



## NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community Volume XXX, No. 1  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 23, 1990, 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village,  
224 Waverly Place.

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Agenda: Marcy Benstock, head of the Clean Air Campaign, will speak on the need to limit development along the Hudson River waterfront and out into Hudson River waters, with perhaps some hints on how to battle developers.

### YOU CAN SAVE THE WATERFRONT AS OPEN SPACE

Recently a member of the Waterfront Panel suggested that a Westway Right-of-Way Payback waiver might not be the best way to go with the Hudson River Waterfront, and that a compromise deal might be best for developers and citizens alike. On June 19, 1989 Governor Cuomo made an agreement with U.S. Transportation Secretary Skinner for a maximum Federal payback waiver for the Westway right-of-way. If the \$50,000,000 payback were used to develop park land on the waterfront, it could be a tremendous bonus, but if it were handed over to developers for platforming, etc., it would only be the beginning of another tremendous draw upon City resources. We beg you to counter this trial balloon floated by Tom Fox on the Waterfront Panel by writings letters to the following officials:

Write to MAYOR DAVID DINKINS, City Hall, New York, New York 10007, and urge him to make sure Gov. Cuomo upholds his 6/19/89 agreement to apply to U.S. Transportation Secretary Skinner for a "maximum" Federal payback waiver for the Westway right-of-way. The City can't afford to pay out \$50 million -- much less up to \$1 billion and more for environmentally destructive platforms and other new infrastructure in the river. Request that Dinkins appoint three new members of the 7-member West Side Waterfront Panel who will oppose any new intrusion into the Hudson River, and support creation of a passive park and more trade-in money for mass transit.

Write to COMPTROLLER ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, 530 Municipal Building, New York, New York 10007. Urge her to make sure the Governor and Mayor uphold their 6/19/89 agreement with Comptroller Goldin to apply for a maximum Federal payback waiver for the Westway right-of-way. (If the Governor and Mayor fail to uphold this crucial part of the overall Westway right-of-way settlement, it is Comptroller Holtzman's responsibility to reopen the whole settlement package. The rest of the package, contained in Gov. Cuomo's and Mayor Koch's 5/25/88 Memo of Understanding, has many bad provisions and is not in the City's best interest. Ask the Comptroller to do everything in her power to make sure that the Hudson River is protected as a river, etc.

Write to MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUTH MESSINGER, Municipal Building, New York, N.Y. 10007. She has the right to appoint one person to the Waterfront Panel. Urge her to appoint a person who will oppose any new intrusions into the Hudson and support creation of a passive park and more money for transit.

Write to SECRETARY SAMUEL K. SKINNER, U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION, 400 Seventh St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20590. Urge him to approve of any request for a payback waiver for the Westway right-of-way which will result in the appropriate use of this valuable resource, i.e. as a river, a park and a road. Most of the right-of-way is in an environmentally critical section of the Hudson River -- a resource of national importance. The highway condemnation process should not be allowed to be misused to turn this priceless public resource over to private developers.

Write to GOVERNOR MARIO CUOMO, Executive Chambers, Albany, New York 12224. Urge him to uphold his June 19, 1989 commitment to seek a maximum payback waiver for the Westway right-of-way. Tell him you think major development along the waterfront and into the water is inappropriate. Greenwich Village is already a major tourist area with more bars and restaurants per square inch than any other locale in the world. We don't need more noisy drunkards passing under our windows at 3:30 in the morning.

### THANK THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE END OF THE YEAR PARTY -- THANK YOU, THANK YOU

In December we always celebrate with a party because our community has survived yet another year. Last December's party was one of the great ones, partly because one James Edward Shaw came back from San Francisco to be with us. And then there is Arthur Bond. You never have to call Arthur to ask for his help. He calls you and says "I'm helping again." And Ruth Dunn and Heidi Cuddihy helped with supplying sufficient chairs. The old original Villagers were there -- the O'Reillys, the Stroligos, the Fritsches, etc. And some new faces we hope to see again. There were some new faces among those who served and some who have helped for years -- Brian Carroll, Judy McCusker, Eileen Bowser, Anne Slatin, Betty Rinckwitz, Barbara Gillen, JoAnn Fluke, Jim Brennan -- and we have probably missed some. Ann Lye didn't make it, but we had a good visit later. The only dark note on the horizon was the usual appearance of the uninvited and the unannounced, who make no effort to pay. Being Chairman of the Community Board is no excuse.

### PROTEST DINKINS' VOTE ON THE COOGAN BUILDING

In December, Mayor Dinkins, still as Boro President, voted with the Board of Estimate majority to remove landmark status from the Coogan Building, N.E. corner of 26th and 6th. Coogan is one of the last extant examples of multi-storey buildings built directly after the Civil War. Thorp, the architect, was a strong influence on Louis Sullivan's late 19th century high rises. A major developer is in this strip of 6th Avenue, and the flower market which exists here will certainly be destroyed by this development. The Sixth Avenue flower market is one of the very last spaces with charm on any portion of the avenue. Write to Mayor Dinkins at City Hall to say that you are saddened and dismayed by his vote.

# Seeking Safe Berth for the Waterfront

By Jessie Mangaliman

When Greenwich Village was designated a historic district in the 60s, the waterfront was left out, to the dismay of some residents.

"It's part of the village, geographically and historically, and you just can't cut it off," said Regina M. Kellerman, executive director of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

So Kellerman and other residents began a campaign to convince the city's Landmarks and Preservation Commission to designate a historic waterfront district in Greenwich Village.

The district designation is a measure of protection against overdevelopment, and a sure method of preserving what is left of the piers and buildings on the Greenwich Village waterfront.

Recently, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation published, "The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront," a book that details for the first time the neighborhood facing the Hudson River.

"The waterfront is an integral part of the community," said Kellerman, editor of the book and an architectural historian and former research director for the city's Landmarks Commission. "It has always been a waterfront neighborhood. What our organization has done essentially is we've given them the seminal information that is needed to take a good look at this area."

The waterfront district has a rich heritage: "It's the famous port of our city. All of the famous steamships were here. The Titanic's home berth was in the meat market. The Titanic survivors came to port here. The Fulton Steam ship was here. (Herman) Melville worked at the waterfront as a port clerk," said Bill Bowser, president of the West Village Committee, a neighborhood group that supports the designation.

The book is encyclopedic in its scope. It includes the location, date of completion, cost of construction, architect, builder, original owner, original for each of the 350 buildings and piers in the 36-block waterfront neighborhood.

Kellerman and others in Greenwich Village had lobbied the Landmarks Commission for the historic waterfront designation, but commission officials said the study would take at least five years.

In June, 1987, with donated funds from the J.M. Kaplan Fund, a Federal Archives Public Purpose grant and funds from the New York State Natural Heritage Trust, the preservation group began its study.

A report, a version of the book, was submitted to the commission in May, 1988, Kellerman said. The commission has not acted on the report's recommendation: historic designation for the Greenwich Village waterfront.

"What's significant about this book is that it details the facts about the remaining structures in Greenwich Village that show it's a great port," said Verna Small, who is chairman of Community Board 2's landmarks committee. The board has officially endorsed a historic designation for the waterfront.

"The historic designation is necessary if the city is going to preserve the openness, and prevents it from being walled in by high structures," said Small. "It's our last chance of having a great open vista of that river. If data in this book is wisely used by the city and state, they can affect new construction, development. We have a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the city of Manhattan."

The book was published by New York University Press and is available in major bookstores.

In September, an exhibition based on the book will be co-sponsored by the Municipal Art Center at the Urban Art Center in Midtown.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community Volume XXX, No. 2  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 27, 1990, 7:30 P.M.  
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village,  
224 Waverly Place.

# **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Agenda: Doris Deither, one of the leading experts on Zoning in the country, will speak on the facts and implications of Item 61 from the Board of Estimate Calendar for Thursday, February 8, 1990 and approved as law by the Board — a law which removes many of the restrictions and controls over establishing discos and cabarets, indoor and out, and freeing types of musical instruments to be played or the number of performers who may play together in such night spots.

## REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATING LIVE MUSIC DISCOS AND CABARETS

For several years now, Ruth Messinger, as Councilwoman and now Borough President of Manhattan, has pushed for removing restrictions on establishing and operating live music night spots. Her repeated reasons have been that she wants to find employment for all unemployed musicians and to maintain the City's reputation for being the night life entertainment capitol of the world. No notice was given to community boards that such an action was being considered and we were not allowed to speak against it before the Board of Estimate: they said that the City Planning Commission had allowed all the necessary public input to design an experimental law to determine what is tolerable in residential communities. It would free most restaurants, cabarets, bars, discos, etc., with less than 200 patrons to operate without consideration of zoning restriction. Ninth Street could die from the freedom offered to joints on 8th Street. Only Borough President Howard Golden of Brooklyn voted against lessening restrictions. We urge you to write to Borough President Messinger at the Municipal Building, NY NY 10017 and to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NY NY 10007, and tell them they were wrong to push this law through so brutally, high-handedly and without proper notice. Much of the specific language of the law details Downtown Manhattan communities. They have us in mind. Which reminds us that perhaps a year ago somebody quoted Councilman Stanley Michels, a Messinger ally on this issue, as saying that all the cabarets and discos should find a home in the Village "because it is an area half-destroyed by night life already." It will probably be a grey day in Hell before we ever again take a train-load of people to protest a threatened incinerator in Inwood.

## A WEAPON FOR PRESERVATION: THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S STUDY OF THE WATERFRONT

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has come up with a very handsome archival research study of the historic Village waterfront, edited by Regina Kellerman. This book can be our very first weapon in a concerted drive to have this historic area made into a Landmarked District. There are pictures and details of every waterfront building beyond the present Greenwich Village Historic Landmark District. We would like to think that this study could be a means of drawing diverse Village groups together to pressure the Landmarks Commission for creating an official Greenwich Village Waterfront District. We would like to see an overall district created, not one of bits and pieces — as was originally considered for the present GVHLD, or as has recently been done in Tribeca with four small unconnected districts. That is not the way to preserve an area. The volume in question, "The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront," is published by the New York University Press and is available from The Greenwich Village Society, \$50 for the hardcover, \$24.95 for the softcover. Our thanks for all the Society's effort to Mrs. Kellerman and to President Richard Barnett (and thanks for Dick's recent check to WVC). More on this next month.

## DO NOT BE FOOLED BY STORIES SAYING CUOMO AND DINKINS FAVOR A WATERSIDE PARK ON THE HUDSON

The recent decision by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Dinkins to repay the Feds for the cost of the waterfront indicates where they are at. No repayment is required if the waterfront is used for a highway or a park. But with the City deeply in debt and the State probably even deeper, each will repay the Feds approximately \$40 million. The repaid Federal money will then be shifted to Buffalo for highway building, and the Hudson River waterfront will once again belong to the City to be opened up for development. Why else would Cuomo be suggesting a \$1.9 billion bond issue for "developing a park"? But this is entirely in keeping with the Waterfront Panel's forked-tongue, on-again/off-again mutterings about development and open space. Let's face it. We are being urged on one hand by members to file for an injunction against removal of restrictions on cabarets and discos, and yet we have a feeling we are going to have to file suit against the proposed replacement highway and the Waterfront Panel's final recommendations. Village streets are connected to the proposed highway; 9th/Christopher is made a major feeder into the highway. It comes down to a question of what do we best spend money on and whether more money can be raised. That is one of the reasons it is very important for you to attend this meeting.

## WATERFRONT PANEL MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the West Side Waterfront Panel will be on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 8 A.M., 1 World Trade Center, 43rd floor, the Oval Room. The meeting is open to the public and press. On March 7, 8, 9 and 10 the West Side Waterfront Panel will host an Open House to show different alternatives among their conclusions. The Open House will presumably be at their offices, 141 Fifth Avenue, 10th floor.

## JUDY MCCUSKER REPRESENTS US AT A COMMUNITY BOARD 6 MEETING ON RIVERWALK

Judy McCusker represented The West Village Committee at a Community Board 6 meeting on February 21, and read a statement against Riverwalk. Riverwalk is a gigantic development planned for out in the East River, built on platforms and other contrivances, and stretching from 16th Street to 26th Street. It contains enormous high-rises, townhouses and other gadgets, and it cuts off a healthy East Side community from its natural right to a view of the water. In the very last days of the Koch Administration the City Planning Commission was ordered to certify Riverwalk. We have appealed to Mayor Dinkins to kill the project. Even Paul Goldberger has recently written in The New York Times about how Manhattan continues to be overbuilt — just as though there were not four other boroughs of the City to build in.

There are some who have criticized us for fighting for the survival of other communities — that we should only fight to protect our own turf from over-development and destruction. We are prepared to fight hardest for our community, but feel that we gain strength by sometimes helping others who appeal to us for help. Persons wishing to read our statements against Riverwalk or the Brooklyn Navy Yard Incinerator may do so at the Feb. 27 meeting.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 27, 1990, 7:30 P.M.  
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village,  
224 Waverly Place.

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE Newsletter Volume XXX, No. 3

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Agenda: Regina Kellerman and Richard Barnett, Executive Director and President respectively of The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, will be present to discuss the Society's recently published archival research study -- "The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront." Hopefully, they may be able to offer some guidance in mounting a campaign to have the upland area of the waterfront landmarked -- as well as the waterfront itself. Ms. Kellerman has served as Executive Director of the Society since it was founded. Mr. Barnett is a past President of The West Village Committee.

### LANDMARKING THE WATERFRONT

We think it is essential that landmarking be extended to include the Greenwich Village waterfront area. The crooked streets themselves testify to a community's beginnings several centuries ago. The Village waterfront itself is filled with notable events and people -- it gave birth to Fulton's steamship invention, it became the famous Deep Port of the City in the heyday of the steamships, it was the home port in New York for the Titanic and the survivors from that disaster were brought to St. Vincent's Hospital, and for a literary twist, Melville worked on the waterfront as an import/export clerk at the foot of Gansevoort Street, which street was named in honor of his maternal grandfather. Greenwich Avenue, which originally cut across the Washington Square area from the Bowery, and Greenwich Street, were both 'roads to Greenwich' Obviously this is the oldest part of our community. Somebody recently called the late 18th century State Prison on the river at 10th Street "the first business in Greenwich," and although the Prison is long gone, its base still sits as a foundation for the large brick building which replaced it. Even Charles Lane is said to have had an eventful past: known in the 19th century as Pig Alley, probably because of habits of the livestock belonging to Irish residents living in the area, but is said to have been the remains of a carriage lane used by Sir Peter Warren and other landed aristocracy in Greenwich to board ship. And this only scratches the surface. We have greeted the Society's study of the waterfront area with enthusiasm, but it should also be the beginning of working with other groups in asking that the area be granted landmark status. And we will look to Verna Small and her Landmarks Committee to offer good guidance for all of us

### CITIZEN BEWARE

Some high-powered civic groups have recently picked up the torch in support of Governor Cuomo's questionable \$1.9 billion Bond Act, out of which he promises \$100 million for creation of a Hudson River esplanade. All this is only after the City and State pay back \$40 million each on the Westway purchase of the waterfront. Supposedly the waterfront could then belong to the City again to develop it as it wants. And the planners are still talking about little open "bays" and wide areas to be held aside for future determination and development. We oppose such a bond act so long as waterfront planners still come to us and ask whether we would like a little landfill here, some boulders and landfill there, or a man-made island or two out there. We urge you to write to Assemblyman William Passannante and State Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, both to be addressed at 270 Broadway, NYC 10007, and ask them to oppose Cuomo's \$1.9 billion Bond Act. We think it is unconscionable for any group supposedly interested in preservation to support this Bond Act while the fate of our historic waterfront hangs in the balance. We view Governor Cuomo as a nice man, a splendid orator, but not as a preservationist but as an old-time supporter of mega-developments like Westway to balance budgets.

### THANKS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are deeply grateful to the following for recent contributions: Gloria Jennings, Aaron M. Rubin, William Eppes, Gaylord Hoftiezer, and the West Fourth Street Block Association. And thanks again to Shirley Wright for yet more books. And to veteran biographer, Jean Gould, thanks for books. Thank you, Evelyn Cahn, for a lot of really good books!





THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE



Good-by Bibby Venture!  
Good-by Bibby Resolution!  
Good-by Prison Barge!

### THE PRISON BARGE

Expect some foot-dragging by the City to develop soon with regard to moving the prison barge from Pier 40 to Riker's Island. In a City where the deep black hole of indebtedness grows larger day by day, we should expect the City to appeal to U.S. Corps of Engineers to permit a broke and indebted City to be allowed time to find money to build appropriate piers on Riker's.

We urge you to write to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NYC 10007 and demand that the prison ships be moved as scheduled.

### A ROSE FOR GEORGE ROSE

A rose has been planted in the Jane Street Garden in memory of the late actor, George Rose, as a result of an anonymous gift from a resident in Horatio Street. The named specimen planted is Dr. Brownell, a cross between the Peace rose and the rose Helen Hayes. Dr. Brownell is a fragrant rose, gaining much of its fragrance from the Helen Hayes.

### A WATERSIDE ESPLANADE FOR GREENWICH VILLAGE

During the past month we attended the Open House at the Route 9A headquarters. We were impressed by the amount of work that has gone into the highway project. We felt there was real concern for preserving the 14th Street/Gansevoort Meat Market. We think it is essential that it be preserved and not any more pressured from any point. We would not interfere with any working plan put forward by the market for preservation, but we would certainly support any plan they put forward to save the market. That meat market is an essential part of the fabric of wealth which binds this community together. We were also pleased to see that an alternate plan has been made to cut Village streets off from direct access to the new highway.

We have had some misgivings about suggestions for the esplanade. From the beginning we have asked for a passive park, an extension of Riverside Park. We have grave misgivings over any suggestions of "as of right parking." There should be provision for emergency police vehicles, but if any massive parking is allowed, you will never clean out the waterfront of prostitutes and drug dealers. Bill Hine came up with one brilliant idea for a children's playground out on a repaired, fully fenced pier. It would remove the little ones from being along-side the highway, and placing them out over the water which is in itself a mitigating factor against the massive auto fumes, and a move away from creating playgrounds on traffic islands. But the planners are still toying with some dangerous ideas -- amphitheaters for musical concerts, walk-downs to the water and experimental artificial island or reefs. We have enjoyed perfectly good concerts in Washington Square Park for years without benefit of permanent bandshell structure. Walk-downs to the water seem equally unnecessary considering that at extremely high tides, the Hudson has been known to rise to the bed of West Street in the Southwest Village/Tribeca area. And maybe they can safely build artificial islands out into the Hudson at Peekskill, but here we have a City full of developers anxious to do their worst on landfill or anything like landfill in either the Hudson or the East River.

With our membership increasing and postage costs plunging ahead, and if you have not dropped a dime in the box ever, we give you an opportunity to make a contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



Please drop me from membership mailing list.

Return to The West Village Committee, 702 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10014.

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc.  
are tax-deductible.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 24, 1990, 7:30 P.M.  
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village,  
224 Waverly Place.

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE** Newsletter Volume XXX, No. 4

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

- Agenda: 1) Election of officers;  
2) Letter writing session opposing the massive enlargement of the United Parcel facility in the West Village, and if time permits writing letters to the Waterfront Panel.

#### ELECTIONS DUE AT THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

This meeting will hold elections for officers of The Committee to serve for the next year. The posts to be filled are: President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### THE WATERFRONT

The public meeting of the Waterfront Panel planning the proposed Esplanade was largely devoted to the Land Use Sub-Committee's suggestion that a payback waiver be requested for only 70% and perhaps as little as 50% because of structures like Pier 40 and the Chelsea headhouses obstructing a "scenic view," along the Westway right-of-way corridor where the Feds provided the State with \$95 million to purchase the right-of-way. We have long contended along with the Clean Air Campaign, NYPIRG, and others, that the Panel should request a 100% waiver. Marcy Benstock has been particularly strong on this point. And fortunately Congressman Ted Weiss was in the audience and supported our position very strongly. A waiver against payback may be granted if a scenic view is provided. As Congressman Weiss said, he knew of no forbidding opposition in Washington, and he felt it wiser to request 100% and risk being cut back to 70 or 80% rather than going only for 50% and risk being cut back to 20 or 30%. We urge you to write to the West Side Waterfront Panel and urge that they go for the 100% payback waiver.

And while you are asking, demand a passive park, not a tacky South Street Seaport or a Middle-Eastern Bazaar, no cars on the Esplanade at any hour except for emergency police cars (by eliminating parking you eliminate drug dealers and prostitutes and their clients), and no Battery Park City should be built on the east side of West Street to pay for the Esplanade. We also do not want historic Village streets connected to the new 9A highway. Write to the Hon. Michael J. Del Giudice, Chairman, West Side Waterfront Panel, 141 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

#### THE PROPOSED GROWTH OF UNITED PARCEL

United Parcel presently has a booming business between Greenwich and Washington Streets above Canal Street. They presently use perhaps 300 trucks at this location and propose increasing that number to 1,200 or 1,400 trucks, building on the adjacent parking lot between Washington and West Street -- and building over and closing Washington Street. It would be their base for deliveries from the Battery to as far north as 59th Street, East Side and West Side. This area, so close to the Holland Tunnel, is already a Hot Spot for pollution. People live in this area, which is the edge of the Greenwich Village residential community, to say nothing of residential Tribeca just to the south. Complaints about the present operation are endless. You can only imagine what it will be like if they increase traffic four-fold on Washington and Greenwich Streets. To mitigate the increase in truck traffic, we understand UP has offered to make the heaviest trips at night through the Meat Market -- very destructive to the Meat Market. Both Greenwich and Washington are residential streets and do not need rumbling trucks passing by all night long. We don't need this increase in truck traffic in any residential community in the City. We urge you to write to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NYC 10007 and to the City Planning Commission, 2 Lafayette Street, NYC 10007, and object to this brutalizing of residential streets in our community. A hearing will be held by the City Planning Commission at the Board of Estimate Chambers, City Hall, on May 2 beginning at 10 A.M. Be there and testify to save the West Village from this terrible onslaught.

