice on Greenwich Street. Her interest in education lead her to found Learning By Design:NY, a committee of the AIA New York Chapter which focuses on training educators and architects to teach young people about architecture, community, and design. Linda plans to be active on our education and preservation committees.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

GVSHP has a great deal to be thankful for this year, as members and friends continue to contribute generously so that we may work to fulfill our mission through programs, projects, and advocacy.

The unsung heroes of GVSHP are its hard working volunteers and committee members, who agreeably climb up to see us in the (former) maids' quarters, arrive at events hours early, lead tours on the hottest days, or contribute at (nearly) pre-dawn committee meetings. A special thank you to: Frank Addeo, Eric Allison, Jim Boorstein, Francesca Breuer, John Carini, Polly Carpenter, John Cullum, Mickey Friedman, Elizabeth Gilmore, Laura Hansen, Bill Higgins, Martin Hutner, Buff Kavelman, Jane King, Aya Kubota, Felicia Mayro, Dorothy Miner, Toshiko Mori, Virginia Parkhouse, Janet Parks, Nezka Pfeiffer, John Reddick, Patrice Samara, Tain Schneider, Rebecca Shanor, Ray Sokolov, Peter Simmons, Howard Stern, Sheldon Vos, Arnold Warwick, Shirley Wright.

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numerous corporations and foundations. Major donors include: Vincent Astor Foundation, Chase Manhattan Foundation, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Citibank, Con Edison, Dover Fund, Emigrant Savings Bank, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Natural Heritage Trust of New York State, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYNEX, NY Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency, Republic National Bank, Arthur Ross Foundation, and van Ameringen Fund. Last fall the Committee hosted a special morning meeting for GVSHP's Village Business Partners, where the Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Jennifer Rash, participated in a panel discussion on preservation issues for commercial property owners. Over 50 local businesses have joined the Partners, and the Committee has printed the first edition of its Village Business Partners directory, which will be distributed to members and friends.

#### **Preservation Committee**

*Arbie Thalacker and Fred Wistow, Co-Chairs*

The Committee has expanded its efforts to pursue the research and preservation of Federal Period rowhouses in Manhattan. In February, the Historic Districts Council co-sponsored a special public presentation of the Federal Houses research. The audience of 60 members and friends included the owners of several properties in the study who expressed interest in having their buildings designated as landmarks. The Committee hopes that many of the buildings will be calendared for NYC Landmarks designation hearings. GVSHP also plans to nominate all of the borough's Federal Period residential buildings for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This year, GVSHP has stepped up its monitoring of LPC Certificate of Appropriateness applications involving alterations to buildings within the Historic District, and has testified on a number of occasions. GVSHP was pleased to be able to work with the West 10th Street and West 11th Street block associations and NYU on resolving the complicated design problem posed by NYU's need to construct a ramp in front of its newly acquired property, 10th Street's elegant Milbank House. In addition to these activities, the

Committee continues to work with a number of community groups on advocacy for a Greenwich Village Waterfront Historic District.

#### **Program Committee**

*Alan Neumann, Chair*

A variety of programs have been presented since the fall, and the Committee reports total program attendance of nearly 1,000 members and friends for the year. An increased number of tours, lectures, and *Preservation Cafe* sessions offered thought provoking new ideas, and provided participants with an opportunity to meet scholars, historians, and architects. Thanks to the continued generosity of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, the Committee once again provided its series of conservation workshops for homeowners with the cooperation of the Association of Village Homeowners. The Committee is already planning programs for the fall of 1997, and looks forward to welcoming returning friends and seeing new faces.

#### 1996-97

*Tours: Restoration of Stained Glass Windows at Judson Memorial Church, with conservator Julie Sloan; A Walk Down Monument Lane, with historian Frances Morrone; Fall Color Tour of the Hudson River Valley, with architect Alan Neumann; Gallery Tour of "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt" at the New-York Historical Society, with curator Miina Weiner; From Fifth Avenue to the Sea, with historian Chris Neville.*

*Lectures/Symposia: Building Facades - Issues for Homeowners, with a panel of experts; The Tenth Street Studio Building, with art historian Annette Blaugrund; The Federal Period Rowhouse, with historian Elizabeth Blackmar and GVSHP Research Associate Susan De Vries; New Visions for Ruth Wittenberg Triangle, with a panel of experts.*

*Workshop: Greenwich Village Architecture from a Pinhole Point of View, with photographer Veronica Sandler.*

*Preservation Cafe Sessions: Fran Reiter, Deputy Mayor for Finance and Economic Development; John H. Beyer, architect; Anne Buttenweiser, Waterfront Planning and Urban Design Consultant; Christopher Gray, historian and New York Times columnist; Janet Parks, Curator of Drawings and Archives at Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library and Alan Neumann, architect; Mary Beth Betts, Curator of Architecture at New-York Historical Society; Daniel Bluestone, Director of Historic Preservation at University of Virginia.*

#### **Special Projects Committee: Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Design Competition**

*Tiziana Hardy, Chair*

Funds from the Astor Foundation enabled the Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Design Competition to take place this spring, and 46 proposals were received. Presentations for students and the community helped to prepare potential entrants for the competition, and the Committee thanks the speakers: Frank Addeo, Department of Transportation; Jonathan Geballe, Community Board #2; Honi Klein and Larry Mango, Village Alliance Business Improvement District; and Giordano Pozzi, Storefront for Art and Architecture. On May 9, entries were reviewed by a jury which included Laurie Beckelman, Mildred Friedman, Thomas Hanrahan and Jason McCoy, and five entries were selected for a Special Distinction citation. The jury felt that each of the five proposals offered a compelling concept for the Triangle which should be further explored. The prize of round-trip airfare to Barcelona will be awarded to one of the five entrants through a lottery to be held in the fall. The Committee is planning an exhibition of the entries where discussion about the site can take place. The Committee thanks all of the entrants and the jury for their interest and hard work, and thanks the Van Alen Institute for its important participation.

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#### **GVSHP Board of Trustees 1996-1997**

*President:* Judith Stonehill  
*Vice-Presidents:* Elizabeth Greenburg, James Stewart  
*Polshak, Arbie Thalacker*  
*Secretary/Treasurer:* Elinor G. Ratner

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#### **Staff**

*Executive Director:* Vicki Weiner  
*Assistant to the Director:* Susan De Vries

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