#### STOP THE CUTBACKS IN PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

We are extremely distressed by the forced cutbacks in public library hours, and equally distressed to learn that although the Library Omnibus Bill apparently passed the State Senate as S-2943, it foundered in defeat in the Assembly. We urge you to request your Assemblyman and Assembly leadership to introduce a companion bill to S-2943. State aid to libraries has not been increased since 1986, and our libraries are in trouble and in need of help.

#### A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

Recently published statistics showing a 25% increase in automotive traffic in the City and figures showing that the City's polluted air is exceeded only by notoriously filthy Los Angeles, would again suggest that we may be on the wrong track by building more highways instead of improving and expanding mass transit. But after a recent conversation with a high staff person in a State Senate office, in which she declared that all young couples should be able to own cars in order to drive to the beach, it becomes clearer as to how we have achieved the unenviable pollution mess we are in. It is also disturbing to learn that the State has no plan to increase aid to the mentally ill homeless in urban streets; we look like the Great Depression, except that the rich continue to get richer while many of the ignored homeless mentally ill continue to be a menace to themselves and to others. Ignoring their needs is the disgrace of our age.





**NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice**  
"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting date and place: Tues., May 22, 7:30 P.M. in the  
Parish Hall, St. John's Church, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Unfinished business; Albany legislation  
and the Waterfront; the United Parcel proposal.

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Marcy Benstock of the Clean Air Campaign will be present to bring us up-to-date on Albany budget legislation which will have a bearing on the Hudson River Waterfront. The legislation relating to the waterfront was composed by persons delegated by the Governor and the Mayor, and not by any legislator. This was apparently not regarded as an area suitable for Open Government.

Bill Hine will do a presentation against the proposed increased United Parcel operation in this community from 150 truck trips daily to 750 plus daily. Bill has found Baltimore and Chicago have UP base operations comparable to the one proposed for the West Village, but both are located outside city limits. The one in Chicago sits on some 240 acres and is adjacent to two interstates. Tied in with this is the choking traffic diverted from Staten Island by one-way Port Authority bridge tolls (with the Governor's blessing) to create total chaos in SoHo and on Canal Street in search of free passage through the Holland Tunnel.

We will also deal with the prison barge at Pier 40 and how to respond to the U.S. Corps of Engineers' recent mailing. There are vital letters to be written in all of these areas. Attend this meeting to find out what and to whom you should write.

CHARLES L. BAXTER, JR.

We deeply regret to report the death of Charles L. Baxter, Jr., on May 5 in St. Vincent's Hospital, just as preparations were being made for his release. He had lived in New York since 1954 and was a well-known and respected resident in West 11th Street. You could always depend upon him to be a body testifying on community protection and preservation issues before the Board of Estimate over many years. He was a confirmed opponent of Westway and other such monstrosities and a stalwart environmentalist. We are now one consistent voice less on all such issues. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Arline.

GANSEVOORT ORGANIC GREENMARKET TO OPEN SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND

The Gansevoort Greenmarket, with organic (unsprayed) produce, will reopen on the 2nd of June. In addition to fresh farm produce, expect fresh fish and super-delicious sourdough breads. The West Village Committee has served as local sponsor from the beginning of Gansevoort. Do not expect a great variety of produce on June 2nd. Lettuce and strawberries, perhaps, but no corn. If you want this organic market to remain, we urge you to patronize it. By mid-summer you can fill your table from it with unpoisoned, unsprayed foods.

THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We are pleased to acknowledge contributions from the following: Mildred Orlans, Eileen M. Kelly, Helen G. Tierney, Judith Maxwell, Karen Ginsberg, Donald P. Waldauer, Cora Wright Kennedy, Louise S. Thompson, Katherine Detweiler, Barbara and Kendyl Monroe, Harrison Starr, Yvette Raderman, Whiskey Dust (Mervin Bendewald), Judith Seigel, Gloria Yanuck, Ruth Shaffer, Stephen F. Tenner, Gizman Reeves, Hilda V. Mayorga, Elinore Carlin, Alice La Prelle ("in memory of our beloved Charles Verral"), Jane Jacobs, Anne M. "Kinne" Stout, Robert P. Viarengo, Daniel Samuels, Eleanor St. Germain, and one anonymous donor ("in memory of Charles Baxter").

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc.  
are tax-deductible.



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Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 26, 1990, 7:30 P.M.  
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village,  
224 Waverly Place.

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE Newsletter for June/July, Volume XXX, No. 6/7.**  
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**Agenda:** Getting the \$40 million Westway right-of-way payback out of the Budget  
and cut the \$40 million from the Public Development Corporation  
contract;  
Flaws in the plans for the 9A highway.

#### REPAYING AN UNNECESSARY DEBT PAYMENT TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1980s the State accepted \$80 million from the Feds to purchase the Westway right-of-way from the City, and with that and another \$10 or \$20 million from the State, the City balanced its budget. In the mid-1980s the Westway project died. Federal law requires the repayment on such right-of-way funding unless the money can be used for walkways, bikeways, roads, scenic land or river preservation. The law provides a payback waiver if the money is used on any of these transportation alternatives. But in 1988 Governor Cuomo and Mayor Koch agreed to a full payback in order to free the waterfront of the Hudson to the will of developers, with the City sharing the payback on a 50/50 basis with the State. Mayor Dinkins is going along with that agreement.

The argument presented against going for a waiver is that development of housing as planned on Pier 40 or commercial development on other piers would block a "scenic vista" and cause rejection of a waiver. However, Congressman Ted Weiss has recommended going for the 100% waiver, and has said he sees no impediment to our gaining the 100% waiver.

Turning the "parking pier," Pier 40, into apartment houses is about the least of what has been suggested. Deputy Mayor Barbara Fife, whose husband is a developer, recently suggested that Battery Park City should be continued northward "along the east side of West Street" to pay for the proposed waterfront esplanade. She then launched into pure Jane Jacobs language about how "we must have eyes on this park" to preserve it. She spoke of how she had seen several parks run down and ruined because there were no eyes on them. She did not clearly explain how folks 40 storeys up are going to police an esplanade across a major highway and under the trees. If casual parking were forbidden immediately, it would do far more towards cleaning out the mass of prostitutes and drug dealers cluttering the Hudson River waterfront than all the ridiculous high rises Deputy Mayor Fife has proposed. The Newtown Creek sanitation treatment facility serving this area is far over capacity, traffic already exceeds what the new 9A will serve, every street in the Greenwich Village Historic District touching the highway corridor in the latest "accepted" version of 9A is directly connected to the interstate -- a devastating plan for West 9th/Christopher, West 11th and West 12th Streets. The proposed commercial developments along the corridor and on the piers appears to be a repulsive blend of the South Street Seaport Project and Coney Island. Such proposals have nothing to do with Greenwich Village the residential community, the historic district; they in no way acknowledge our historic waterfront, the famous Deep Port of the City.

As this is being mailed on Thursday, June 21, the Board of Estimate is voting on whether to include \$40 million in the Public Development Corporation's contract -- which would mean going for the total payback to the Feds, not the waiver. If the payback should prevail today, we still could win with the waiver around the end of the month when the City Council is scheduled to approve the City Budget. They can remove the \$40 million payback and encourage the City to go for the waiver. But letters must be written, phone calls must be made to Council members not just in the Village, but to Council members throughout the City demanding that the \$40 million be removed. Get your friends and relatives in the other boroughs to support us by writing to their Council members. Borough President Messinger and Comptroller Holtzman are said to be on our side of this issue. If you learn that we have lost at the Board of Estimate today, begin the City Council campaign immediately.

#### MONEY GRANT FROM CHASE FOR JANE STREET GARDEN

On June 19, we were given a \$500 grant from Chase Manhattan Bank toward a fund we are raising to get a direct water supply into the Jane Street Garden. We are extremely grateful for this very generous gesture from Chase. It helps to balance or alleviate the distress caused by the recent theft or destruction of roses, rhododendrons and ferns in the garden. We hope the public will regard the garden as semi-public space: if volunteers are working in the garden, you are welcome to enter. Over the past year, many hours have been given by volunteers, but in addition to this, we are extremely grateful to Councilwoman Carol Greitzer, District Leader Liz Shollenberger and Jane Street activist Mary Rowe for help with several problems related to the garden.

#### AND WE ALSO THANK

We are grateful to those members who also sent generous checks this past month: CBS Associates (Irene Connors), Laura Beer, Gabrielle Brook, and Anonymous.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 1990  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place, at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXX, No. 9

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**AGENDA: The Harvest Festival; and Village crime**

We are planning the First West Village Harvest Festival on Sat., Oct. 27, with food, folk music and fun from Barrow to Bethune St. along Hudson St. Neighboring block associations will be invited to participate. We want your presence at our meeting on Tues., Sept. 25, to help plan the event and to volunteer for specific assignments. We do not plan to hold a special sale at the bookstore (10th St. & Greenwich St.) this fall, but we can be found there most weekend afternoons between about 2 and 5. Please come by.

**PROBABLE LAW SUIT AGAINST UNITED PARCEL:** The approval voted by the outgoing Board of Estimate for a massive expansion of United Parcel's sorting site in western Soho along Washington and Greenwich Streets came as a real shocker. We doubt there is a more polluted site in the City. This area contains the entry to the Holland Tunnel, endless Canal Street traffic and the greatest part of the traffic diverted from crossing Staten Island. Only gross negligence could explain such a decision, one that will certainly add more hydrocarbons to an already heavily polluted site, only total lack of consideration would jam more traffic into an area already jammed with traffic. A hint of what is to come may be judged from UP's own estimate that the expansion will bring 1,000 more truck trips through our streets daily. We are convinced that such growth in truck traffic will have a far greater impact on our community than the presence of a prison barge on our shoreline. Therefore, together with other Village groups, we have met with a law firm to discuss the probability of filing a suit against the United Parcel expansion on environmental grounds. If that action goes forward we will undoubtedly be coming back to you for financial support.

**THE JANE STREET GARDEN:** Good news: we have reached an agreement with the Department of Transportation to share the cost of laying a new sidewalk around the Jane Street Garden. At the same time, since our lease on this space is for 25 years, we think it will be worthwhile to put in a water supply on the site. There are no hydrants within reach. This means opening the street, attaching to the main and running a line into the garden. Jane Street Neighbors and the Chase Manhattan Bank have contributed \$500 each toward this and other contributions are welcome. The bad news: the garden is being pulled apart by a young thief who has torn up hostas, all the rhododendron, six rose bushes, masses of caladiums. He is young, tall, athletic, with dreadlocks framing his face. He has been seen digging up plantings in Bank Street and Bob Smith thinks he is the same young man who is ripping off neighborhood plant shops as well as plantings along Horatio Street. We have routinely reported his activities to the Sixth Precinct, but realize that they have better things to do than look for a plant thief. But if you should see him in the garden or climbing the fence, please call 911, or Bill Bowser, at once.

**HELP FOR LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL:** Responding to a call for help from the West Village Committee, Councilwoman Carol Greitzer and her staff members, Keith

Mitchell and Ed Schyler, have kept pressuring the Board of Education to correct serious violations at Liberty High School, W. 18th St. Help from the community was critical because Liberty's young immigrant students and their non-English-speaking parents couldn't lobby for themselves. WVC's Richard Spiegel and Barbara Fisher work at Liberty as does Horatio Street resident Carol Yankay. The success of this effort is a good reminder of how effective our elected officials can sometimes be when the community needs help in dealing with city agencies. Keep the phone numbers and addresses of elected officials where you can find them. They can't help until you ask for help. The West Village Committee is working with Councilwoman Greitzer on the issue of local crime.

**WATERFRONT ESPLANADE:** In the last issue of the Newsletter, we reported that a decision had been made to connect all Village streets to the planned 9-A Highway, based on information given by a source we considered reliable. We are happy to correct this and report that Community Board 2 has not accepted such a plan. However, some of the proposals for the waterside esplanade are disturbing. The last thing Greenwich Village needs is a massive high-rent housing project on the Pier 40 site. Deputy Mayor Barbara Fife's suggestion for building more Battery Park City highrises along the east side of West Street "in order to pay for a waterside park" is outrageous as is her use of Jane Jacobs' language claiming that such high rises would "keep eyes on the park." In the past month we have heard people declare that we must accept the fact that our community is a "Coney Island" overrun by fun-seekers. We are not a Coney Island unless we allow ourselves to be made into one. What we need along our waterfront is an extension of Riverside Park. Get the grassy esplanade first with benches to sit on, and then plan over the next 20 years what else will go where. But stop coming up with football fields, bandshells and artificial islands out in the Hudson. Artificial islands in the Hudson in Lower Manhattan may well permit construction of high rises in the water beyond our shoreline. A grassy esplanade would be open to all. We would like to ask that those who live far from it but who are planning the varied activities of the esplanade to remember that it is through our blocks near the waterfront that the fun-seekers will travel.

**ABINGDON SQUARE:** Community Board 2 is expected to hold a public hearing on Oct. 18, following a hearing on Oct. 10 by the Parks Committee, dealing with proposals for changes in both Bleecker Playground and historic Abingdon Square Park. We understand that there is a group proposing to extend the playground through the sitting space all the way to 11th Street. Bleecker Playground was designed originally to be so extended. Another proposal would remove the benches outside Abingdon on the Hudson Street side and make massive planting of greenery and flowers inside the park. The children's swing area would be retained. We would support such a plan for a passive park if no other play equipment is proposed. The swing area is inconsistent with the overall design of historic Abingdon, but it is there. We would accept it.

We wish to acknowledge contributions from the following: William A. Blackmon, Jr., Anonymous, Eleanor St. Germain, James B. Ranck, Jr., Carole De Saram, and Elizabeth Hicks (in memory of Michael Brozen). Michael Brozen is one of those memorialized on the plaque beside the art work on the wall of the 14th St./8th Av. subway. Michael was a classical composer, and a good friend and neighbor on Horatio Street. We very much regret to record here the death of Lee Hubert late last spring following a long illness. Lee and her late husband, Ed, were long-time Westbeth residents and were outstanding friends and supporters of WVC. We miss them both.



**CALLS, LETTERS NEEDED TO STOP \$40 MILLION WESTWAY PAYBACK**

**It's not too late to stop the unnecessary \$40 million "Westway payback" which Mayor Dinkins included in the 1990 capital budget. It's crucial that this premature payback be stopped--not only to keep \$40 million from being wasted when the city is facing massive budget cuts, but also to prevent misuse of the Westway area of the waterfront and Hudson River.**

**But time is short. Gov. Cuomo is expected to decide whether or not to submit another application for a payback waiver right after his Waterfront Panel's hearing on Monday October 15th. (See flier enclosed.) The Governor and the Mayor have a legal obligation to see that a good faith application for the maximum payback waiver is submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The State's initial sham application did not meet that test, as State Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, Comptroller Liz Holtzman's office and others pointed out in excellent letters to the State.**

**If Governor Cuomo refuses to submit an approvable application, Mayor Dinkins will have to decide quickly whether to approve the outrageously wasteful \$40 million check. If he does, Comptroller Liz Holtzman can still refuse to co-sign the check. But once a City check goes out to the State, and the State sends its check to Washington, the money will be gone. And a crucial form of protection for the river and hoped-for waterfront park will also have been lost. (See clips on reverse.)**

**PLEASE WRITE TO MAYOR DINKINS & GOV. CUOMO TODAY!**

Sample letters:

Mayor David Dinkins  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Governor Mario Cuomo  
Executive Chambers  
Albany NY 12224

Dear Mayor Dinkins:

Please cut the \$40 million for an unnecessary Westway payback from the budget, and direct your appointees not to issue or sign the check. Please also urge Gov. Cuomo to live up to his legal commitment to submit a good faith application for the maximum payback waiver instead.

A premature payback would only clear the way for heavily subsidized waterfront development which citizens don't want and can't afford.

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Please live up to your legal commitment to submit a good faith application for a maximum federal payback waiver for the Westway right-of-way. The waiver will be approved if you agree to use this priceless section of the Hudson River and its shoreline as a river, bikeway and park.

Sincerely,

Also write to NYC Comptroller Liz Holtzman, Municipal Building, NYC 10007. Urge her not to sign any check for a premature, wasteful Westway payback.

**CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN URGENTLY NEEDS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM \$5 TO \$3,000! WE ALSO NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO DO MAILINGS LIKE THIS ONE, AND FOR PHONING, OFFICE WORK, TABLING & FUNDRAISING.**



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1990

Place: St. John's Parish Hall,  
224 Waverly Place, at 7:30 PM

Newsletter Volume XXX, No. 10

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**AGENDA: The Harvest Festival**

Time will be spent planning final details of the West Village Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 27, which The West Village Committee is sponsoring. Volunteers are needed for many of the day's activities. Indian dancers will be the featured entertainment of the day along with some great folk singing. The presence of Indian dancers acknowledges Indians as the first permanent residents and farmers in the West Village area.

In addition to books and WVC sweatshirts, we would like to have a white elephant table. If you have white elephants to donate, call us as soon as possible so that we may accumulate your donations and have them priced and ready for sale. We are also looking for a person licensed to sell food to manage a food table.

**UNITED PARCEL.** We are still talking to law firms about taking on a suit to stop the proposed massive increase of the present United Parcel facility which could add 1,000 additional daily truck trips through our heavily polluted streets. Cost estimates range from around \$100,000 to \$200,000 for such a suit. And the time clock is running out.

**RUTH WITTENBERG.** The death of Ruth Wittenberg at age 91 is a genuine loss to Greenwich Village and to preservationists everywhere. She taught us many things, including standing your ground alone on an issue if necessary against the howling mob. We recall that maybe 15 years ago, having spent a difficult day before the Landmarks Commission, and in returning to the Village that evening via the Church Street bus, she told us that she sensed that we were somewhat shy and tortured in having to take a public stand on issues. She added that she understood because she had suffered terribly when she was young from fear of public denunciation. She mentioned a particular Community Board member, saying, "You've heard how insulting he is to me," but added that at her advanced age "it just rolls off my back." Another time she laughingly told us about an interview granted to a young NYU student, who in the course of the interview addressed Mrs. Wittenberg as "one of the stodgy conservative types who run the Village." She laughed and said, "I didn't tell him anything." What she did not tell the student was that before women were allowed to vote and when she in fact was still in her teens, she had close ties to Eugene Debs and the Socialist Party, and served for a time as Secretary of the Socialist Party. One devout admirer was Anthony Tung, a past member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, who after a brief time in getting used to her style, which often included the repetition of the same phrase or sentence shouted out over and over again, came to consider Ruth Wittenberg a relentless warrior for historic preservation. Memorial service Nov. 18, 2 PM, Jefferson Market Library.

**HILDA GARBER.** Garber's Hardware is an institution in the West Village, and Mrs. Henry Garber was a very helpful part of that institution. Hilda Garber was always considerate and accommodating, and many of us sought her out to help us when shopping in the store. We very much regret her death following a long illness and belatedly extend our sympathy to her family.

**THE 21ST CENTURY BOND ACT.** We regard the highly advertized Bond Act as a major means of overdeveloping the Hudson waterfront with major development on piers both in the Village and in Chelsea out into the water. What we need is the creation of a grassy strip along the Hudson in this century, not the 21st, with changes and details being added over the next 20, 30 and 40 years. The only reason the broke City and more broke State insist on repaying the Feds \$80 in the Westway deal is because the Feds would require that the waterfront be left an open scenic strip with walkway, bicycle path, etc. By repaying it frees the City and State to open the area to a dictatorial authority such as Public Development, with public funds, to develop against a community's will. You vote for the Bond Act at your own risk.

On the reverse side we have reproduced the NYC Clean Air Campaign's detailed statement for action on the Westway payback.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tuesday, Nov. 27, 1990  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place, at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXX, No. 11-12

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

**THE DEFEAT OF THE 21ST CENTURY BOND ISSUE** at the polls suggests above all things a serious distrust of public officials. We urge all members to write immediately to Gov. Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, New York, NY 10007 and demand that they apply the \$80 million in Federal Westway funds to a Westway Payback Waiver and that the funds be used to construct an open esplanade on the Hudson River waterfront. If you want, more discussion at our meeting.

**UNITED PARCEL PLANS TO BUILD** their largest sorting and trucking facility in the city above Canal along Greenwich Street. We plan to be part of a suit to be filed by Rabinowitz Boudin before December 27 on environmental grounds. UPS estimates at least a thousand additional truck trips daily through Village streets. Estimated cost is \$20,000 needed immediately to prepare the suit and an additional \$30,000 to mount it in court. We beg you to support this action generously. All West Village Committee contributions are tax deductible.

**THE 9A HIGHWAY PROJECT STAFF** have requested that we gather any evidence that houses in the Historic District have been damaged by heavy traffic -- such information will help them to determine whether to connect Village streets to 9A. Presently, 9th/Christopher Streets serve as an extension of 5th Avenue, 11th Street serves as an extension of 7th Avenue, and 12th Street feeds 8th Ave. Our old houses and narrow streets should not have to bear this glut of heavy traffic, but we need evidence that damage has been done to specific structures. Assemblyman Passannante is preparing a presentation on this matter for the 9A staff. We fully support his position opposing connecting our streets, and ask you to send evidence of any damage as soon as possible.

**THE ANNUAL PARTY** to celebrate the survival of the West Village from the threat of urban renewal is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 PM in the St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Place. A sit-down buffet dinner will be served at \$10 per person and the same for children. Bring your own wine, renew old friendships and recall the days when Jane Jacobs, Rachele Wall and others stopped the tearing down of everything between Hudson St. and the Hudson River. You **MUST** R.S.V.P. to 243-0762 by Saturday, December 15, so we have enough food but none to waste. Extra contributions to support the United Parcel suit will be welcomed.

**CHRISTMAS WREATHS FOR SALE** at \$12 each available the first week of December. We advise hanging them indoors or from high windows or at a late date in the season because of increasing wreath thefts each year.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tuesday, Jan. 22 , 1991  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXI, No. 1

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

**Agenda**

1) The continuing saga of proposed changes in West Village parks and playgrounds.

2) A presentation by Marcy Benstock of the NYC Clean Air campaign on Governor Cuomo's plan to place the United Development Corporation in charge of waterfront development.

**CONTINUING THE PARK CONTROVERSY**

Although we were not permitted to have any input into proposed changes in Bleecker Playground or historic Abingdon Square Park by Community Board 2, we will try to update you on the latest. It is surely insane to keep chasing the homeless from park to park and from community to community. That is not even the beginning of a solution to the homeless problem. We would like to return to the old Village tradition of caring about our fellow man. The West Village Committee is ready to work with other groups interested in finding a real solution to these social problems.

**GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PLAN FOR OUR HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT**

We understand that Governor Cuomo would like to put the Urban Development Corporation or a subsidiary of UDC in charge of developing the Hudson River Waterfront. But he needs the signature of Mayor Dinkins to put such a plan in place. It may mean picking up on the old plan from 1971, The Wateredge Development Study, put forward by Samuel Ratansky, Craig Whitaker and others -- with a lot of platforming out into the river. The greatest danger is in putting any dictatorial development entity in charge. Most of these public development entities, although created by the State, have no controls over them either from the Legislature or from the Governor. They are in fact a chief reason for the present strangling debt of both the City and State. They issue bonds without voter approval, they issue contracts without competitive bidding, they acquire property through condemnation, award decades-long tax exemptions, they avoid Comptroller review, etc., to mention only a few of the objectionable privileges they enjoy. Public development entities are basically a means for persons in political office to provide friends and supporters with plush jobs. Investment bankers, politically connected individuals, an army of "consultants," and lawyers who sell influence get rich from the proceeds. But the general public pays their salaries, pays for the bonds issued, and pays for the mountains of tax abatements. New York should get out of the business of creating luxury housing and luxury office space. We urge you to write to Mayor David Dinkins and demand that he not co-sign with Governor Cuomo an agreement to place the UDC in charge of Hudson River waterfront development. Attend this West Village Committee meeting to hear Marcy Benstock on the subject.

## THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE ANNUAL PARTY

The annual WVC party, celebrating the survival of the West Village from the threat of urban renewal, was a big success and was a packed house. The highlight of the evening for many of us was the presence of Ann Lye, who made major contributions 30 and 40 years ago toward the preservation of our community. It was an evening of greeting old friends like the Bockmans who left us for Fifth Avenue years ago, but who are always welcome. Special thanks are due to the major domo of the evening, Arthur Bond, and to Anne Slatin who came down from the Catskills to bake; also Barbara Gillen, John Johnson, Betty Rinckwitz, Eileen Bowser, Tom Stokes, Barbara Steinberg, Richard Crosland, JoAnn Fluke, Deborah Cowan, Jean Wardle and Fawne Berkun.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Congratulations to MRS. JACOBSON, proprietress of the Jackson Square Pharmacy, 302 W. 12th St. on her 51st year of serving this community with responsibility and courtesy. DR. JOYCE I. WALLACE is to be congratulated for the write-up in The New York Times praising her studies in AIDS research as well as her current efforts to create a refuge for prostitutes in a former East Houston Street brothel. These are two very praiseworthy ladies.

The shed in the Jane Street Garden was broken into and the door broken on Christmas night. Tools were broken, stolen, or thrown around the garden. It appears to have been an act of destruction more than thievery. There are plans to replace the door.

## THE LOSSES OF WINTER

We deeply regret to record here the death of Mrs. Donna Sgalardi from viral pneumonia, a disease with increasingly frightening implications in recent years. Mrs. Sgalardi was a member of the well-known Stroligo family in West 11th Street. We are sorry for the loss of such a good and kind person and extend our sympathies to her entire family.

We also record here the death of Warner Ettisch following a long illness. He was for many years a highly respected professional planner in the NYC Department of Planning. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Eva, and to his daughter, Marianne.

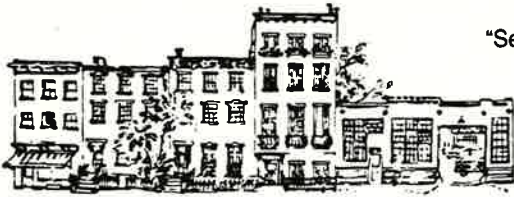
## A THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

We wish to acknowledge contributions from the following: Anonymous gift in memory of Gerard Mutsaers; Ann Arlen, Robert and Margery Boyar, Jim and Elaine Brennan, Katherine Detweiler, Styra Eisinger, Robert and Inea Engler, Peter and Terry Fritsch, Dan and Bunny Gabel, Ruth and Bill Gross, Bill Hine, Gloria and Frank Jennings, Norman Kahn, Michael Marantz, Joan McAllister, Al McGrath, Jessie McNab, Susan M. Richardson, C. Simo Rosenblum, Eleanor St. Germain, Edward and Eudice Segal, Elaine Schechter, SoHo Alliance, Grace Sowerwine, Barbara Steinberg, Mel Stevens, Tom Stokes, Stephen F. Temmer, Pierre and Anne Tonachel, Alicia V. Wilder, Shirley Wright and three anonymous donors.

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax deductible.



**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**  
702 GREENWICH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

**Meeting canceled -  
members asked to go to hearing  
at Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Newsletter Volume XXXI, No. 3**

#### **STOP THE FENCE AROUND THE PLAZA END OF BLEECKER PARK**

We are down to the wire in our fight to stop erection of a fence around the plaza area of Bleecker Park. Community Board #2 has approved the fence. However, the Landmarks Committee of the Board voted 6-2 against the specific fence proposed. We received a letter from Parks Commissioner Gotbaum, dated before the Board approval, saying that a fence would be placed around this beautiful open plaza posted with "Children and Their Guardians only" signs, and expressing the hope that we would continue giving financial contributions to local parks. We strongly object to the secrecy in which the plan was carried out not only by Commissioner Gotbaum but by the Community Board. We have tried for two years to get Board notices sent to our address on Greenwich Street rather than the long-ago canceled PO Box. We achieved that last October. Our only notice throughout this time was by word-of-mouth, and we were excluded from all negotiations with the Parks Department. We attempted to work with the BBOP group originally. Negotiations were broken off the day we received a phone call from a BBOP officer telling us that they were going to claim West Village Committee treasury funds as matching funds to obtain a grant for park alterations. We could not tolerate such dishonesty, and our relationship has fallen away since. Their latest attack was at a meeting of the Parks Committee where we were seeking permission to place a direct water supply in the Jane Street Garden to be used in summer. We were accused of not allowing the public into the garden, which is not true. We not only object to a chain-link fence around the plaza area of Bleecker, we object to any fence there. The request is said to be for temporary permission, but temporary permits from Landmarks become permanent - witness "Weathering Triangle" on 7th Avenue behind 15 Charles St. LPC has itself gone to court to have it removed, and failed. The "window paintings" over the PS 41 playground, are there under a "temporary" permit.

This is your last chance to stop this proposal to destroy this much-beloved plaza area. If you have not written your letter of protest, do so now to Commissioner Laurie Beckelman, Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, NY NY 10007. The Commission's hearing on this issue will be held on Tuesday, March 26, probably in late afternoon. We expect to have an exact hour for the hearing by Friday, March 22. Plan to attend the hearing if you can. Call us Friday afternoon through the weekend for a more exact approximation of the hearing time - 243-0762 or 989-1521.

#### **UNITED PARCEL SUIT**

We are working with the Federation and with neighbors in the Spring Street/Greenwich Street primary impact area over United Parcel's planned quadrupled sorting and delivery site. The suit has been filed against the project, and at this time close to \$30,000 has been raised toward a goal of \$50,000 to support the lawsuit. But we do look forward to the day when we can get into some other long-planned projects such as historic plaques.

#### **ROCKROSE BUILDING PLANS**

The threats to our community never seem to subside - as for instance, the Rockrose plan to build 11 stories high along Washington Street between 12th and Jane Streets. There were strong objections to the height at the CB 2 Zoning Committee meeting. However, the one plus the project offers is an open space, 40 by 100 feet, to be used as a playground or public park. We urge people to attend a meeting re this project on Monday, March 25, 8 PM in the Industria Photo Studios, NE corner of Washington and 12th Sts. Elected officials will be there to react to citizen objections. If you form objections to the project write to any or all of the following and state your case (overleaf):



The Hon. Roger Bennett, Chair  
Board of Standards & Appeals  
161 Ave. of the Americas  
New York NY 10013

Boro Pres. Ruth Messinger  
Attn: Marla Simpson  
Municipal Bldg, 19th Floor  
NY NY 10007

Congressman Ted Weiss  
252 7th Avenue NY NY 10001

Senator Manfred Ohrenstein  
270 Broadway, NY NY 10007

The Hon. Richard Schaffer, Chair  
NYC Planning Commission  
22 Reade St., NY NY 10007

Assemblywoman Deborah Glick  
PO Box 367 NY NY 10113

Councilwoman Carol Greitzer  
51 Chambers St., NY NY 10007

#### THE LOSSES OF WINTER

We regret to record here the death of **TED DENNIS** this past Christmas. Ted was husband to Jessie McNab. He was a very creative person and in the old days when Jane Jacobs, Rachele Wall and Ann Lye were leading us in the fight against Urban Renewal, he wrote a number of songs which stirred our forces to fight harder. We also regret to record here the passing of a lovely Jane Street lady, **ISABELLE RUBIN**, wife of Aaron Rubin. To all, our heartfelt sympathies.

#### WARMER DAYS ARE COMING

We apologize to our many members who like to browse the WVC bookshop. We have no heat on the premises, but warmer days are coming and you should look for us on warm Saturday or Sunday afternoons after 1 or 2 PM; plain visiting is permitted.

#### THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We offer sincere thanks to the following for generous checks:  
John P. Manship, Joanne Collier, Eliza Bradley, Aura V. Levitas, Barbara Gillen, Karen Weinberg, Judith Seigel, Kathleen Brown, Robin Hess (who also donated books), and one anonymous gift.

#### STOP HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

There is still time to pressure the City not to go along with the dictatorial entity and major development on our waterfront as planned by Governor Cuomo. The best chance now is to pressure the City Council not to approve the payback to the Feds by borrowing \$40 million instead. Letters to Councilwomen Carol Greitzer and Miriam Friedlander could help. Also still write to Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman and Borough President Ruth Messinger asking them to pressure Mayor Dinkins to stand up to the Governor on this issue.

#### THE DISTRICTING COMMISSION

We are concerned with the plan being pushed within the Districting Commission for a long, narrow councilman district along the Hudson River waterfront through Chelsea and the Village in order to create an assured Gay District. Assemblywoman Deborah Glick is proof that a lesbian can be elected to office. It seems to us that it is also important to have whole communities represented in the City Council, and by having representatives elected from both the Village and Chelsea we admit to some minute differences between our communities.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose;

\_\_\_\_ General (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden  
\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit

\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_ Phone

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

702 GREENWICH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tuesday, Jan. 26 , 1991  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXI, No. 2

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**AGENDA**

- 1) City Council Districting Program as established by the new City Charter; Ronald Jacobowitz, a spokesman for the NYC Districting Commission will speak and answer questions
- 2) The Waterfront Park and the Westway Payback Waiver
- 3) Stopping the Bleecker Street Fence

**VILLAGE ON THE WATER'S EDGE EXHIBIT MOVES TO FORBES GALLERIES**

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's splendid exhibit entitled "Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge: The Survival of a Neighborhood," which had a long run at the Municipal Art Society, has reopened at the Forbes Magazine Galleries, 62 5th Avenue, through Feb. 28th. The space at Forbes will only allow the small-scale model; the exhibit deals with the unlandmarked Western third of Greenwich Village, the oldest part of our community. The galleries are closed Sundays and Mondays; Thursdays are reserved for group viewings, and admission is free Tues. through Sat., 10 AM to 4 PM. For information call (212) 206-5548.

**FINAL APPEAL TOWARD DISCONNECTING VILLAGE STREETS FROM ROUTE 9A**

Last November we requested that residents whose buildings have suffered structural damage (broken facades, fallen moldings, etc.) from excessive traffic traversing our narrow streets should put it in writing and mail complaints to us as soon as possible. We are told that the Route 9A folks are about to consider whether to cut Village streets off from the new highway (as they were cut off from the old elevated Miller Highway). This is your last chance to help with this issue. Our streets are small, narrow and crooked and were never intended to feed superhighways. Please help.

**STOP DEVELOPMENT ON THE HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT**

If the State develops "a scenic view" along the Hudson River waterfront to enhance Route 9A, it is not necessary to repay the Feds an estimated \$40 million of Westway funds. But Governor Cuomo is insisting on the payback and is pressuring Mayor Dinkins to come up with the City's share and to co-sign an agreement for the payback. This will then free the waterfront up for the Governor to create a dictatorial entity to take over and develop the waterfront against the wishes of local communities. The most likely entities would be the Urban Development Corporation, the Public Development Corporation or even the Port Authority. We urge you to write immediately to Governor Cuomo and insist that he go for the payback waiver -- keep the \$40 million and create a waterside park. If in fact he has \$40M elsewhere to throw around considering the State's \$6 billion indebtedness, think what \$40 million could do for the mentally ill returned to hospital care, for the homeless, for daycare centers, for teachers' pay. We urge you to write to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, New York NY 10007 and ask him not to sign the Governor's proposal which would open our waterfront and the Hudson River to unbridled development. Send copies of your letter to Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman and to Borough President Ruth Messinger, both addressed at the Municipal Building, New York NY 10007. Act on this now because the Governor is about to drop his ill-conceived plan before us in March.

### **WHY WE DO NOT WANT A FENCE AROUND BLEECKER PARK**

When Bleecker Playground was laid out with the support of the West Village Committee, there were objections to what amounted to cutting Bank Street into two parts, and so to satisfy these objections a right-of-way path was created from Bleecker to Hudson. Bleecker Playground occupied the Western end of the open space, and the park area with benches under the lindens was intended for adult and mixed use from the beginning. It is enough that the Department of Parks has recently mutilated the linden trees. It is more than enough that the public toilets in Bleecker have combination locks. The intention of the Parks Department to fence in this sitting end of Bleecker "to drive the homeless to another community" is only one more step toward privatizing public park space to benefit a vocal minority. If this administration had any real moral values, they would be trying to help the homeless and not be jumping a mile high every time this affluent minority barked. The issue of fencing in the linden tree area of Bleecker will come before the Landmarks Preservation Commission sometime in March. We urge those of you opposed to this further privatization of public space to write now to Commissioner Laurie Beckelman, Landmarks Preservation Commission, 225 Broadway, New York, NY 10007.

### **THE LOSSES OF WINTER**

We regret to announce the recent death of a good Greenwich Street neighbor, CORA KENNEDY. A very creative individual, she was an outstanding instructor at the School of Visual Arts; she also served as contributing editor of Popular Photography. A memorial service is set for 6:30 PM, Feb. 28, St. Luke's Church.

### **THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We offer our sincere thanks to the following for generous donations: Robert Harris, Howard Milbert, Barbara H. Datesh, Ann Lye, Jessie McNab, Yvette Raderman, Mildred Loftus, Dan Samuels, Dina Paisner, Suzanne Bradley, Michael & Sheila Marantz, Marcia and Marvin Schlaff, Lillian Geltman, Jean F. Wardle, Tribeca Community Association, Mildred Orlans, Richard B. Barnett, Harrison Starr, Jack Taylor, Henriette Montgomery, Helen G. Tierney, J. Davis, J. Godwin, Muriel W. Richardson, Barry Benepe, Robert and Margery Boyar, Jacqueline Henderson, William D. Eppes, Jean D. Crawford, Ann McMillan, Edward C. Stevenson, Brian Carroll and three anonymous gifts.

### **THE PATH VENT TOWER AT THE FOOT OF MORTON STREET**

The fight against the multi-storey Path Vent Tower near the foot of Morton St. continues although the frame of the tower has begun to take shape above ground. Bill Hine has come up with documentation from top engineer, J. Barrie Graham, which would indicate that a totally underground venting system could be far superior to the monster the Port Authority insists upon constructing. We urge once again letters to Governor Mario Cuomo demanding that he require the Port Authority to study the Graham recommendations. The Governor's address is Executive Chamber, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224. We suggest sending copies of letters to Mary Ann Crotty, Director of State Operations at the same address, just to be sure that a person close to the Governor reads the mail.

### **POST SCRIPTS**

The suit against the enlargement of the United Parcel Service facility along Greenwich Street has been filed, and the latest information indicates that about half of the \$50,000 estimated cost has been raised, thanks to many generous checks from WVC members. Please memo all checks for the purpose you intend - such as general expenses (postage, duplicating, etc.), UPS suit, the Jane Street Garden, Jefferson Market Rock Garden area, etc. At the moment we are closing in on the annual base costs for the Jane Street Garden - approximately \$900 in rent and insurance fees.

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax deductible.



**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 GREENWICH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tuesday 23 April 1991  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXI, No. 4

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**AGENDA; Continuing the fight for our parks.**

#### **WEST VILLAGE PARKS: BLEECKER STREET**

On Tuesday, April 16, the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously issued a report to the Parks Department which describes a proposed fence around the plaza end of Bleecker Park in strong language as inappropriate whether it is temporary or permanent. The Landmarks vote is advisory, but since the proposed installation of a fence is on City property and is a question of aesthetics, the proposal must now go before the Art Commission. The ruling of the Art Commission is binding. We understand that our founder, Jane Jacobs, and her architect husband, Robert Hyde Jacobs, sent a telegram in support of our position opposing the fence. And Robert Nichols, who designed Bleecker Park, wrote a letter of protest. Sandi Simmons, Carole DeSaram, Christabel Gough, and many others wrote excellent letters to Landmarks, and we will not forget this support in future. We urge you now to write immediately to The Hon. Nanette Smith, Acting Executive Director, The Art Commission, City Hall, New York, NY 10007, and express your objections to fencing in Bleecker plaza, one of the most beautiful sites in any City park. We also urge letters to Mayor Dinkins at City Hall, NY NY 10007.

#### **WEST VILLAGE PARKS: ABINGDON SQUARE**

At a time when we were trying seriously to meet a compromise solution with BBOP in making park improvements, and despite the fact that we were constantly told that if we didn't allow the swings to remain in Abingdon they would send street people from all over into it, and other unfriendly threats, we said as we have proposed for years that Abingdon should be turned into a magnificent green park because it is the center of our world in the West Village. We were also willing to pay for turning it into a magnificent planting and supply appropriate cast iron gates. Instead Pat Pomposello and BBOP have settled for planting in tree pits of very mature London plane trees. It is not what we had in mind. In fact some years ago we paid a professional landscape architect to design planting for Abingdon. We have put thousands of dollars into our parks over many years. We have cleaned Abingdon repeatedly, often in the late afternoon, until our waste can on a dolly was stolen from the Jane Street Garden. We recall seven years ago when there was a push to turn Abingdon into a children's playground and the City put cannisters on the lampposts to sample the pollution, and we saw the young parents turning the cans upside down. A recent report of the pollution in the Bleecker sandpit is appalling: it is lead in the air, not dog feces. Hudson Street now carries much of the uptown traffic load which once would have been on the old Miller Highway. And when a member mentioned that the wall behind Seravalli Playground might serve for a magnificent mural, we learned at the next meeting that BBOP was negotiating with the building owners to have children's paintings on the wall. Not a very imaginative group when they grasp at all of our ideas and mutilate them. But we do know when we have been ignored and cut out of all negotiations on our parks. Pat Pomposello is the man who knows how to do it. The City may wait a while before we lift a broom again or drop a \$1 in the pot. And we are more than a little tired of seeing the parks and the crime scene in the West Village constantly politicized. Enough already!

#### **AUTO-FREE NEW YORK**

If you want to join the battle to improve mass transit and work to keep more cars from coming into the City, we suggest that you join and subscribe to AUTO-FREE NEW YORK, 494 Broadway, NYC 10012, \$20 per year, telephone (212) 475-3394.

#### **SYMPOSIUM ON OPEN SPACES PROPOSED**

We are hoping to have our May meeting be a symposium on the creation and use of public open spaces.



**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 GREENWICH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014



Bleecker Street Park, New York City

## An Open Letter to Those Who Love Our City

The Parks Department has proposed to put a five-foot-high chain link fence around this lovely open area known as Bleecker Street Park located at Bleecker and Eleventh Streets in Manhattan's West Village.

This beautiful red brick surfaced area now shaded by twenty mature Linden trees was designed by Bob Nichols of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and completed under the leadership of urban planner Jane Jacobs and the West Village Committee. Intended as an open walk-through and sitting area, it is at the heart of our neighborhood. Many visitors consider this the most beautiful gem of the entire New York City parks system, with its trees and special qualities fashioned after the Luxembourg Gardens of Paris.

We believe that to enclose this park would be to destroy it. Over 700 neighborhood residents have signed petitions, written letters and spoken at public meetings in opposition to a fence. Jane Jacobs and Bob Nichols have written in opposition. The West Village Committee is opposed.

Please help us by visiting our park if you haven't seen it and by adding your voice to ours to save Bleecker Street Park as open space.

Please write to The Honorable David F. Dinkins, Mayor of the City of New York, City Hall, New York, N. Y. 10007 or call his office at (212) 566-5770. Urge him to hear the many voices of those who believe that this unique open space in our midst nurtures our hope and provides inspiration for us to believe in this city and that it can be a civilized place.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens for Village Parks and Playgrounds  
Telephone: (212) 924-5258 or 989-1521

The West Village Committee  
Telephone: (212) 243-0762



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting canceled: on Tuesday 28 May 1991  
members are urged re urged to testify at City  
Hall against City Council districting.

Newsletter Volume XXXI, No.5

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

### **SAVE GREENWICH VILLAGE AS A VOICE FOR DOWNTOWN NEW YORK**

The New York City Districting Commission will hold a final public hearing on Tuesday, May 28 at City Hall in the old Board of Estimate chamber to hear testimony on their plan to create new City Council districts, sign-in at 5:50, hearing at 6 PM. Their recent plan for the Village was to cut it into three parts: north of Christopher the West Village would be joined into a new district reaching through Chelsea, and as far north as 59th Street; south of Christopher, the Village would be joined to part of SoHo, Chinatown and other westerly communities; and east of Fifth Avenue the Village would be made part of NoHo, SoHo, the Lower East Side, etc. If we ask why Greenwich Village, one of the most famous neighborhoods in the world, is being chopped asunder, we are told that the hope is to allow the northern sector to elect a gay candidate, the southern sector to elect a minority Chinese person, and the eastern sector to elect an Hispanic candidate. A later map published May 16 reduces the slicing of the Village into only two parts: east of Sixth Avenue goes with Chinatown and parts of the Lower East Side; the Village west of Sixth Avenue remains in the Chelsea-Clinton District stretching to 59th Street. We regard all of these reasons given as covers for the real reason to disembowel the Village: to destroy our voice on community issues. If you think you cannot attend the hearing, write a letter of protest immediately to Alan Gartner, Executive Director, NYC Districting Commission, 11 Park Place, Suite 1616, NY, NY 10007. And remember that masses of protesting people can win battles. Our previous testimony is enclosed to help you compose your letter or speech. On the reverse side of our testimony is the map showing the Village sliced in two parts. PLEASE HELP!

### **BETRAYAL ON BLEECKER PLAZA**

On May 8 word came from the Parks Department that they had given up all plans to fence Bleecker Park plaza; a week later several trucks rolled in to drill holes for fence poles in preparation for chain-linking the walk-through right-of-way from Bleecker to Hudson Street, and next day the trucks rolled up with the fence poles. In both instances, opponents of the fence poured into the plaza to protest, sat on the benches about to be destroyed and taunted Parks employees to call the police. Parks finally called off further mutilation of the plaza until the matter could be taken to the Community Board. This reminded us of the encounter we had with a young father who is part of the group pressing for more playground space for children. He told me that they hoped to take over all our small parks and make them kids' playgrounds, and that if they failed they would all move out of town and take their large incomes with them. "We are the important tax base" he said and the City "cannot do without us." He added nobody should be expected to provide public space for old people who are "too poor and too old to move," reminding us again that "We young parents are the important people in this community." And so a very tiny minority of the community seems determined to repeat the mistakes made in Washington Square 25 years ago. We urge you to write today to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NY, NY 10007 and urge him to stop the Parks Department's planned destruction of Bleecker Park plaza, a prime public space for the elderly and all of us.

### **THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We offer sincere thanks to the following for recent contributions: Maxine Redding, Joan Rosenfelt, Mildred Loftus, Bernard and Harriet Lichtman, Laura Beer, Jessie McNab, Katherine Detweiler, James E. Shaw, Jack Taylor, and two anonymous donors. We are also grateful to Knox Burger for a gift of new books.

### **A LOSS OF FRIENDS**

We regret to record here the recent death of Jeanie Meurer, Greenwich Street, a lovely and charming lady beloved by her neighbors. We also record here the death of Barbara Peart, a long-time resident in Greenwich Street, an artist who spent many hours painting in the Jane Street Garden and other peaceful places. Although she was nearing 80 years, because of the softness of her features she always appeared 20 or more years younger. We wish both of these lovely ladies gardens to tend and paint.

**\*\*Contributions to The West Village Committee, Inc. are tax deductible.\*\***



**THE HUDSON ST. HARVEST FESTIVAL** was highly successful and according to many callers, the best street fair they ever attended. Thanks are due to Todd Berman, Mervin Bendewald, Mel Stevens, Barbara Mangano, Eileen Bowser, Barbara Gillen, Jean Crawford, Richard Johnson, Eliza Bradley, John Johnson, Joan Stoliar, Ruth Dunn and Mary Rowe for their contributions. We enclose the flyer for the Festival which tells some of the history of the area.

**WATER SUPPLY FOR JANE STREET GARDEN** - we are going through city EPA channels to get permission to open up the street and attach to a main for a direct water supply in the Jane Street Garden. Cost estimates range from \$3,500 to \$5,500.

**THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL** is planning a Holiday Book and Gift Fair on December 6 and 7, 8:30 AM to 7:30 PM. The school, at 272 W. 10th St., is a half block west of Greenwich St. For information call Bunny Gabel, 243-1022 or 691-5146.

**WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS** from the following during the past month: Gloria Jennings, Jeremy B. Smith, Michael Marantz, Sonya Staff Foundation, Dorothy Friedman, Jennifer Cecil, Mildred Gage Bledsoe and two anonymous donors.

**THANKS MAYOR DAVID DINKINS AND POLICE COMMISSIONER LEE BROWN** for supplying mounted police on Christopher Street and other police anti-crime details on the pier and nearby waterfront. We deeply appreciate their response despite budget problems.

**WE REGRET THE MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION** on proposed changes in Bleecker Playground and historic Abingdon Square Park. In our public testimony we agreed to accept the swing area staying in Abingdon, despite our belief that a better passive park could be made without the swings. We in no way endorsed the severe trimming of the linden trees in the Bleecker sitting area which has occurred. The umbrella effect of the lindens over the tables and benches compared with any other beauty spot in our City parks. We argued against making this a bicycle-and-ball-park area. It was designed for mixed use and should remain so. We have never endorsed fencing the area in. We did suggest that ball-playing and bicycle/tricycle-riding belong in under-used Seravalli Playground, a three-minute walk from Bleecker Playground, where swings also exist. Please, no more enraged phone calls from members accusing us of taking positions we did not take. We were never invited by the Parks Department or the Parks Committee of Community Board 2 to have input in planning sessions. If you have objections to the loss of the area under the linden trees in Bleecker for mixed use, write directly to the Parks Department and state your position to:

1) Commissioner Betsy Gotbaum, Department of Parks and Recreation, The Arsenal, Central Park, New York, NY 10021.

) Commissioner Patrick J. Pomposello, Department of Parks and Recreation, Manhattan Parks, 16 W. 61st Street, New York, N.Y. 10023.

\*\*\*\*\* **HAPPY CHANUKAH AND MERRY CHRISTMAS** \*\*\*\*\*



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting: Tuesday 25 June 1991  
at 7:30 pm  
St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place  
Newsletter Vol. 31 No. 6

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

### **SHOP IN THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

We are now four weeks into the 1991 season of the Gansevoort Greenmarket on the edge of the meat market between 9th Avenue and Hudson Street. Largely an organic market, it boasts fresh locally-grown vegetables including some exotic ones, the best bread in town from the Olson sisters, first-rate live plants for gardeners from Anton Wagonhoffer, very fresh fish, home-baked pastries, etc. We agreed to act as local sponsor for this market because dozens of Villagers told us that Union Square was too far to carry their purchases. We believe that the Greenmarket program as created by Barry Benepe is one of the few good things to happen in the City in the past decade. Gansevoort is a charming market and deserves your support. It is open by 8 AM on Saturdays and closes by 1 PM. Try Gansevoort this Saturday. You'll like it. It has a reputation for being the friendliest of the Greenmarkets, and has loyal customers from both the far upper East and West sides.

### **WVC TO PARTICIPATE IN FEDERATION'S SUMMER FESTIVAL**

The West Village Committee will have a space on the east side of Hudson Street between 10th and Charles Street in the Summer Festival on Saturday, June 22, sponsored by the Federation to Preserve the Waterfront; rain date is Saturday, July 6. The fair will be open from 12 Noon until 8 PM. Our stall will consist largely of books and records. We need volunteers to help man and guard our space during the day. Please give us a phone call if you can spare some time. (We have scheduled our own Harvest Festival on Hudson Street for the last week Saturday in October.)

### **VISIT THE BOOKSTORE - OPEN ON WEEKEND AFTERNOONS**

The West Village Committee bookstore at 10th and Greenwich Street is open on most weekend afternoons from 1 or 2 until around 5. It is a pleasant place to stop in, to browse; to visit and chat. We will be open on the Federation's Summer Festival Day. But don't look for us on the worst hot days or on coldest winter days: there is no heat and no air conditioning.

### **JANE STREET GARDEN VOLUNTEERS**

We are looking for volunteers to sit with the Jane Street Garden and keep the gate open to welcome visitors, especially on weekend afternoons. We have posted notices on the bulletin board to say that the garden is open to the public but people advertising their own wares have torn the notices down. Call 243-0762 to volunteer. It is a lovely way to spend a quiet summer afternoon.

Reminder: No meetings will be held in July-August.

## THE DISASTER PRODUCED BY THE NYC DISTRICTING COMMISSION

The New York City Districting Commission has done a gerrymandering worthy of Boss Tweed. The commission's mission included the creation of districts which will make possible a greater representation of minorities in the Council - and which will respect community lines. The latter requirement has been largely ignored, and it is doubtful if any minority candidate can be elected in the three Lower Manhattan districts. Greenwich Village is cut into parts, the largest part being placed with Chelsea/Clinton in a district that runs as far north as Lincoln Center. The Village east of 6th Avenue is placed with most of SoHo, Tribeca and Chinatown. Most of the Lower East Side is placed with Gramercy Park. For decades the Village has been the loud voice protesting political goofs in Lower Manhattan. We fought the Westway ripoff to the last ditch, while much of the leadership in Chelsea and Clinton supported the boondoggle. We are not a midtown entity and should not be tied into midtown. The areas of NoHo and SoHo have recently been graced with those names, but they are historically part of the traditional Greenwich Village and we should in no way be separated from them. Tribeca, NoHo and SoHo are communities of artists and we bear natural bonds to them. The Commission has said they are creating a "gay" district by melding us with Chelsea/Clinton, and an "Asian" district largely south of Canal, and a "Latino" district attached to Gramercy Park. This is a lot of clap-trap. They are dividing communities into many parts to silence our voices on local issues and to destroy our power. We urge all members to write strong letters of objection regarding this gerrymandering to:

Regional Director Patricia Glenn  
Department of Justice, NY Regional Office  
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 3402  
New York, NY 10278

Or call (212) 264-0700 to make your complaint. The Department of Justice in Washington will issue a final decision on the districting plan. A Lower East Side civic group is already filing a suit against the Commission. We applaud their action, but are heeding legal advice which suggests that minority groups have a greater chance of winning such a suit.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the following contributors for generous donations during the past month: Hilda Hollyer, Eleanor St. Germain, Ann McMillan and one anonymous donor. We are also grateful for the fine art book collection given us from Barbara Peart's estate.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane St.Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24 Sep 1991  
at 7:30 pm  
St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place  
Newsletter Vol. 31 No. 7/8

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

### **ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION USES OF HIGHWAY FUNDS**

We enclose a sheet from the Clean Air Campaign which discusses issues now before the House Public Works and Transportation Committee. It sets reasonable arguments against allowing funds to be used for wetlands mitigation. What is today called mitigation can tomorrow be acres of landfill on the Hudson shoreline. We have a real need to use funds from canceled interstates to improve the environment and create visually beautiful recreation space. The vote of the committee is supposed to take place by Thursday, July 25, but these measures will still be voted on by the full Senate and House. Villagers come from many parts of the country. We urge you to ask your friends and relatives across the country to call their Congressmen to support the position of the Clean Air Campaign which we endorse.

### **A 'NO BUILD' HIGHWAY ALTERNATIVE ALONG THE HUDSON**

Transportation Alternatives has recently come forward with a "No Build" alternative for a Route 9A solution along the Hudson River, with the sensible proposal that the highway funds be used to improve the transit system in the city. We applaud their efforts. Neither crime nor the recession killed midtown Manhattan as a shopping center. Traffic congestion killed midtown. Transportation Alternatives will have their first public display of their design at the Greenwich House Music School, 46 Barrow Street, Wednesday, July 31, at 7:30 P.M. We urge you to attend.

### **THE HOUSING WORKS THRIFT SHOP FOR HIV AND AIDS**

We are very pleased to learn that a group called the Housing Works is planning a Thrift Shop to provide housing for homeless with HIV and AIDS. The shop will depend upon donated items. They will need volunteers as well as goods. We urge interested persons to phone (212) 966-0466 for information. They are at 594 Broadway.

### **THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

We urge residents to patronize the Gansevoort Greenmarket on Saturday mornings, and if you have comments about the market, do not call us - call Greenmarket headquarters at 477-3220. Too often our Greenmarket has been used as a testing ground. Recently fruit and corn and other seasonal edibles were being advertised on our lamp posts as being available when none of them were. It has made for some unhappy shoppers. As of last Saturday, however, three farmers did offer fresh corn. Don't give up.

THANKS - Chris Stroligo for printing and Mildred Loftus for books.

## YOU MAY STILL COMPLAIN ON THE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTING DISASTER

As we predicted, the U.S. Department of Justice did find fault with the gerrymandering package on City Council seats delivered by the Districting Commission. Most of the fault so far has been with the poor representation afforded Hispanic citizens, to our mind a very justified complaint. But the Commission was also supposed to respect community boundaries, and Greenwich Village, one of the most famous communities in the world, has been cut into three parts and placed in different community-board areas. The Commission did a real hatchet job on downtown Manhattan, placing the largest part of the Village with midtown Clinton, and cutting the Lower East Side into two parts. We firmly believe that downtown Manhattan has been treated this way, not just to create a "gay" district but to weaken or silence our traditionally strong voice on community issues. Boss Tweed would be very proud of what the Commission has turned out. We followed the wrong advice last time from the League of Women Voters to address complaints to NY Regional Director for the Department of Justice Patricia Glenn. The correct place to file letters of complaint regarding the gerrymandering is to:

John Dunne, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Justice  
10th and Constitution  
Washington, D.C. 20530

We sincerely hope that minority groups will gain some recognition and some power from the realigning of Council Districts. We would like to think that the special community of Greenwich Village will also make its objections known.

## THE LOSSES OF SUMMER

We regret to record here the death of Beatrice Auster, W. 12th St., following a brief illness. She is survived by her husband, Al. Bea was full of compassion for humanity and for the animal world, and will be missed by her many friends.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the following contributors for generous donations during the past month: Alatheia Smit, Roslyn Kramer, Donald P. Waldauer, Henry Senber and two anonymous donations.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane St.Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

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**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

We wish to state in the most urgent terms our opposition to the creation of beer gardens and other public drinking in Greenwich Village streets. It may add greatly to the coffers of local bar owners, but it does nothing to improve the community. There is a claim that all drinking is contained within Weehawken Street, whereas we see patrons arm-in-arm emerging from Weehawken on late Sunday afternoons with filled glasses in hand. This all began last year when the Dugout without a permit began the use of Weehawken Street for public drinking - and months later were given a permit by 1st Deputy Mayor Norman Steisel. If laws exist against public drinking, then those laws must apply to all of us without exception. The hoots and howls of public drinking every Sunday is inexcusable for the impact it has on the residents living in Weehawken and adjacent areas. There are estimates that the public drinking crowd every Sunday reaches the range of 500 people. And they are not controlled by the barriers placed across the middle of the street. It is perfectly outrageous to compare the drunken screeches of 500 people to moving traffic on West Street.

Weekends offer two days of free time to most people, but the public drinking here on Sunday cuts that time of relaxation in half and adds misery to the end of the second day. It is not contained within Weehawken Street, else we would not have residents from Washington, Greenwich, Morton and other streets begging to become plaintiffs on this suit. Five-hundred people go off from Weehawken into the night on Sundays to display their public drunkenness, public urination, vomiting and screeching howling to the doorways and stoops of these other streets. The argument that public drinking is encouraged to control gay-bashing is stupid. Weehawken has never been a major site for gay-bashing, but a public street serving those who live their and their friends. We too believe in "eyes on the street" to stop evil. But not 500 or 1,000 drunken eyes on the street.

How is it that we have existing laws against public drinking and elected and appointed public officials are permitted to ignore the law and grant special permits? We are giving the wrong message to our young people - that public drunkenness is to be greatly admired. Greenwich Village is now awash with requests for public drinking permits from the Meat Market to Canal Street. This public drinking will take us back to the days when every Irish dockworker carried a bottle of booze in his back pocket (and sometimes two bottles). We are gradually being turned into a drunken circus, destroyed as a livable community. Enforce the no public drinking law.

William P. Bowser





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Next Meeting: Tues. Oct. 22 1991  
at 7:30 PM, St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place  
Newsletter Vol. 31, No. 10  
Agenda: Final Plans for Hudson Street  
Harvest Festival

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

### **THE SECOND ANNUAL HUDSON STREET HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Our Hudson Street Harvest Festival is planned for Saturday, October 26 with a raindate of Sunday October 27. Under the expert planning of Todd Berman, we expect an outstanding fair with outstanding folk music coordinated by Hazel James, so that there a lot more to be enjoyed than displays of T-shirts, socks and bikini underwear. We are still being told that last year's fair was the best ever, and we hope to expand on that rating. Our space this year will hold books, records and white elephants, and we would like to get solid volunteers at our meeting to man our tables. We expect to be in the block of Hudson Street between 10th and Charles. Block associations and other Village groups are invited to put up tables in that same block as our welcome guests. Participants, including our non-paying guests, should be on the site by 9 AM, set up by 10 AM, and the fair officially opens at 11 AM and closes at 6 PM. If you are planning on being a guest, please let us know by Sunday, Oct. 20.

### **STOP ACE CAR SERVICE ON WASHINGTON STREET**

As you probably know, we lost the battle to stop yet another public garage in the area on the Dover Garage site owned by Jerry Cunningham. The NYC Planning Commission unanimously supported a special permit even though public garages are illegal in our heavily polluted area. The Commission's action still needs approval from the City Council, but that may also be a tough one to win. And we have entered a new phase of battle when Ace Car & Limousine Service applied recently for a license to operate a "for-hire" limo service on Washington Street between Perry and West 11th. The owner of Ace Car is also Jerry Cunningham, and we reject any right of these people to utilize 11th, Washington or Perry for horn-blowing double-parked limousines. This matter will be heard before the full Community Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 17th at 7 PM in Our Lady of Pompeii School Auditorium, 240 Bleecker. We urge you to attend and oppose this license. It should be noted that Ace Limousine has already been using this site freely for at least six months for a "for-hire" service, which shows how they respect the need for a license and the local community. Stop dumping on the West Village in order to enrich politically connected creeps who have a community service rating of Zero with local residents. It is perhaps about time that the district attorney or the attorney general should investigate as to why Jerry Cunningham is so popular with elected officials and is thought to be a neighborhood destroyer by local residents. Fight back!

### **OPEN EDGE - A PEOPLE'S WEST SIDE WATERFRONT**

We are convinced that George Haikalis and AUTO-FREE NEW YORK have come up with a reasonable model of how our waterfront improvement should begin - an open edge with grass, paths and trees. A model of this plan is presently displayed in a window of the Archives Building. We have had slight questions about some of the design - such as it should be made quite clear that local streets are cut off from the new highway. We urge you to look at it. And this is no reflection on Mr. Haikalis, but we do wish that some of our elected officials were as equally keen about stopping public garage construction and an over-population of motor vehicles in our rare residential community as they are in creating an auto-free Central Park.

### **END OF THE YEAR PARTY CELEBRATION**

Every year we have a party to celebrate the fact that a body of loyal neighbors, led by our founder, Jane Jacobs, fended off the threat of community destruction in the form of urban renewal. This year the party will be held in St. John's on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 7:30 PM. We will have futher details in November. We are counting on our past President, Jimmy Shaw, being with us then.

We continue to keep the WVC Book Store, 702 Greenwich St. (at 10th) open on weekend afternoons from 1 or 2 PM until 5. We will not keep it open in cold winter weather. Thanks to John Johnson for his faithful help in the store.

## IMPROVEMENTS IN THE JANE STREET GARDEN

We recently entered into a contract to have the street opened and a water supply brought directly into the Jane Street Garden for \$3,995, a large part of which has been paid. We did this because no water supply was available on the garden side of the street. Street sweepers have torn hoses apart and most of our help is too close to senior citizenship to relish dragging hoses across the street. It is expected to raise the base annual cost of the garden to well over \$1,000 inasmuch as the City will meter our water use. But we thought it might also be a kindness to whoever is in charge of the garden over the 25 years of our lease. It was not an easy summer in any garden because of the intense heat, but we continue to feel very strongly that the citizenry in our community deserve such open spaces. When we did the St. Vincent's Garden 20 years ago, we recall that many people living in 8th or 9th Streets, 5th or 6th Avenues, told us that they regularly walked out of their way to pass by the garden on their way to work. It is a way of putting urban dwellers in touch with nature. We still have to have the meter installed, a pipe for connecting hoses and box the protect against freezing weather. And our next push will be to repair the sidewalk, but the cost there is simply terrible inasmuch as there is as much sidewalk as garden. For this autumn, two more roses are due to be placed in the rock garden area behind Jefferson Market Library: Madame Alfred Carriere and Betty Prior. And someday we hope to get back to the placing of historic plaques in which we were once involved.

## THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET

The Gansevoort Greenmarket has recently had a fish truck, a wine truck and a fresh grapejuice truck added to its Saturday morning display. The one thing that is missing is "Mr. Apple" Willie Tilson, who dropped out a few weeks ago when he was overcome with internal bleeding. If you are one of the many people who have asked about him, we herewith give you his address to send him "get well" greetings: Willie Tilson, "Mr. Apple Farm," RD 2, Box 58, Stone Ridge, NY 12484. There is a probability that next year the market will be moved to the first block of Gansevoort beside Seravalli Playground. And some of your other favorite people, the Xmas tree people, will arrive at the Jane Street Garden first week of December. The Gansevoort Greenmarket will close for the year on November 24, the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the following generous contributors for donations during the past month: Gregory N. Porto, Hazel James, Hilda V. Mayorga, Judith Seigel, Judy Bendewald, Colette Connor, Madalynne Reuter, Mervin Bendewald, Norman Kahn, Aaron M. Rubin, Matthew J. Madden, Hilda Hollyer and one anonymous donor. We would also like to acknowledge a gift of review copies from Knox Burger, and repeated gifts of books from Mildred Loftus; she has kept us supplied with quality paperback mysteries. We also wish to thank Bill Hooks, the writer, who is selling his house and moving back to North Carolina, for a mass of quality books and white elephants. As a curious note, we learned in speaking with Bill that he once lived in the same cottage in Rosemary Lane, Chapel Hill where we had lived while in graduate school. Small world! We must also thank Mervin Bendewald, Jessie McNab and Judy Bendewald for giant strides in pricing white elephants.

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane St.Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

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And please vote for the persons of your choice in the Tuesday, November 5th General Election. It is one way to participate in a democratic process.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"  
Meeting date: Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1991  
Place: St. John's Common Room  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXI, Nos.11-12

## THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

### CHRISTMAS TREES COMING

We expect our friends from Vermont to arrive the first week of December to sell Christmas trees on the Jane Street Garden sidewalk. We will be selling Christmas wreaths for \$12 each, sometimes from the garden, sometimes from our bookstore at 10th and Greenwich Sts. Call 243-0762 to place an order for a wreath.

### ANNUAL PARTY TO CELEBRATE SURVIVAL OF THE COMMUNITY

The by-laws of the West Village Committee require that a party be held every year to celebrate the survival of the Greenwich Village community following the defeat of the condemnation of the area west of Hudson Street to the Hudson River to the wreckers' ball back in the '50s. With this annual event we come to honor Jane Jacobs, who founded the West Village Committee, and other leaders such as Rachele Wall. Many of the loyalists from those early days are now gone but are still remembered on this occasion. But many are still with us - the O'Reillys from Charles Street, the Senbers from Horatio Street, the Segals from Jane Street, to mention a few - we can take joy in encountering them day by day, or reading their notes of greeting. This year's party is set for Wednesday, December 4 in St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Place, at 7:30 PM. A complete buffet supper will be served and the charge is \$10 per person. Call 243-0762 to reserve. Please let us know by Saturday, November 30, if you plan to attend. We need to calculate how many hams and turkeys and salads and pies and cakes to fix. We are counting on Ann Lye and Jim Shaw being with us, to give our younger members a chance to meet some of the activists from the past who helped to preserve the West Village community - the oldest historically and today the best of Greenwich Village.

### WE QUESTION THE INTENTIONS OF A WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ENTITY

Both the Governor and the Mayor have often spoken of the need for the creation of a development entity for the Manhattan Hudson River Waterfront, and they insist that the new highway must be in place before any improvements such as a walkway, bikeway or grassy strip along the very edge of the Hudson can even be considered. What we fear most is the creation of a dictatorial entity in the Hudson River Park Corporation like the Port Authority or Urban Development Corporation. The Governor's recent remarks about the need for new development in the City to recover the economy send chills of fear down our spine. If the waterfront is left alone to be developed only by nature, it will be a blessing for untold generations yet unborn. If it is destroyed by development it is gone forever. We are tired of seeing the same old formulas to rip down blocks and rebuild. If any European city used this sick formula of destroying and rebuilding to recover the sick economy, there would be no Rome, no Athens, no Paris, no London as we know them. We feel that the City and State have no excuse for not seeking a waiver on Westway funds owed to the Feds so that there could immediately be money to spend on turning our waterfront into an attractive open park. We urge you to write to both Mayor Dinkins and to Governor Mario Cuomo and demand no dictatorial waterfront development entity; and to demand a payback waiver on Westway funds. Governor's address: Executive Chamber, Albany, New York 12224 and Mayor David Dinkins' address: City Hall, New York, New York 10007

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_ General (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden \_\_\_\_ wreath  
\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit \_\_\_\_ party

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible



## **OPPOSE FEES FOR LANDMARKS PERMITS**

We feel very strongly that charging fees for landmarking permits is quite the wrong way to go. If you are charged \$1,000 for a landmark permit for your property, the money does not go to the Landmark Preservation Commission but into the general city fund. It is estimated that if such a law is passed by the Council, it would generate as little as \$300,000 per year - a pittance of the City's fiscal needs. It could generate increasing opposition to landmarking because it would add to the cost of preserving and improving landmarked properties. Landmarking is a major road to preservation, but it will fail if this legislation is approved. We urge you to read the enclosed statement from The Society for the Architecture of the City, and then sign and mail the enclosed post cards to Mayor Dinkins and Council Speaker Peter Vallone.

## **OF PUBLIC GARAGES AND HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS**

We think it strange that a city in deep financial straights would be so ready to pay nearly two million dollars for a property which is worth only a fraction of that amount. There is great suspicion that a deal has been cut with the politically-connected Cunningham family to give them a rubberstamp approval on a public garage at Charles and Hudson Streets, a license to park and double-park Ace limos for-hire on 11th, Perry and Washington Streets, and to enrich them with an out-of-line price for property near the foot of 10th and Christopher Sts. We are tired of deals plotted by elected officials, making a deal with a few people in Charles Street and pretending that they are dealing with a block association. We are weary of Chairman Richard L. Schaffer of the City Planning Commission looking bored as hell with the testimony, gazing heavenward and allowing his fingers to dance Swan Lake in front of his nose throughout a hearing. We saw this performance before in the hearing which gave permission for UPS to quadruple the size of their facility in western SoHo. This site is one of worst possible ones to house the homeless. The foot of 10th and Christopher Streets and the area around it is becoming overrun with social service properties just as the Lower East Side was overrun. We have the social services offered by St. Veronica's, AIDS shelters, etc. Two blocks away rests the prison ship, and the home for the retarded is on Morton Street. There are still drugs in this area and roving bands of noisy youths into the wee hours of the morning. There are three primary schools - PS 3, St. Luke's and the Community School. The City seems to be trying to turn this area into a slum. We think that a refuge for the homeless might be found elsewhere in the West Village, but not here. It is curious that of the three sites suggested in Manhattan, all are on the West Side and none are planned for the East Side. We urge our members to write objecting to a public garage at Charles and Hudson - to Borough President Ruth Messinger, Municipal Building, NYC 10007, to Mayor Dinkins and the Council President Peter Vallone.

## **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to thank the following members for generous donations during the past month: Dan Samuels, Jean Gould, Ruth Shaffer, Elizabeth Greenburg, Helen Hafner, Joseph and Bernice O'Reilly, Robert Tendler, Joan and Arthur Stoliar, Barbara Jaffe, Robert Harris, Janice R. Moore, Elizabeth M. Ehrenfeld, Jessie McNab, Robert W. Packer, Irene Lambert, Lillian Geltman, and Anonymous. In addition, we have discovered that we missed acknowledging donations from the following back in April: Laura Beer, Sheila Maroney, Dina Paisner, Eileen Kelly, William Gross, Joseph and Bernice O'Reilly, Arline Baxter, Lucy Kent, Robert Tendler, Jane Asche, Martha Randall Carson, and Anonymous. Our apologies for the oversight.

## **THANKS FOR HELPING WITH THE 2ND ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL**

A lot of credit for the great success of the 2nd Hudson Street Harvest Festival goes to Todd Berman and to Hazel James. We were pleased that so many Village groups responded to our request to join the fair as guests. Very special thanks are due to Arline Baxter, Bill Hooks and Al Auster for supplying us with a bounty of white elephants for our table. Judy Bendewald, Jessie McNab and Mervin Bendewald helped us price items, and on the day of the fair we had long hours of help from Karen Ginsberg, Jessie McNab, Al Auster, Eliza Bradley, John Johnson, Liz Shollenberger, Betty Rinckwitz, Sheila Maroney and Claudia Menza.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Jan. 28, 1992

Place: St. John's Parish Hall

224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm

Newsletter Volume XXXII, No. 1

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Meeting Agenda: MARCY BENSTOCK of the Clean Air Campaign will speak on the dangers of public development entities and the need for a protected Hudson River waterfront.

### **STOP THE HUDSON RIVER PARK CORPORATION**

While both the City and State stall on the creation of a grassy esplanade, a walkway and bikeway along the Hudson River waterfront, Governor Cuomo continues to push for the Hudson River Park Corporation, which has as its goal to develop the waterfront by platforms and floats in the water and along the water's edge. This corporation is proposed as a subsidiary of the Urban Development Corporation. New York is a State and City overrun by development entities answerable to almost nobody. Besides UDC there is the Port Authority, Public Development Authority and the Economic Development Corporation, the latter a recent creation of the City Council. The usual excuse for the creation of dictatorial authorities is that they are meant to pull us out of economic slump and depression. Tax abatements for the already wealthy were also supposed to be a key to economic recovery. A very great deal of the economic recession in our State and City may be laid at the door of uncontrolled development entities. Look at our State Bonds with the their low ratings, exceeded by only one other state. The economic benefits of development entities are a fiction. They are in very large part a scam to provide lush jobs for the friends and associates of persons holding high public office. There are already existing departments within the State and City structures capable of overseeing the creation of a waterside park. The Hudson is a magnificent river. The best legacy for the generations to come would be a landscaped waterfront devoid of high rise buildings. There could be money immediately available for such an open edge waterfront if the State were to apply for a payback waiver on Westway funds. We urge you to write to both Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, Albany, NY 12224 and to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, New York, NY 10007, and ask that they seek the payback waivers. Express your opposition to the creation of yet another development entity to redesign the Hudson River waterfront.

### **THE GREENWAY BILL IN ALBANY**

Before the end of 1991 there was a bill in both Assembly and Senate in Albany which died as the year ended. It may be revived with the New Year. It was advertized as a bill to protect the Hudson River waterfront, but it was not exactly that. It was specific in saying that the Hudson River waterfront in Manhattan was not to be protected from development. The full length of the river was to be protected upstate, except in such instances as when the State appoints an entity to carry out development. We can report that Assemblywoman Deborah Glick has consistently opposed the Greenway Bill. We urge you to thank her for her commonsense approach. We

also urge you to write to Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, 270 Broadway, NYC 10007, and the Governor Cuomo, Mayor Dinkins, and other legislators and urge them to oppose leaving the Manhattan waterfront open to developers. You can have a very great influence on the future of our city if you will only write the letters we request of you, and get your friends and neighbors to write.

**THE PRISON BARGE** The Prison Barge docked on the south side of Pier 40 has been emptied for rehab, the prisoners removed temporarily. We are told that the City has found the prison ships to be extremely costly (we told them it would be) and would like to find another solution - after spending millions of dollars. Now is probably the proper time to push the Mayor with letters to remove the prison ship from our waterfront.

**UNITED PARCEL LAWSUIT** The suit to prohibit UPS from quadrupling the size of their present delivery service down our twisted Village streets was heard Jan. 8, and then laid over with an extension. And there it sits for now.

**THE DOG RUN IN WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK** We are opposed to the Dog Run in Washington Square Park approved by Community Board 2. We fought a similar battle many years ago with Children Before Dogs and won. Where hundreds of dogs gather on soil in a concentrated space there are bound to be some health hazards - to a certain extent from virus, perhaps even more from worms and worm eggs. The claim that this all disappears into the ecosystem is not supported by studies conducted by the Federal health facility in Atlanta: concentrated feces become a hazard to other animals and to humans. If you have strong objections to this hazard, we suggest that you write to Commissioner Betsey Gotbaum, Department of Parks, The Arsenal, Central Park, NYC 10021.

**SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS** We wish to thank the following individuals for generous donations during the past month: Anna Marie Hanley, Jack Hanley, Karen Ginsberg, Alfred Eriksson, Gabriele Knecht, Jessie McNab, Arthur Bond, Arlene Nance, Elaine Schechter, Jean Gould, Jim Brennan, Fawne Berkun, Tim James, Katherine Detweiler, Jean Wardle, Mary and Joseph Conway, Arthur and Joan Stoliar, Liz Shollenberger, Bunny Gabel, Eileen Kelly, Evelyn Sgalardi, Bill Crawford, Mel Stevens, Cleopatra Pappas, Gloria Yanuch, Miriam Lee, Claudia Menza, Irene Connors, Shirley Wright, Eleanor St. Germain, Nancy Hoffman, Roz Newman, Joseph O'Reilly, Sheila and Michael Marantz, Ruth Dunn, Joan McAllister, Friends of 13th Street, David Maizer, William Blackmon Jr., Grace Sowerwine, Ann Lye, Otis Kidwell Burger, Susan L. Gelber, Jean Verral, George Dorris, Harrison Starr, Hazel James, Barbara Steinberg, Harrison Starr, Todd Berman, Larry Kardish, Arline Moriarty, Al McGrath, Kimberly Vaughn, and three anonymous donors.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane St.Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Feb. 24, 1992  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXII, No. 3

#### **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Meeting Agenda: *CARLA SARR, coordinator of The Village Environmental Coalition will speak on the need to expand recycling first before even considering incineration.*

#### **RECYCLING HISTORY**

Villagers were a part of one of the City's first successful neighborhood recycling groups, Lyda McKenzie's Village Recycling. Mrs. McKenzie used the money earned to plant street trees on Greenwich and Washington Streets as well as many cross streets. She understood, as others have begun to realize, that if recycling is to work an entire industry must be created to receive and restructure recycled goods. Plans for the end product are almost totally lacking in the half-hearted attempt at recycling begun by the city. The city should be grossing profits from recycling. Instead they seem to be almost ready to close the door on recycling. We urge you to address letters to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NY, NY 10007 urging him to push recycling first and incineration last.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY-WIDE GREENMARKETS**

The Greenmarket project is among the rare good things to happen in our city over the past few years. Wherever they are located, the markets become more than just a sale of fresh farm produce - they become a safe and friendly gathering place. As the Greenmarket in Union Square enhances that park, our Gansevoort Greenmarket on the edge of the Meat Market makes this area a safe and friendly place to be on Saturday mornings. When we first established the Gansevoort market, workers in the Meat Market came out to say: "We are glad to see the farmers here on Saturday, instead of the usual low life." Congratulations to Barry and Tony and all the others at Greenmarket headquarters for receiving the Rudy Bruner Award for Excellence in Urban Environment.

We hope to move the Gansevoort Market one block east, from the square created by Gansevoort and Little West 12th Streets to the first block of Gansevoort Street along the north side of Seravalli Playground. The recent opening of a public garage in the old square has shoved the market too far to the west, away from Hudson Street. We want to escape from the chicken vendor who pours the juice from dead fowl into the street, creating a revolting stench. Based on the Union Square experience, we feel the Greenmarket can help to upgrade Seravalli as a public space.

#### **AND SPEAKING OF PUBLIC SPACES**

The mild winter has permitted us to add 8 new roses to the Jane Street Garden, another evergreen and 6 roses to the Rock Garden area directly behind Jefferson Market Library, and we are preparing another stone-built planter to hold more roses. We are grateful for a new volunteer in the Jefferson Market garden, but we also need more volunteers to keep the Jane Street Garden open to the public. We hope for complete repair of the broken sidewalk around the Jane Street Garden by midsummer.

## BOOKSTORE RE-OPENS

The bookstore at Greenwich Street and 10th Street will soon be re-opening on warm spring weekend afternoons. We would welcome volunteers, especially strong young volunteers to carry tables and boxes of books at opening and closing times, as we are beginning to feel just a little old for all that.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We acknowledge with thanks generous recent contributions from the following persons: Elizabeth Bishop, Henry & Sylvia Mavis, Bill Eppes, Liz Shollenberger, Marvin & Marcia Schlaff, 41 Jane St. Owners Corp., Padraic Fisher, Richard Barnett, Hilda R. Hollyer, Jean Gould, Eleanor St. Germain, Richard Chandler, and one anonymous donor.

## STOP THE HUDSON RIVER PARK CORPORATION

The plan for creating a dictatorial development entity, the Hudson River Park Corporation, to clutter our waterfront with high rise monsters and other inappropriate projects for the trashing of our greatest amenity, is still alive and well in Albany. According to a letter from a deputy mayor, it is eagerly awaited at City Hall. We urge you to keep your letters of protest going to Gov. Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, Albany, NY 12224 and to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NY, NY 10007, with copies to Senator Fred Ohrenstein, 270 Broadway, NYC 10007, Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, 853 Broadway, NYC 10003, and to Manhattan Boro President Ruth Messinger, Municipal Bldg., NYC 10007. Object to the creation of yet another development entity intended to provide jobs and wealth for the friends of elected officials. And demand that our residential Village streets be disconnected from the 9A Highway. Without your support in writing letters, such causes are lost.

## PIER 40 AND THE FUTURE

The Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront is planning a forum on Wednesday, April 22, 1992, 7:45 PM, St. Luke's-in-the-Field school cafeteria to discuss what is to be done with Pier 40. A garage? A park? Condo City? Community facility? For information (212) 727-3238.

## \*\*\*\*\* PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ON APRIL 7TH

We strongly urge you to participate in the April 7th Presidential Primary and vote for the candidate of your choice.

\*\*\*\*\*

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane St. Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

Name

Address

Phone

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**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Meeting date: Tues., Feb. 25, 1992

Place: St. John's Parish Hall

224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm

Newsletter Volume XXXII, No. 2

*Meeting Agenda: MARCY BENSTOCK of the NYC Clean Air Campaign will again speak on the dangers of dictatorial public development agencies and the need to protect the Hudson River waterfront.*

**REDISTRICTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

The NY State Redistricting Task Force is currently planning new senatorial and assembly districts state-wide. Our first concern is always that the traditional boundaries of communities be respected. The new assembly district for Greenwich Village is bad enough but the proposed state senatorial district is outrageous. It cuts us off entirely from the Hudson River by placing West Street, the Meat Market and large portions of Chelsea and Clinton in Brooklyn's 25th Senatorial District. It places the loud voice for the fate of our waterfront in another borough. The Meat Market area is the center of the beginning of historical Greenwich. We would like to see it kept within the boundaries of our community, and we would like a native to represent us in Albany to speak against development of our waterfront - not a foreign agent from Brooklyn. We urge you to write to Deborah Levine, Co-Executive Director of the Task Force, 250 Broadway, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10007 and ask that our waterfront remain intact with Greenwich Village as well as our Meat Market in the redistricting of the State Legislature. and write not later than Monday, February 24.

**SUPPORT THE HIV AND AIDS THRIFT SHOP**

The Housing Works Thrift Shop, 594 Broadway, sells donated items to provide housing for homeless persons with HIV or AIDS. In addition to donated goods, they also need volunteers. Call (212) 966-0466 for information.

**WORLD WOMEN'S CONGRESS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET**

On Sunday, March 8, from 1 until 4 PM, the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) will hold a rally in Columbus Circle to point up the need for a cleaner environment. This is an organization with an international membership and the rally is open to men and children. Contributions are tax-deductible. Bella Abzug is the American co-chair. For information call (212) 759-7982.

**THANKS FOR HELP WITH THE ANNUAL PARTY**

It was a joy to have past WVC president Jim Shaw back from the West Coast, although we wished for a longer visit at our annual party back in December. The party, which celebrates the survival of the West Village from the threat of urban renewal back in the '50's, was one of the most successful on record. Arthur Bond, as usual held forth as major domo in the kitchen, while Jack Hanley, Tom Stokes and John Johnson supplied carting service, and a flotilla of helpers either supplied food or created order: Jean Wardle, Barbara Gillen, Eileen Bowser, Barbara Steinberg, Cynthia Brennan, Eliza Bradley and Jessie McNab. Tom Stokes had come all the way from Vermont to help, although he is frequently in the city because he is often working for a moving firm, Camel Moving in Chelsea, which is gaining a reputation as careful mover. We also wish to thank the following persons for generous financial support during the past month: Christabel Gough, Zachary and Margaret Snow, Robert and Margery Boyar, Katherine Detweiler, Stephen F. Temmer, Martha Randall Carson, Carol Wreszin, W. 4th St. Block Assn, Robert and Inea Engler, Lucia Vernarelli Hacker, Richard Crosland, Mildred Orlans, Anne M. Stout, Bernard and Harriet Lichtman, Mary Manning Brody, Etna M. Kelley, Daniel Samuels, David Bates, Ravelle Brickman and two anonymous donors. We also appreciate donations of fine collections of books from Mildred Loftus, Joan Siegel, Patricia Trainor and Ravelle Brickman.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Meeting date: Tues., April 28, 1992  
Place: St. John's Parrish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 PM  
Newsletter Volume XXXIII, No. 4

**Meeting Agenda:** CARLA SARR, coordinator of The Village Environmental Coalition will again be with us to make an additional appeal to bind our community together in the fight for recycling over incineration.

**STOP THE DICTATORIAL CONSTRUCTION ENTITY**

We are moving very fast toward a decision by the Governor to create a subsidiary of the Urban Development Corporation to develop our Hudson River waterfront, aided and abetted by Mayor Dinkins and Borough President Ruth Messinger. We don't need an entity beyond any citizen control building fake wetlands, high rise towers on shore or out in the river, or more unneeded office space. Once our waterfront is chopped up into private space, it is gone forever. An open water-side park is the greatest gift we could bestow on future generations. We urge you to continue letter writing to Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NY NY 10007, with copies to Borough President Ruth Messinger and Comptroller Liz Holtzman, Municipal Bldg., NY NY 10007, and remember that Ms. Holtzman is sympathetic with us on the issue.

**"NO" TO DOG RUNS IN PUBLIC PARKS**

We are absolutely opposed to the dog run in Washington Square Park since its on soil which cannot be cleansed and creates a health hazard for dogs as well as humans - especially small children. If your animal is not infected with toxocara or other worms, a site on soil where dozens of other dogs run and urinate and defecate, is a good place to pick up a number of diseases. Nobody picks up everything, there is always a smear left, and the invisible eggs of the toxocara worms are there waiting to be picked up by hand, by foot or blown by the wind. In addition, the trees in the dog run have been given a death sentence and will not tolerate the animal acids poured upon them daily. Because of the health hazards, dogs are banned in London's public parks, and reportedly by certain towns in New Jersey. In Iceland dogs are banned from all urban areas. The sound of 50 or 75 dogs barking in Washington Square is horrendous. We urge you to write to Community Board 2, 3 Washington Square Village, NYC 10012 and object to this misuse of our historic park, and we will shortly be asking you to sign petitions on the issue.

**SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to thank the following contributors for generous donations during the past month: Jacqueline Henderson, Margaret Albrecht, Eileen Kelly, Edward and Eudice Segal, Helen Hafner, Jean Gould, Eleanor St. Germain, Matthew and Patricia Madden, Silvia Sanza, Maxine Redding, Arline Baxter, Anna and Harvey Slatin, March Cavanaugh, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Dodelson, Dr. Norman Kahn, Hilda Hollyer, Sharon Edwards, Eliza Bradley, Joseph and Bernice O'Reilly, Henry Senber, Richard Chandler and two anonymous checks. We are grateful to Gaylord Hoftelizer for a gift of four splendid roses for the Jane Street Garden. And congratulations to Silvia Sanza upon the publication of her first book!

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane St.Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area \_\_\_\_\_ UPS Lawsuit

NAME

ADDRESS

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., May 26, 1992  
at St. John's Parish Hall,  
224 Waverly Place, 7:30 PM  
Newsletter Volume XXXIII, No. 5

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

**MEETING AGENDA:** Jim Brennan will speak on problems in Seravalli Playground; we will also deal with the UDC subsidiary development entity proposed by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Dinkins for placing commercial and residential structures on the Hudson River waterfront.

### **EXPRESS YOUR OUTRAGE OVER THE HUDSON WATERFRONT SCAM**

On May 18th the press quoted Governor Cuomo's concern over how the Port Authority spends its funds. On May 19th, Gary Deane and Tom Fox, political stooges of the Mayor and the Governor respectively, called two meetings, one for Manhattan Community Boards and the other allegedly for community civic groups to reveal a plan to create an Urban Development Corporation subsidiary to develop a strip of greenery and commercial and residential structures along the shore and out into the Hudson. No Greenwich Village civic group was invited - not the West Village Committee, not the Federation, not the Homeowners' Association, not a single block association. Among the "civic" groups invited were the Battery Park City Authority and the New York Building Congress. The new authority would rule on development from Battery Park City up to 59th Street. North of 59th Street would be Donald Trump territory. An open green waterfront is the richest amenity we could bestow upon future generations, but once it is cluttered with hotels, condos, floating restaurants, etc., it is gone forever. Be angry! Express your rage! We urge you to express your anger to Governor Mario Cuomo, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NYC 10007. Ask them Where has democracy gone in this City and State? We do not know of a single person in Greenwich Village who willingly accepts building on our shoreline. We ask that you contact your Assembly member and Senate member in Albany and ask them to work with other members to halt this outrageous plan. Deborah Glick has been good on the issue, but ask her to hold firm. Calls or letters to Senator Fred Ohrenstein are in order - 270 Broadway - 417-5531; there is a strong feeling among many people that he has been weak on the issue. It is also essential that you write or call Comptroller Liz Holtzman, Municipal Building, and ask her to kill the proposal. We believe that she has this power under an agreement signed by her predecessor, Jay Golden, with the Governor and Mayor. And if you know up-State legislators, have family contact them and ask that they join with Glick, Dick Gottfried, and others to defeat this proposal in the State Legislature. Be angry! And act now!

### **PLEASE NOTE GREENMARKET CHANGE**

The new site for the Gansevoort Greenmarket will be on the first block of Gansevoort Street along the north side of Seravalli Playground. The market opens Saturday, June 20.

### **STOP ROCKROSE - SUPPORT THE DANCE PARTY BENEFIT**

West Villagers for Responsible Development have taken on a worthy cause in fighting the Rockrose plan to construct two oversized apartment buildings on the site of the demolished HiLine - they would tower over the Meat Market, Horatio, Jane and W. 12th Sts., and would be entirely inappropriate to this area so near the river's edge. They are planning a dance party benefit set for Friday, May 29th, 9PM until Midnight, at Industria, 775 Washington Street (at 12th), cash bar. Reservations may be made in advance at \$10 per person, \$12 at the door. Advance payments should be payable to the Federation to Preserve the Waterfront, but marked for the benefit of West Villagers for Responsible Development. Mail to WVRD, 380 West 12th Street. #2C, NYC 10014. For information call 645-3914. We strongly urge you to support this effort; send a contribution even if you cannot get to the dance.

### **THAT GREENWICH VILLAGE MAP**

Incentra International has produced a new map of Greenwich Village which you may have seen already. It includes the waterfront, the East, West and South Village. Every house, lot and street is clearly shown. It is a good reference for real estate and could be helpful as a tour guide. It measures 27" x 39" if you use it as a wall hanging. It had a pre-publication price of \$17.97 each, \$99.95 per dozen. Inquiries should be made to Incentra International, 55 Bethune St., NYC 10014, (212) 206-0007 evening or (212) 206-7010 workday.

### **THE COMMITTEE BOOKSTORE AND COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The West Village Committee Bookstore at 702 Greenwich Street is open on good weather days weekend afternoons from around 1 PM until 5 PM. We have recently experienced substantial thefts because of the lack of volunteers. Three cartons of murders mysteries were thrown into a red car which disappeared down 10th Street at high speed. We have seldom been open lately because of heavy rains, but we do need more help when we are open. We could also use some garden volunteers for weeding both by Jefferson Market Rock Garden and Jane Street.

### **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to thank the following contributors for generous donations during the past month: Zelda Levine, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jennings, Jeremy Smith, Eleanor Jackson, Alicia V. Wilder, Susan Richardson, Jessie McNab, Jane Jacobs, Margaret Albrecht, and two anonymous donors. With her contribution, Jane Jacobs enclosed a note fully crediting Rachele Wall and Ann Lye as being first in the fight to preserve our historic community leading to the founding of the West Village Committee.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., June 23, 1992  
at St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place, 7:30 PM  
Newsletter Volume XXXIII No. 6

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Agenda: Incineration - and the Waterfront

### **STOP INCINERATION**

Pressure is growing within City Hall to start the building of eight incinerators, the first of which would be on the Brooklyn Navy Yard site - a site which could drop deadly invisible particles across the Lower East Side and SoHo as well as Brooklyn. This is about as intelligent as the old idea to place an incinerator in Inwood where west winds could carry particles across the poorer sections of the Bronx. There must be some hope that poor folks will not care or will not fight back. First Deputy Mayor Norman Steisel has long been the champion of incinerators, as has the New York Building Congress. And, yes, there is money to be made down this path. But there is also another way: recycling.

We have seen the decline of enthusiasm for recycling in the present administration. Our West Village community, under the guidance of Lyda McKenzie, began active recycling more than 20 years ago. Today we believe that there is almost no waste product which cannot be recycled. The situation needs study, work and dedication. But it also needs letters to Mayor Dinkins at City Hall urging him to halt the thrust to build eight incinerators. And letters to your Council member to stop the incinerators in a City Council vote. Let's get a mass of letters and post cards off to City Hall this week and get back on the road to recycling! When we had an incinerator here in the West Village, we also had one of the highest cancer rates in the nation. The incineration device has not yet been invented that can guarantee a clean burn. Then there is the deadly ash to be disposed of later. Urge Mayor Dinkins to get back on the recycling track.

### **THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

The Gansevoort Greenmarket re-opens this year about three weeks later than usual, but we are delighted to greet it at last - the fresh breads, Montauk fish, live plants, and freshly cut vegetables are back. The Greenmarket is moving from its original site to one block east, to Gansevoort on the northern side of Seravalli Playground. One short hop. There are several reasons for this. A public garage opened in the original square shoving the market far to the west along the juncture of Greenwich Street and 9th Avenue. It became a not very visible venture. And one of the meat vendors on the square tended to pour fowl juice into the street which we could both see and smell. Some people felt the market could be more visible across the playground, and there was a definite feeling that a legitimate venture like the Greenmarket could improve the quality of life on Seravalli Playground.

The Gansevoort Greenmarket has decreased in size over the years due in part to the fact that many Villagers prefer the massive layout at Union Square. But in the first years we had a lot of customers coming by bus from the Upper West Side. We became a testing ground later to see what products would sell. If produce sold well at Gansevoort it was certain it would sell better at a larger market - but it hurt us to be the trial market. We started this market partly to accommodate the elderly who said they could not walk as far as Union Square. A lot of people from Eva Ettisch to Barbara Fisher and her son Thomas have devoted many hours to the Gansevoort Greenmarket. We hope that West Villagers will once again support it and all the efforts that go into it each year.

### **THE M11 BUS RETURNS**

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has agreed to try to schedule the return of the M11 bus to Abingdon Square possibly as soon as June 28. We collected several hundred signatures on this matter from locals, and at the meeting in the transit garage at W.15th Street this past week we asked a very logical question about whether MTA had ever considered routing the M11 around Abingdon Square Park, up 8th Avenue and west on 13th Street to avoid Sloan's unloading on Bethune and the narrow turn into Greenwich Street. We still think it is the best uncrowded solution which requires no yellow stripes on curb or street, and no loss of parking spaces. Locals can board the bus on the route down Hudson Street. As we went out into the hallway, our Democratic District Leader Arthur Strickler, caught me to say that he "would like to kill me" for mentioning an alternate route. I'll remember that.



## SAVE THE NAUMBURG BANDSHELL IN CENTRAL PARK

The push by the Central Park Conservancy and Commissioner Gotbaum to remove or destroy the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park is outrageous. The excuse given is that homeless take shelter under it. What a pity that the several hundred thousand dollars required to remove and replace it can't be spent on housing for the homeless. To protest this we suggest that you withhold contributions to city parks and gardens like the Brooklyn Botanic. And write to bad Betsy and let her know you are protesting the destruction of Naumburg by not giving this year.

## KEEP UP THE PROTESTS: STOP THE HUDSON RIVER PARK CONSERVANCY

The dense fog has not lifted from the proposals to create a dictatorial entity to "develop" our Hudson River waterfront. The Memorandum of Understanding gives the Conservancy the right to "review and coordinate City, State and public authority undertakings within the Property which affect the implementation of the Plan and to coordinate these undertakings with the City's plans and long-term land use decisions for the two-block corridor directly east of Route 9-A." It says the Conservancy cannot issue bonds, but a high official says that Urban Development Corporation could issue bonds for the Conservancy. The rules say that the Conservancy does not have absolute say on everything, but it also says that the rules can be changed on 30 days notice. The best thing on our side is the state law pushed through last year by Dick Gottfried limiting development into the water to existing piers, although we consider that there are possible loopholes even in that law. The best things to be done now are letters to the Governor and the Mayor protesting the lack of democracy on the issue. Write to Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman asking that she refuse to sign the paycheck of Westway money to the Feds. Press your elected officials in the State Legislature to support Assembly Bill #11918 and Senate bill 8620. This bill would kill the Hudson River Park Conservancy.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the following contributors for generous donations during the past month: Jack A. Weitzman, 71 Jane St. Owners Corp. (Irene Connors), Ruth Shaffer, Claudia Menza, Miriam Sarzin, Eleanor St. Germain, Alatheia Smit, Jack Taylor, Elizabeth Hicks, Steven and Susan Urkowitz and one anonymous donor. Thanks to Mildred Loftus for books and to Gray Peart's estate for books.

We are grateful to the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation for its award in recognition of the value of our newsletter to the West Village community.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

_____ General purposes (postage/printing)	_____ Jane Street Garden
_____ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area	_____ UPS Lawsuit

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Manhattan Island before the Dutch



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Newsletter Volume XXXIII Nos. 7-8  
No meeting July-August 1992

#### **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

#### **THE HOUSING WORKS THRIFT SHOP FINDS A HOME**

The Housing Works Thrift Shop, long in the planning to raise funds for housing homeless people with AIDS and HIV, has found a home in the ground floor of 136 West 18th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues). It opened on July 24 and its hours are 10 AM until 6 PM Monday through Saturday, closed on Sunday. It is an elegant little shop and we applaud its purpose. The manager urges folks to donate high quality items that you no longer have a use for. If you wish they can also provide a receipt for tax-deductible contributions. If you cannot deliver your contributions, Housing Works will pick up - but you must give them sufficient notice. So far they have furnished 25 apartments and provided clothing for 100 individuals. What can you give? Antiques, Art, Housewares, Designer Clothing, Books, Furniture, Jewelry, etc. They also need volunteers to help in the shop. We urge you to call (212) 366-0820 for further information.

#### **OUR ENDANGERED WATERFRONT**

Whenever the residents in Greenwich Village express the desire for an open space park along the historic Hudson River waterfront, the elected officials in the State and City, along with their appointed favorites, snarl back at us that to get what we want we must accept real estate development along and into the river in order to pay for the park. And they imply that the waterfront will remain a pig-sty, a whore's bed and a drug dungeon if this development is not carried out. Actually the folks who pushed for Westway twenty years ago put the waterfront in limbo; nobody else felt free to use the waterfront except the prostitutes and the drug dealers. The plan by Moses and Zeckendorf back in the '60's to knock down the West Village from Hudson Street to the Hudson River created some chaos and brought in some unwelcome visitors, but the later plan for the Lower Manhattan Expressway from the southwest Village across SoHo and Little Italy was a real trick turner. There was a period then when every building marked for demolition along Spring Street could boast a midtown prostitute in the entryway. Again officials wielding power placed neighborhoods in limbo and welcomed the lowest scum in New York to take up residence. Their perpetual plan for chasing them away is to carry out massive development. It is supposed to recover the City financially, even though it does not. But the banks love it for the interest on money lent. We have been told, for instance, that David Rockefeller was a shadow figure behind the plan to urban renew the West Village more than 30 years ago, and there are many people who are convinced that he was the unseen force behind Westway and yet again is behind the present drive for heavy development on the Hudson River waterfront. If this is so, it links us with the Upper West Side's battle to defeat Donald Trump's massive plan for high-rise development, for we are told that Chase Manhattan Bank is Trump's major source for borrowing money. We know that David Rockefeller was a major force behind Battery Park City, and it may be that he sees himself as a master planner for New York. He appears to think that the most effective way to achieve his goals is to appeal to receptive governors and mayors to create an independent entity to proceed with development schemes and ignore the public will. And so now we have the Hudson River Park Conservancy, a private dictatorship which is designed to ignore neighborhoods and the people who populate them. It is not a proud moment for either Governor Mario Cuomo or Mayor David Dinkins.

#### **NEED FOR TRAINED ELECTION POLL STAFF**

The Board of Elections is planning to introduce a new electronic system in the September 13 Primary and the November General Election. Training sessions will begin around August 17. If you have served as a polling officer before, you will still need training for the new system. There is a small financial reward for poll workers, but the best reason for doing it is as a civic duty. We will have brochures containing the application to train and work the polls at the West Village Bookstore, 702 Greenwich Street (at W. 10th), Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1 PM until 5 PM. And even if you don't work the polls, remember to vote in the primary for the person of your choice.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1992, 7:30 PM

Place: St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Pl.

Agenda: A representative of the City's Recycling Program  
will address us on the latest rules re recycling.

Newsletter Volume XXXIII No. 9

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

#### OUR ENDANGERED GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET

Early in September we had a phone call from Barry Benepe, the head of the Greenmarket Program, saying that he had a chance to share the space of the PS 41 playground on Greenwich Avenue with the Flea Market. He said that he planned to move our Gansevoort Greenmarket to that playground site. We prefer to keep Gansevoort where it is and consider it unfortunate that a playground that was created for children is given over by the school for commercial purposes. It causes one to wonder why a street fair to benefit PS 41 could not raise more money faster than the dribble it receives from a flea market and farmer's market combined over the period of a year. The resentment of the neighborhood surrounding the playground is very ingrained - trucks arrive and roll into the playground and are set up for business by 8 in the morning. It is not a quiet operation. It also places the playground itself in some danger to have trucks driven over it - in the early history of the playground there were many serious cave-ins. This PS 41 Playground should be considered a haven from drugs, booze and other teen-aged temptations common in this city for youngsters - not the site of a Greenmarket and a tacky Flea Market. This is outrageous with Jefferson Market and Balducci's just around the corner. The latest word we have is that Gansevoort will not be moved to the playground, but that when it closes for winter, our farmers may be reassigned to PS 41 or other sites "and they may not wish to return in the Spring." We still get customers from the Upper West Side, from the Bronx, Queens and even Staten Island. With more publicity we could have a larger market. We have put 12 years of labor and money into Gansevoort, only to be betrayed. We urge you to remain loyal to Gansevoort by shopping there, and complain to Ms. Lys McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Council on the Environment, 51 Chambers St., New York NY 10007 for the shoddy manner in which the West Village is being treated. We will discuss this at our meeting and listen to suggestions on how to fight this latest battle.

#### DEATH IN AUTUMN

We deeply regret the death of Emmanuel "Wally" Popolizio, attorney, housing boss for the City, past chair of Community Board 2, kind and generous soul who perhaps aided others when he didn't have too much himself. Our paths crossed in Summer recently in Bleecker Park where he tended to offer high praise for my work in the community, and I thought I had had enough praise from the Society, but he went on to say that he thought the great years of fighting for this community's survival came with the years of Rachele Wall's leadership, and he thanked me for working with her over many years. He could be tough in fighting drug-dealers, but he was basically a kind and gentle soul.

We are still shaken by the death of Congressman Ted Weiss on the Monday before the recent Primary Election. He undoubtedly never forgot his Hungarian beginnings in those fearful days of Hitler and the arrival of the Nazis to set up death camps. He would always listen to you on environmental and other community issue. He became an icon of the liberal line in the Congress, and did not mind standing alone on an issue. Just as he never forgot his past, so we should never quite forget Ted. He was unique. Somebody can be named to his seat in Congress, but he can never be replaced.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1992, 7:30 pm

Place: St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Pl.

Newsletter Volume XXXIII No. 10

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**Agenda:** 1) Report on the progress of our suit against the State and City, the Hudson River Park Conservancy. etc., about planned development along and into the Hudson River; 2) To consider whether to sponsor another subway art work, this one at 7th Avenue and West 12th Street.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**

The West Village Committee's annual Hudson Street Harvest Festival will be held this year on 8th Avenue from Bleecker Street to 14th. Hudson Street is off limits for street events due to reconstruction which may go on for the next two years. Our Harvest Festival is the largest of Village street fairs: there will be country music, dancing and ethnic foods. The Festival is a major source of income for the Committee. It helps to support various public improvement projects whether it be gardens or works of art. We need volunteers to man our table on Festival day. Our space will be beside the Jane Street Garden. There must be enough people so we can relieve each other during the day. Telephone 243-0762 to tell us what hours you can give. It is lots of fun. If you know of other nonprofit groups who would like a small space in the Festival, please let us know.

## **STOP CONSTRUCTION ALONG AND INTO THE HUDSON**

We live in a very dangerous time, with the political honchos hauling out nearly every discredited economic plan known to man. We are in a very serious recession, one that has been long coming, and the current dominant solution pushed by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Dinkins is to destroy the Hudson River waterfront with overdevelopment: a tear down and build up solution. It is a theory that is not out-of-step with President Bush's economic recovery theories. Tom Fox, the head of the Hudson River Park Conservancy, is running around from one Hudson River waterfront community to another offering state bond work money for developments extending into the river at the Battery Park City Boat School, the Chelsea piers and West Village piers, including sewage pipes and other contrivances. This must be stopped now! We urge you to call Assemblywoman Deborah Glick at 674-5153 and Senator Manfred Ohrenstein at 417-5531 and demand that such developments be stopped. They have veto power on this issue and they should be made to represent the people they serve. You should also attend the Community Board 2 meeting on Thursday, October 22, 7 PM, NYU Vanderbilt Hall, Room 110, 40 Washington Square South, and demand that they support residents in the West Village who are thoroughly opposed to any development into or along the Hudson. We must all learn to save ourselves, and not depend on somebody else to do the job for us.

## **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Christmas trees will be sold again this year beside the Jane Street Garden, by the same charming young Vermont couple. We will acquire wreaths from them and offer them for sale to our members. Specifics on price and availability will appear in the November Newsletter.

## THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET

The Gansevoort Greenmarket is scheduled to close for the winter on Saturday, November 21 - the weekend before Thanksgiving. However, some of the vendors have asked about continuing on into the Winter. We urge you to be faithful to Gansevoort if you want it continued next year. We still get people from Riverside Drive, from the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island and a steady flow from as far north as 24th Street. If you want to keep Gansevoort alive, support it.

## THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE BOOKSTORE

The West Village Committee bookstore at 702 Greenwich Street (at West 10th) is gradually turning into a quality shop of used and occasionally new books. We have it open, usually, from around 1 PM until 5 PM on Saturday and Sunday in warm weather (there is no heat in the building). It is considered a friendly establishment. Many people stop by just to chat, which is fine with us. The books are all donated by our members as they have been for many years. This autumn we have had some extraordinarily good collections from **Margot Luce, Evan and Carol Stoliar, Gabriele Knecht, Judy Bendewald, Nancy Hoffman, and Richard Barnett**, a past president of The West Village Committee. And of course there was recently another large collection of murder mystery paperbacks from **Mildred Loftus**, from her never-ending supply. But it is indeed fortunate to have a donor like Mrs. Loftus, because the paperback murder mystery section is probably the fastest moving category in the shop.

Incidentally, one of our authors, literary biographer **Jean Gould**, who underwent major surgery in St. Vincent's, is recovering nicely out in Ohio near her family. She wrote recently in very clear script that she was delighted to hear from so many good friends in the Village. Her present address is **Belmont Nursing Center, 28546 Starbright Boulevard, Perrysburg, Ohio 43351** (near Toledo). We are also part of her family and await the day she is able to return to Greenwich Village.

## OBIT

We deeply regret to record here the death of **Stephen F. Temmer**, Greenwich Street, following a lengthy illness. He was a brilliant audio and broadcast technician. Born in Vienna, he fled the Nazi threat with his family in 1939. In Vienna he had sung in the Vienna Boys Choir, and in his earlier years continued serious musical studies. He was known for his recordings of Piaf, Groucho Marx, Bing Crosby, Milton Berle, Jerry Lewis and other performing luminaries. He was also acclaimed for first recordings of the Metropolitan Opera productions. A genius. He also contributed generously to The West Village Committee.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the following persons for generous donations during the past month: **Stephen F. Temmer, Alfred Eriksson, Jessie McNab, Helen Hellman, Norman and Leonore Rosenfeld, Claire D. Tankel, Aura Levitas** and one anonymous donor.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

_____ General purposes (postage/printing)	_____ Jane Street Garden
_____ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area	_____ UPS Lawsuit

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting Date: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1992, 7:30 pm  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Pl.  
Newsletter Volume XXXIII No. 11-12

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**THE AGENDA:** We will plan the Annual Party for December 8th in St. John's Parish Hall, assigning tasks to volunteers for decorating and planning the menu. This newsletter will be the final notice given for the party.

### **THE ANNUAL PARTY TO CELEBRATE SURVIVAL**

The annual party to celebrate community survival is mandated by the by-laws, and will be held this year in St. John's Parish Hall at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 8th. In the late 1960s, a major part of the West Village was officially labelled a slum and plans were readied to tear down everything from Hudson Street to the Hudson River. Today it is probably the best part of Greenwich Village. A full sit-down dinner will be served at the party and we ask that you supply your own wine and share it with a neighbor. The charge per person is \$12, and you should let us know your intention to attend by Saturday, December 5th.

### **THANKS FOR HELP WITH THE ANNUAL HUDSON STREET HARVEST FESTIVAL**

We held our annual Hudson Street Harvest Festival on 8th Avenue with success because of DOT's continuing repairs on Hudson. Our stall was small this year, but we wish to thank Todd Berman and Hazel James for overall planning of the fair, and Jessie McNab, Karen Ginsberg, Ruth Dunn, John Johnson, Anne Tonachel, Eileen Bowser, and Betty Rinckwitz. We also thank Lucia Vernarelli for the donation of white elephants.

### **CHRISTMAS WREATHS**

Christmas wreaths decorated with a simple red bow will be sold again this year at \$10 each. Because of the constant thefts of such decorations around the holiday season we suggest that you place wreaths at second or third story levels, or do not hang them until Christmas Eve. This can be done easily by closing the window down on the sill on the cord or wire holding the wreath. Another way of not aiding the thefts is to avoid buying wreaths at cheap prices from unlikely-looking "merchants" sometimes found on 14th Street or 6th Avenue.

### **GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET OPEN UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER**

Support your local Greenmarket: bread, fish, baked goods, apples, preserves, etc., Saturday 8 AM to 2 PM, beside Seravalli Playground.

### **SUPPORT 'THE VILLAGER' AND HELP 'HOUSING WORKS'**

*The Villager*, the oldest weekly in Manhattan, has recently returned from Brooklyn to its home base. Such weeklies struggle to survive and very much need our support. The owners are now making a special offer on subscriptions. For a one-year \$18 subscription, they offer to send \$5 to a worthy charity; for a two-year \$34 order they will donate \$10. We ask that they donate to Housing Works Inc., 594 Broadway, NYC 10012. Send subscription and check with this WVC clipping to:

The Villager  
80 Eighth Avenue

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New York, New York 10011 Address \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST DONATIONS TO HOUSING WORKS INC., 594 BROADWAY, NYC 10012.



## **HELP STOP RIVERSIDE SOUTH PROJECT**

The Riverside South Project (also known as the Trump Project) is a vast monstrosity with 50, 40 and 30-story buildings near the edge of the Hudson. It promises much that it can never deliver. The waterside park promised is of no consequence if the plan succeeds.

This is not planning and not the way cities should be built. If we allow this, we are building against nature: there will be vast areas never again to be touched by the sun. The matter will soon be coming before the City Council, and we urge you to write to your Council representative whether Tom Duane, Kathryn Freed or another, and demand that they vote against Riverside South.

## **WE TESTIFY AGAINST ADDITIONAL POLICE PARKING**

We offered testimony at a recent Community Board hearing on the proposal to grant 42 more parking spaces for the private cars of police. They will want 25 more after the first of the year. It is one area in which we agree thoroughly with Mayor Dinkins. Police should be required to live in the City and experience the same hazards we all share. If they lived in the City and rode the subways, we would have safer subways. Instead they add to the jammed traffic paralyzing much of the city and add thousands of cars to pollute the air daily. Firemen are also heroes, but they do not ask for W. 10th, Charles, Perry, Greenwich and Bleecker Street to use as a parking lot. This situation is compounded by the efforts of Borough President Ruth Messinger and the City Planning Commission to turn much of the West Village into a parking lot for limos-for-hire. In all of our memory, we cannot think of a worse City Planning Commission. They do not know how to plan.

## **FINAL DECISION BY CB #2 ON DOG RUN IN WASHINGTON SQUARE**

Watch for notice of CB 2's Parks Committee to make their final decision on the dog run in Washington Square. Reason has not prevailed here so far. Spearheaded by a dictatorial Commissioner of Parks, who apparently thinks her medical knowledge is far superior to that of the Federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, don't expect reason or right to prevail.

## **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to acknowledge generous donations from the following persons during the past month: William A. Blackmon, Jr., John D. Long, Catherine Revland, Sylvia Delson, Barbara Cohen Meyers, Richard S. Kaye, Far West 10th Street Block Association, John Joseph Stanley, and two anonymous donors. We also acknowledge a very substantial donation to the Jane Street Garden from Walter Pete Petersen in memory of James Jessop, and fine book gifts from Mildred Loftus and Janice Moore.

I enclose a check for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual dinner (\$12 each)      \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas wreaths (\$10 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ donation to the West Village Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Name      Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues. Jan. 26, 1993  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 PM  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 1

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**THE AGENDA:** Marcy Benstock and Christabel Gough will join us for a panel discussion of the City's Waterfront Development Plan: platforming, pier supported structures, floating structures. Ms. Benstock will deal with environmental issues involved while Ms. Gough will speak on historic sites and landmark issues.

**THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE WATERFRONT PLAN**

First look at Battery Park City, a not very successful attempt at luxury housing on the waterfront, but look at it as the beginning of a wall around the City. Next comprehend the Riverside South plan, with 30, 40 and 50-story buildings edging a narrow riverside park, and think of it as a second Battery Park City, or extension of the planned wall around Manhattan. Think of the landfill for Battery Park City coming up the Hudson River shoreline, not as landfill, but as platforms to the end of the piers in the river and luxury housing built not just on Pier 40 but on other existing piers. And think of all manner of construction on the platforming. This is something of what the destructive City Planning Commission has in mind for all waterfront communities. The amount of empty luxury housing and office space is crippling the economy of the city. The healthiest communities in this country do not constantly tear down and rebuild, but reuse what exists, building anew only when necessary. Those who are driving this city to the gates of hell plan to expand our city into surrounding waters, without attending to the homeless, the ill, the insane. When budgets are cut back, the mentally ill are usually the first victims. You may have attended our annual party and had a good time. We urge you to attend our meeting on City plans for our river shoreline. Organization officers cannot fight City Hall alone. Listen to our experts and fight back!

**THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We acknowledge donations from the following: Joan Rosenfelt, the Fritches, Dan Samuels, Jean Wardle, Jessie McNab, the Stoliars, the Boyars, Ann Arlen, Maxine Redding, the Tonachels, the Grosses, Liz Shollenberger, Tim James, Jack Hanley, Shirley Wright, Batya Lewton, Whisky Dust (M. Bendewald), Joan McAllister, Grace Sowerwine, Roz Newman, Bunny Gabel, Margaret Snow, Roz Kramer, Nancy Hoffman, Nancy Steinke, Louise & Ron Miller, Harrison Starr, Jean Krampner, Elaine J. Schechter and David Maizer for a gift in memory of Dennis Helfend. We wish to thank those who have given large gifts of books: Patricia Madden, Bill & Ruth Gross, Cathy Revland, Art Gatti, Richard Kemmler and Bob McLoughlin. A number of people helped to make our annual party celebrating the survival of our community a great success this year: Barbara & Jack Gillen, Jack Hanley, Mel Stevens, Jean Wardle, Cindy Brennan, Bob Tendler, Eliza Bradley, Betty Rinckwitz, Christabel Gough and Anne Slatin. And above all, thanks to Arthur Bond for running a safe ship in the kitchen. We were all delighted to visit with Jim Shaw, past boss.

**SUPPORT THE COALITION FOR A LIVABLE WEST SIDE**

We owe the Upper West Side a great amount of support for aid in our fight against Westway many years ago. With Donald Trump's huge Riverside South project approved, ABC/Capital Cities is proposing 3 41-story residential towers from 64th to 65th St., Macklowe's planned tower at 60th-61st is approaching public hearing stage, the Mayflower site (61st to 62nd) is about to be sold and a 50-story plus hotel is planned for 66th-67th Streets and



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tuesday, Feb 23, 1993, 7:30 pm  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Pl.  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV No.2

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

**THE AGENDA:** Come prepared with stationery, envelopes, stamps and pens to write to Governor Cuomo objecting to the faulty draft payback waiver again filed with the Feds with regard to the \$80 million Westway funds. We will also write letters to Mayor Dinkins objecting to the Department of City Planning's zoning text changes/zoning map changes in connection with its Waterfront Plan. The two items are related. We have asked Christabel Gough and Marie Dormuth to speak on the flaws in both City and State plans and to give you help with your letters.

## **THE WATERFRONT AND ZONING TEXT CHANGES**

In the early years of the Westway battle, the State used \$80 million of Federal funds to purchase West Street, the waterfront, the piers and the underwater land from Chambers to 35th Street. Westway was not built, but the understanding with the Feds was that payback was unnecessary if the waterfront was kept unencumbered with development, offering scenic views, bikeway, walkway, etc. In 1990 the State made a payback waiver application which was turned down by the Feds because of the vague information offered by the State on what specific waterfront areas were to be used for. It was in fact turned down because of proposed development on the waterfront. It is as though even then top dogs in State government could not let go of the hope that our Hudson River waterfront would salvage a debt-ridden City and State when turned over to leading development moguls.

The State has now prepared a second application for a payback waiver, indicating that 30% of the waterfront in question would be used for recreation, condo housing on Pier 40, a hotel, offices and shipping. They claim this is necessary to pay for the waterfront park, and so they propose paying back 30% of the \$80 million. It is instead an excuse to hand over the magnificent Hudson River waterfront to opportunists.

The City is doing its part to accommodate this scheme. They are proposing major zoning changes on the waterfront, which could obliterate low-rise manufacturing zoning in the West Village and elsewhere, and lead to freeing up waterfront blocks within 800 feet of the shoreline for major development. There are also provisions for development on piers and platforms up to 15 stories, or more for certain uses. Many believe that the 50-story Riverside South proposal is part of the wall planned to run from Battery Park City north along the Hudson. In the new waterfront zoning text we see that every 600 feet (or every three blocks) there is a plan for a "visual corridor" where one may look down the street to the water. There are some height limits in the plan, but they are totally inadequate for a historic neighborhood like ours. We heard one person excuse the trend to killing small businesses by claiming that manufacturing and a lot of other small enterprises do not belong in New York City anymore - that we are to become a vast bedroom community of the well-to-do. In fact, if we drive out small business, manufacturing and other blue-collar jobs we will have moved a long way toward destroying our city. It would become the most dangerous city in the nation, populated only by the well-to-do and the desperately impoverished. We urge you to write to Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chambers, Albany, NY 12224 and urge him to submit a good faith application. Why borrow \$80 million to mess up the Hudson River waterfront? If the funds were used wisely and honestly to enhance the waterfront, we wouldn't have to pay back. Write to



Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, New York NY 10007 and object to the insane waterfront rezoning pushed by the Department of City Planning. They have lost their way. The Department and the Commission simply approve whatever is suggested by a developer. It seems that Pier 40 is the approved pier for luxury housing, but their convoluted language does not rule out the use of other piers for development. They have abandoned the Cathedral Plan, and no longer give consideration to air, sunlight or wind currents. Replacing most of the Commission, starting with Commissioner Richard Schaffer, could be a great move toward some real planning and consideration of the will of the people.

#### **JEAN GOULD**

On the evening of February 8, Jean Gould died quietly in her sleep in Perrysburg, Ohio. She was 83. Her biographies of Frost, Amy Lowell, Millay and of the artist Winslow Homer are well-known. Robert Frost had been her college professor; for many persons her biographies were a close link to the celebrated and richly creative Greenwich Village of the first two decades of this century.

#### **OUR PUBLIC GARDENS**

We are planning several changes in both the Jane Street Garden and in the rock garden area behind the Jefferson Market Library. First, a sitting arbor will be installed over the path between the Chinese holly and the building along 8th Avenue. A number of arches will be placed in both gardens to help maintain the roses, and more roses will be added to the design. If you would like to volunteer, speak up. We need people in good weather just to sit in Jane Street with the gate unlocked - read a book or meditate - so that the public may enter the garden.

#### **THANKS FOR MAKING A CROWD LAST MONTH**

We were pleased to see a crowd of people out for the January meeting and we hope a large group will come to the next meeting. One or two people cannot win battles. A roomful can.

#### **WE HELPED TO WIN ONE: THE NAUMBURG BANDSHELL**

We are delighted by the results of the second court victory which prevents the Parks Department from demolishing the landmark Naumburg Bandshell. Much credit goes to Christopher London but we also contributed to the effort to save Naumburg.

#### **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We acknowledge donations from the following: George Dorris, Jean and Herb Krampner, George D. Harris Jr., Robert and Inea Engler, Robert C. Waleski, Mildred Loftus, Robert J. McLoughlin, Joseph and Bernice O'Reilly, Alice La Prella, Carol Wreszin, West 4th Street Block Association, Doris B. Nash, and Edward and Eudice Segal. We cannot emphasize too much how important such donations are, for although we sell books on weekend afternoons in good weather, the bulk of our working capital comes from membership donations.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

_____ General purposes (postage/printing)	_____ Jane Street Garden
_____ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area	_____ UPS Lawsuit

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting Date: canceled  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV No.3

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

### **MARCH MEETING CANCELED**

We are canceling our regular monthly meeting. Instead, we ask that massive numbers of our membership attend a coalition meeting fighting the Ten-Year Capital Strategy Plan, the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, massive rezoning, etc., set for Thursday, April 8, place and hour yet to be decided. A special mailing will go out on this. We urge opponents of these disastrous plans to attend and be heard and strike back at the manipulators, the compromisers, the power builders - whether Richard Schaffer, Ruth Messinger, Kathryn Freed or Barbara Fife. Please come.

### **TESTIMONIES FOR OUR CITY**

We have in the recent past testified before the City Council Landmarks Committee asking for landmark designation for the Tribeca South, East and North areas, and testified before the City Planning Commission against the flawed Ten-Year Capital Strategy Plan (including statements against the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, zoning changes, etc.). We hope to maintain our ties to uptown's Livable West Side group, Tribeca, the Riverwalk battlers, and other groups to force this city to develop a sane approach to the present and to the future.

### **PLANNING DISASTER**

The entire Ten-Year Capital Strategy has few merits. It proposes adding an enormous debt load to the existing one in order to revive private development. We find it unlikely that this strategy will lead to a rainbow ten years down the line. The Planning Commission appears to be planning to approve the financial strategy before passing on waterfront zoning text and map changes, a sort of cart-before-the-horse approach. While huge sums are proposed for site preparation for private, market-rate, residential and other real-estate development on platforms and on piers extending out from the waterfront, it would appear that funding for social services, public transportation, sanitation and other necessities will be reduced. We do not see that the Strategy adequately concerns itself with the directives spelled out in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. In a city and state already deeply in debt, additional borrowing to benefit a handful of megadevelopers, has questionable merit.

In addition, it is a dangerous move to fund the creation of two more dictatorial authorities, the Economic Development Corporation and the Municipal Water Finance Authority to disburse funds and implement development on the waterfront, with water and sewer infrastructure. It is a plan to ignore any meaningful public participation and put the future of the city in the hands of the minions of those holding high office in both the city and the state.

Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer has produced an extremely intelligent critique of the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan in which he expresses his fears of "dumping on the Bronx." However, in asking that shipping be revived in Lower Manhattan, we think he should look again at

what has happened to Lower Manhattan in the past 40 years when shipping has been allowed and even encouraged to escape to Jersey, to Philadelphia and Baltimore. We still defended shipping revival in Lower Manhattan until about 10 years ago when it became apparent that high rise development near the shore was having its own negative impact. The present proposal for a residential 14-story wall along the shore from Battery Park City to 59th Street would seem to wear thin any call for a return to shipping.

The proposed zoning changes on the waterfront could obliterate low-rise manufacturing zones and lead to a freeing-up of waterfront blocks within 800 feet of the shoreline for major development, as well as provision for development on piers and platforms up to 14 stories - or more - for certain uses. In the new zoning text they plan a viewing corridor every 600 feet or every three blocks where one may look down the street and see water. There are some height limits but they are totally inadequate for a historic community like Greenwich Village. There is no concern for saving or enhancing historic sites. If we drive out small business, manufacturing and other blue collar jobs, we will have moved a long way toward destroying our city. Air, light and wind currents are no longer considered in planning development. We do have a reason for deep concern - eventually we will pay for the mistakes proposed in these flawed documents. Let us put the blame where it belongs - on Richard Schaffer, chair of the City Planning Commission. Attend the meeting on April 8 and plan to speak out - stomp your feet and shout! We've had enough.

Let us not only protect our waterfront, but attack the hideous Riverside South plan on the Upper West Side as well. Together we may achieve a miracle.

#### **ETNA M. KELLEY HONORED**

Etna M. Kelley, long a Villager on upper Hudson Street until she moved downtown a few years, has been missed during these past years. On March 18 the Museum of American Financial History held a reception to honor Ms. Kelley "for her contributions to business history." The honor was especially intended for a unique volume compiled by Ms. Kelley, *The Business Founding Date Directory*, listing more than 9,000 firms founded in America from 1689 to 1915. Congratulations, Ms. Kelley!

#### **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We acknowledge donations from the following: Verna Small, Frank and Gloria Jennings, William D. Eppes, Ann Arlen, Norman and Leonore Rosenfeld, Richard Barnett, March A. Cavanaugh, the Tribeca Community Association, Otis Kidwell Burger, Lucy Reitzfeld, Arline B. Baxter, Doris Prada, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lichtman, Patricia Buzzuro, Claudia Menza and two anonymous gifts. Such donations help us to maintain our public gardens, and we hope will enable us to take our plan for marking historic Village sites off the shelf and move ahead with it. We appreciate your support.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

**Meeting date: Tues., Apr. 27, 1993**

**Place: St. John's Parish Hall**

**224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm**

**Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 4**

- Agenda:** 1) Planning the Fight Against the Waterfront Zoning Text  
2) Presentation on Placing the Distribution Shaft Site for the Third Water Tunnel.

**STOP THE WATERFRONT ZONING CHANGES - ACT NOW!**

Some career-building hacks in the City Planning Department have come up with a Waterfront Zoning Text which would permit a solid line of fifteen-story buildings at the water's edge in all 578 coastal miles of the five boroughs. In a separate Industrial Study, it would forbid all low-rise manufacturing zoning as unsuitable for the city. If the Zoning Text is approved on May 11, all community review would be obliterated, another example of the trend toward undemocratic processes in the city government. These city studies pay glowing tribute to Robert Moses and seem to apologize that we stopped his plan to mutilate the West Village. Although the Zoning Text would apply to every coastal mile in the five boroughs, there is a suspicion that the Village waterfront is the Crown Jewel of future waterfront planning. The Village is already crowded with restaurants and tourist attractions; an overbuilt, commercialized waterfront could only add to the noisy crowds passing through our streets at 3 and 4 A.M. Do not expect help from the Planning Commission. Chairman Richard Schaffer (known as "Sleepy") is probably the worst chair of the worst City Planning Commission on record. Do not expect help from Borough President Ruth Messinger. She voted for the 30/40/50 story Trump buildings at Riverside South, which are to be the headstone of the fifteen-story buildings to line the Hudson from Battery Park City to 59th Street. We urge you to write to Mayor David Dinkins today and demand that he pull the Waterfront Zoning Text from consideration before it gets to the City Council and is routinely approved as law. Be angry about it, vent your feelings! We are planning a demonstration at City Hall very soon to let the world know we have had enough of the garbage dished out by this administration. For the most part, dire problems have not been solved. New ones have been created. Send copies of your letter to Borough President Ruth Messinger, to Chairman Richard Schaffer at City Planning, City Council President, Andrew Stein, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Councilman Tom Duane, Councilwoman Kathryn Freed, Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, and to Governor Mario Cuomo.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE JANE STREET GARDEN**

There is a need to keep the Jane Street Garden open to the public in good weather so that neighbors can enter and enjoy. We need volunteers to open, sit with the garden, and to be relieved by other volunteers every couple hours. It can be pleasant and cool under the apple tree shade reading a book or talking with friends.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting date: Tues., May 25, 1993  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 5

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

### **SAVE THE WATERFRONT! STOP THE ZONING CHANGES**

There is a devious plot brewing among the powerful who run this city to destroy the low-rise waterfront zoning and to replace it with high-rise structures, some as high as 35 stories at the water's edge. The proposal would also effect the area as much as 400 feet back from the shore - or in the case of Greenwich Village, as far back as Hudson Street. The study speaks of the need for drive-in shopping malls, K-Marts, etc., and specifically suggests they would be suitable in the Village printing area and in the Meat Market area. The excuse for allowing high-rise construction along (and into) the waterfront of the five boroughs, according to Planning Commission Chair Richard Schaffer, is that many large cities across the country are doing it. But we see no reason to follow the mistakes of San Francisco and other major cities. The sea shore belongs to the public. The career-building hacks in the City Planning Department and in Boro President Ruth Messinger's office who wrote and who are pushing this appalling plan, offer high praise for Robert Moses, the greatest super-highway builder and community destroyer of this century. One begins to feel that a close relationship is forming between mega-developers and persons in high office. Only Borough President Fernando Ferrer of the Bronx has written an intelligent critique of the plan. At the initial public hearing with CPC on May 12, there were denials that anything is planned in the Village except for high-rise condos on Pier 40. But, in fact, if the Zoning Text is approved as law, there is nothing to stop developers building as they want along the shore and into the water. We do not need another half-million people on this island flushing another half-million toilets and dishwashers daily. We need to solve existing problems, not to create new ones. We need more letters denouncing the plan to Mayor David Dinkins, City Hall, NYC 10007, to Planning Commissioner Richard Schaffer, CPC, 22 Reade Street, NYC 10007, and to Borough President Ruth Messinger, Municipal Building, NYC 10007. We also urge you to attend the next meeting of the Planning Commission - on May 26, NY Telephone Co. Bldg., 101 Willoughby St. (entrance on Bridge St.) a.k.a. 7 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn at 10 AM. Those who spoke on May 12 will not be allowed to speak again. There will be additional hearings as follows: Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, The Bronx, June 9, 10 AM; Queens Boro President's Office, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, June 23, 10 AM; Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 1000 Richmond Terrace, S.I., July 7, 12 Noon, and Adam Clayton Powell State Office Bldg., 163 W. 125th St., Manhattan, July 21, 12 Noon. It is extremely important that you not only write letters, but attend and speak at least one of these hearings. Many of you will recognize that the outlines of this battle are similar to a battle with Zeckendorf and Robert Moses 35 years ago. Won't you help us win this one too?

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS  
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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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Meeting date: Tues., June 22, 1993  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 6

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 9-A HIGHWAY PLAN**

Public hearing dates for have been set on the designs for the new Route 9-A highway project to be held at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Haft Auditorium, 227 West 27 St.: June 22 (1 TO 10 PM), 23 (1 - 5 PM & 6:30 - 10 PM) and 24 (8 AM - 12 Noon). Because of the late distribution of materials to interested groups, we have requested an extension of the time for hearings. The project study took seven years and produced a mountain of material to be read. We would have liked the hearings laid over until October. Our request has been refused, but the State DOT/Route 9A staff have agreed to receive written testimony into October. Our membership meeting on the 22nd will go on as scheduled, and we will have our own experts on hand to review the written material so that you may testify sensibly on June 23 or 24. Our most important demand should be to have all Village streets disconnected from the 9A road. We believe that the newly proposed zoning for the waterfront is related directly to the proposed highway. Please attend our meeting to get all the information so that we may make the best choice for the western perimeter of our community.

### **PUSH AGAIN AGAINST THE NEW WATERFRONT ZONING**

Please continue to write to Mayor Dinkins and to Borough President Ruth Messinger objecting to the new zoning proposed for the waterfront permitting construction up to 35 stories. And get your friends to write. These letters alone may save us.

### **STOP THE INSANE TRAFFIC MESS IN LOWER MANHATTAN**

On Thurs., June 17, 4 PM, the Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority will hold a public hearing regarding the one-way toll on the Verrazano Bridge which diverts a tremendous amount of truck and automobile traffic seeking a no-toll exit from the city by way of Manhattan. The hearing is to be held in PS 234, 292 Greenwich St. (at Chambers). The impact of this traffic is quite severe in Chinatown and SoHo and is felt as well in the West Village.

### **A SHOPPING MALL ON HUDSON STREET?**

To compensate in part for the losses incurred by Hudson Street merchants during the years-long digging and redigging up of the street and repaving, it has been proposed that stores be allowed to make extra money by creating a 3-month pedestrian shopping mall. We sympathize with the losses felt by these small shops, but insist that the diverted Hudson Street traffic be moved to West Street and not to narrow, residential Greenwich Street. We would also like to see some limitation on hours when the mall is open for business so that it does not become a three-month street fair open from dawn until four in the morning with the babble of voices rising to sleeping heads above.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR THE JANE STREET GARDEN**

We need volunteers to sit with the Jane Street Garden on weekends to allow the public in. But those who do volunteer should take care to lock the gate upon leaving. On a recent Saturday morning we found the chain locked to the gate but not to the fence.

### **SUPPORT THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

If you want the Gansevoort Greenmarket to continue to improve, we ask that you support it. We started with 3 trucks two weeks ago, 5 trucks one week ago, and have the promise of 8 trucks on the 19th. Come and buy fresh produce.

### **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to thank the following for generous donations during the past month: Joseph and Bernice O'Reilly, Jane Jacobs, Patricia Ladew, Leila Mustachi, Sonya Staff Foundation, Inc., Helen Hafner, Anna Shapiro, Margaret Albrecht, Mary Gibbons and one anonymous gift. We also acknowledge fine gifts of books for resale from Helen Hellman, Dolores Vanderpol and Mildred Loftus.

Contributions to the West Village Committee are tax-deductible.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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No meeting during July-August 1993  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 7-8

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0782

### **LOCAL DUPLICITY: ZONING CHANGES AND DESTRUCTION OF THE WATERFRONT**

The current battle over zoning and preservation of the historic waterfront started 25 years ago when the Westway project was first proposed. It contained a highway, but it also contained structural development out into the Hudson River. Mario Cuomo was then Secretary of State in Albany and he was one of the loudest supporters of the project. Within the City there was rejoicing that a major shipping trade had abandoned Manhattan piers and moved to New Jersey, Baltimore, and other far and near places. Some people thought that a waterfront of expensive real estate offered more intrinsic value than finger piers. There were demonstrations by construction unions at City Hall Park shouting "We built this city, we'll tear it down!" Then many years later Westway was defeated.

What has emerged since is an attempt by Governor Cuomo to fulfill his dream and build Westway II. He has put the Urban Development Corporation, a dictatorial development entity, in charge of the Hudson River waterfront, and created a godchild of UDC, the Hudson River Park Conservancy, to develop the waterfront over the will of the people who live along the Hudson. In the meantime some of the projects developed by dictatorial entities such as Battery Park City have now become construction authorities themselves, and in a recent item in *The Villager* an official there spoke of the value of continuing Battery Park City north along the Hudson shoreline. But the most important recent move has been the emergence of the new Waterfront Zoning Text from the NYC Planning Commission which would create drastic zoning changes along the shore of all five boroughs, permitting structures on platforms in the water up to at least 35 stories. Chairman Richard Schaffer, at City Planning is one of the biggest disasters in living memory. He is known as "Sleepy" because of his tendency to nod off during hearings.

Greenwich Village has an excellent 197A plan for its waterfront which the City should be bound by law to consider, but they have not given it a second thought. City Planning, Mayor Dinkins and Ruth Messinger have all acted as though they know better what we want than we do. We have pressured the State Legislature to kill the Hudson River Park Conservancy, and have been successful in one house. We will work on the Senate next session. But then there is a bill to create the Greenway Conservancy, with similar powers as HRPC, and this is pushed by Senator Franz Leichter and others. We may well part company with friends on this issue.

We believe that the State plan for high rise condos on Pier 40 is a part of the same plan set forth in the City's Waterfront Zoning Text changes, a text so cluttered with changes that even a lot of folks at City Planning are not aware of what changed yesterday and what will change tomorrow. It is now largely a question of whether mob-influenced construction unions will rule and destroy this city, or if there is a small chance that reason may yet prevail. No sane Planning Commission would attempt to plan for the waterfront of the entire city in one sweeping study. The entire plan should be dropped before they do real damage.

We urge you to write today to your City Council representative demanding that the entire Waterfront Zoning Text be abandoned. City Council members may be addressed at City Hall, New York, N.Y. 10007. It may be that you have already spoken to him or to her, but a bundle of letters is power in their hands. We would also urge letters to Mayor David Dinkins at City Hall, New York, N.Y. 10007 and tell him to knock on "Sleepy" Schaffer's door and tell him to take his Waterfront Zoning Text and recycle it.

It is urgent that you write today. CPC will vote in mid-August.

### **TRESPASSING IN THE JANE STREET GARDEN**

On a recent recycling morning we discovered that the Jane Street Garden had been the victim of trespassers during the night. They had untied sheets of cardboard boxes and spread them out for sleeping along the 8th Avenue fence and behind the Chinese holly. A number of dahlias and funkias were smashed flat and broken off. A number of the homeless who come for coffee at the nearby mission have shown an unusual interest in breaking off plants and flowers in the garden. If in the future you see anybody in the garden after 11 PM, call the 6th Precinct or us. We should not have to tolerate such damage.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Sept. 28, 1993  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 9

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 248-0782

**Agenda:** A session of writing letters opposing zoning changes on the waterfront to permit and encourage high-rise development. We are long past the Middle Ages and have no need for a walled city. If there is time we will also write letters regarding our demands for the new highway along the waterfront.

#### **WEST VILLAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL FAIR ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17**

The West Village Committee's Annual Harvest Festival Street Fair is set for Sunday, October 17 on the strip of 8th Avenue from Abingdon Square to 14th Street. Our table will be beside the Jane Street Garden which we maintain. We are inviting environmental and historic preservation groups to join us on the site, as well as elected officials who have backed our issues steadfastly, including Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Councilmember Tom Duane, Assemblymember Deborah Glick and Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman. If you have white elephants to be sold, bring them the day of the Fair and they will be priced and displayed. Join us in the fun.

#### **THE WATERFRONT ZONING TEXT**

The execrable Waterfront Zoning Text, allowing 40-story buildings along New York's shorelines and 15-story structures in the water, has made its way through the toils of the City Planning Commission where it passed, to the City Council where it is to be voted on in early October. It can still be stopped. Write to Antonio Pagan and Kathryn Freed if you're in their districts; ask your friends in other districts to contact their Council members likewise, or call the Council office if it's easier. They can all be reached at City Hall, NY 10007, or through 788-7100. The zoning will allow superstores and residential development in industrial areas (costing jobs, gutting local small businesses, increasing auto traffic) and promote tremendous encroachments on public lands that give us access to sunlight, air and water. Don't let the 5% of our shores currently devoted to low-density housing become 95% devoted to high-density high-priced towers walling us in.

We enclose our own testimony before the City Council on the Zoning issue to help you formulate your own letter. But it is essential that you support our position. A dozen people testifying do not have the clout of hundreds. Please help.

#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JACK HANLEY**

A memorial service will be held in St. Veronica's Church, Saturday, Sept. 25 at 1 P.M. Jack was a member of one of the oldest Irish families in the West Village. He was a gentle, joyous and kindly man who helped us time and again. He was a victim of AIDS.

# SAVE THE CLEAN WATER ACT - AND SAVE THE WORLD

## Concern for CWA

ONE OF THE BEST ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS ever enacted to protect the integrity of aquatic habitat is likely to be seriously weakened unless individual citizens, along with environmental and other groups, quickly oppose harmful Clear Water Act (CWA) amendments now being considered in Washington.

Since the early 1970s, Section 404 of the CWA and EPA's implementation of 404(b)(1) regulations have provided a fine legal framework for protecting the physical and biological integrity of rivers, wetlands and coastal waters. The fundamental Federal protection is in jeopardy unless we vigorously oppose harmful provisions in a number of bills and certain wetlands policy proposals endorsed by the Clinton Administration on August 24, 1993.

Most of the improvements in wetlands policy claimed for the White House proposals, bills by Senators Baucus and Chafee and other bills would be canceled by attempts which strike at the heart of Section 404.

Key sweeping revisions include, for example:

- substituting non-regulatory use of comprehensive watershed or estuary management plans to weaken protection under the current project-by-project, permit-by-permit Section 404 regulatory program
- use of advanced identification of better quality wetlands and shallows to decide which can stay and which can go without regard for the practicable alternatives

for projects that would destroy these habitats.

- making it easier for states and local governments to take over the Section 404 regulatory program.
- mitigation banking and "no net loss" wetland policy schemes which encourage the unnecessary destruction of natural aquatic habitat in exchange for ineffective, costly, environmentally damaging fake wetlands.
- undermining the "practicable alternatives test" and EPA's Section 404(b)(1) guidelines which protect river resources by requiring denial of permits for projects in U.S. waters when there are practicable, less destructive alternatives.
- increasing the categories for general permits so as to provide sweeping authorizations for particular projects without detailed permit review.

Non-regulatory programs are not an effective substitute for regulation. Real protection has usually only come from Federal agencies using their legal authority to block Section 404 permits.

Even through the Reagan/Bush administrations did many things to weaken implementation of Section 404, we still have the law itself, at least for now.

But unless there is a storm of protest over the land mines buried in the White House Wetlands Policy report and pending legislation, Section 404 is certain to be gutted, and it will become virtually impossible to fight bad projects that needlessly destroy river, wetland and coastal habitats.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT to make known to your federal

representatives the need to protect the Clean Water Act. Write especially to Senators John H. Chafee and Max Baucus. Write also to Congressmembers Nita Lowey, Susan Molinari, Jerrold Nadler, Sherwood Boehlert, George Hochbrueckner and Gerry Studds expressing opposition to any weakening of Clean Water Act protections for the integrity of aquatic habitats. Write to: U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

For more information, contact Clearwater or Marcy Benstock, Clean Air Campaign, 150 Nassau St., New York NY 10008, 212/349-7255.

John Mylod  
Executive Director

### Reform or Flim-Flam?

Excerpts from Vice President Al Gore's September 7, 1993, Report of the National Performance Review Recommendations

#### Limit Federal Regulation:

- Issue an Executive Order addressing the problems of ... regulatory relief and authorize Cabinet Secretaries and agency heads to obtain selective relief from regulations... in programs they oversee. p. 167.
- Let all agencies waive rules and regulations when they conflict with results. p. 37.
- Give all Cabinet Secretaries and agency heads authority to grant states and localities selective waivers from federal regulations or mandates. p. 39.
- Establish a process by which agencies can more widely obtain waivers from regulations.

*continued on page 11*

VOL XXIV, NO. 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1993

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Navigator Designer NORA PORTER

Board President GARY POST  
Executive Director JOHN MYLOD

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 248-0762**

Meeting date: Tues., Oct. 26, 1993  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 10

**Agenda:** Discussion of proposed changes in the Clean Water Act in Congress. If passed as proposed, it would permit major changes in waterfront usage without environmental review and no longer require Corps of Engineers approval.

**DISCONNECT VILLAGE STREETS FROM 9A HIGHWAY**

It seems obvious from the last hearing on the west side highway replacement that the planners have no intention of constructing a reasonably modest "no build" highway. Such a modest plan would probably not satisfy the planners because it would not bring enough automobiles, with no business to conduct, passing through the city. But there is a point where we may yet win some ground and that is in demanding that all Village streets be disconnected from direct entry to the new 9A highway. We urge you to write today to

Route 9A Project Office  
141 Fifth Avenue, 10th Floor  
New York, New York 10010

and to

Federal Highway Administration  
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building  
Clinton and North Pearl Streets  
Albany, New York 12207

and demand that all cross streets in historic Greenwich Village be disconnected from the new highway. You may still make your demand that the most modest "no build" highway be constructed so that the balance of unused Federal money may be invested in mass transit.

**SEVERAL WORDS OF THANKS**

We wish to thank Todd Berman for our Harvest Festival street fair on October 17, with special thanks to Anna Shapiro, Jessie McNab, Eliza Bradley, Jim Brennan, Ruth Dunn, and John Johnson for all their extraordinary efforts. We are also grateful to Claudia Sorsby for recently taking charge of the West Village Committee bookstore. We acknowledge very sincere thanks to the following donors: Irene Vlasta Phillips, Edward and Eudice Segal, Henry and Sylvia Mavis, Susan and Steven Urkowitz, the Far West 10th Street Block Association. Thanks to Manley's Liquor Store for collecting donations for us.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Nov. 23, 1993  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 11-12

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

*Agenda: West Village parks  
Gansevoort Greenmarket  
Planning annual dinner party*

**THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

The Gansevoort Greenmarket will be open one more time on Saturday, November 20, with fresh fish, bread and apples. Our market suffered its worst season in all of its years of existence. We started out this June with three bakers and one truck with green vegetables, and developed into four bakers and one truck with vegetables. The promised farmer with many varieties of tomatoes never evolved, and in fact in four weeks of tomato season there was not one tomato in the market. In apple season we have had only one truck with limited apple supply. Much of the problem with the Gansevoort Market has been the creation of markets on Sixth Avenue and on the PS 41 Playground on Greenwich Avenue. The newly independent market at Hudson and Houston has also drawn suppliers away from Gansevoort, although at this point some of these have failed and others are failing. We urge all of you to write letters of protest to Barry Benepe, 47 Jane Street, NYC 10014, the creator of Greenmarkets, and demand that he improve the Gansevoort Greenmarket. He has told people in Horatio Street that he intends to close it. We beg you to demand that he keep it open and make it a working market again. There is no reason why we should not have a market and a year-round market supplying, among other things, fish and fresh bread. We would like to have the market moved back to the square between Hudson and Greenwich on Gansevoort. City pressure should be put on the chicken monger in the square to stop pouring rancid chicken juice into the street. Help us fight this battle by writing to Benepe today.

**DISCONNECT VILLAGE STREETS FROM THE 9A HIGHWAY**

Many of you did follow our advice in last month's Newsletter asking that you write letters demanding that residential Village side streets be disconnected from the proposed 9A Highway. We are very appreciative of your support, but for those of you who have not yet acted, we repeat the addresses. After all, there are super-highways in the other boroughs where local streets are detached. Let's stop making 11th, 12th and Christopher Streets local speedways. Write to:

Route 9A Project Office		Federal Highway Administration
141 Fifth Avenue	and	Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building
10th Floor		Clinton and North Pearl Streets
New York, New York 10010		Albany, New York 12207

It would be wise to include in your demand that the more modest "no-build" highway be constructed on the existing surface of West Street, and that the large balance of unused funds be invested in mass transit.

## **WVC COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CELEBRATION PARTY**

The By-Laws of the West Village Committee require that a party of celebration be held each year to mark the defeat of the old Moses/Zeckendorf plan to urban-renew (and knock down) everything in the West Village from Hudson Street to the Hudson River. We used to do it with theater parties until tickets reached \$50. For many years now, it has been a full sit-down dinner in St. John's Church Parish Hall. And so it will be this year. The By-Laws also state that no business may be conducted at such a party - a time to chat with old friends and greet new ones. And to recall the leaders in that fight of long ago - Ann Lye, Rachele Wall, Jane Jacobs, the Segals, the O'Reillys, etc. The fee this year is \$10 for the dinner and you bring your own wine. It is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 14, at 7 PM. Let us know by Saturday, Dec. 11, if you are attending.

It is too early to know when the West Village Committee Christmas Wreaths will be on sale, but you may call us for the information early in December.

If there are those who would like to send seasonal greeting cards to two of our friends confined to nursing homes, Rachele Wall and Mary Cardinali, please call us for their addresses.

### **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE INDIVIDUALS**

We were in Europe when our Harvest Street Fair took place, and in thanking those who helped, failed to mention Hazel James who was in charge of the live music. We also wish to acknowledge generous contributions from the following: Patricia H. Ladew, James Hodges, Waverly Condominiums, Robert Tendler, Catherine Revland, Daniel Samuels, Myron Beldock, and a prompt street fair check from Todd Berman at Clearview Festival Productions. We also acknowledge excellent contributions of books for resale from John Roberts (including good editions of Trollope), Patricia Dillon, Mildred Loftus (a major source for murder mysteries), Claire Boise, Steve Higgins (a fine collection on film). We will continue to keep the WVC bookstore open on warm weekends into the winter, 1 to 5 PM, 702 Greenwich Street.

\_\_\_\_\_ I enclose check for annual celebration dinner (\$10. each).

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible.

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Jan. 25, 1994

Place: St. John's Parish Hall

224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm

Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 1

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Agenda: West Village Parks

A Greenmarket or a Farmers Market?

What we can do to kill the Hudson River Park Conservancy

### **CUT VILLAGE STREETS OFF FROM THE 9A HIGHWAY**

It is absolutely essential that the streets in our heavily residential landmarked community be cut off from the traffic to be carried by the new 9A Highway along the Village waterfront. The State Department of Transportation has lobbied small shops throughout the Village telling them that they will not get deliveries. Added to this is a public garage owner on West 11th Street at West who has used the same language as DOT in telling people our streets will be even more jammed with traffic. This is sheer and utter nonsense. In residential areas throughout Brooklyn and Queens, local streets are detached from superhighways. We are asking the same consideration. Our old houses cannot take the constant vibrations. We are therefore enclosing a petition supporting Village street detachment. We ask that you gather signatures from your neighbors and return them to us as soon as possible. This issue will come before the Traffic Committee of Community Board 2 the first week in February. Call the Community Board #2 office - 979-2272 - for where and when. **Please help!**

### **A FORUM ON THE PAYBACK WAIVER OF WESTWAY FUNDS**

On Wednesday 26 January at 5:15 PM, there will be a Public Forum on the eighty million dollars paid by the Feds for the Hudson River waterfront. This money could be paid back, or used to enhance the waterfront as a scenic view corridor - using the payback waiver. The Forum will be held in the Fulton Senior Center, 119 9th Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets. The West Village Committee is among the several sponsoring groups for the Forum, along with the Clean Air Campaign and the Federation to Preserve the Waterfront. We ask you to attend this important meeting to understand why leading politicians want to give the money back to the Feds instead of employing a perfectly legal payback waiver. Please attend this Forum and help us kick UDC AND HRPC off the Village waterfront.

### **SOME OTHER SOLUTIONS**

There are other solutions to dealing with the unwanted homeless population in this city other than shoving them from one community to another, from one public space to the next. During the January snowfalls many of them were hired by the City to shovel snow and drain the curbs. They did a superior job here in the Village. The able need to find work, the physically ill need to be treated, the mentally ill need continuing care. There was a time in the 1930s as we were coming out of financial chaos when President Roosevelt provided the New Deal agenda to reach out to distressed Americans in every nook and cranny. We undoubtedly do need a health care program, but we need to look after those most in need first. The old WPA program provided jobs, food





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Sept. 27 1994  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 9

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Agenda: West Village Committee Harvest Festival  
The Greenmarket

**GREENMARKET ON ABINGDON**

First of all, CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to all who testified at the hearing for our Greenmarket. Every presentation was eloquent, to the point, and just plain wonderful. The Parks Committee of Community Board 2 voted 7-1 in favor of a trial period for the renewal of the Gansevoort Greenmarket on the western sidewalk of Abingdon Square. However, even if the full board approves this trial period on Sept. 22 (at the Village Community School, 272 W. 10th St., 7 PM), the market will be reassessed at the Parks Committee meeting in December. They will be looking for complaints from the co-op board at 299 W. 12th, especially. Some members of the Parks Committee and of CB 2 evidently would like to see this market defeated in December. It will be wise to let them know that they are not serving this community if so. Demand that we be allowed a small Greenmarket at Abingdon Square, a central point in the West Village. We urge you to dash off a note to Anthony Dapolito (Parks chair) or Rita Lee (CB 2 manager), Community Board 2, 3 Washington Square Village, NYC 10012, and send a copy to Ruth Messinger, Municipal Bldg, 19th Floor, NYC 10007. If the market is allowed and you think the Abingdon Square site is a success, that is something that the board and the person who appoints them, Ruth Messinger, should know. Thank you and congratulations again for going the extra mile for the farmers, for the park, and for our neighborhood.

**WHAT DO WE WANT ON THE WATERFRONT?**

It is extremely important that we all show up at the Community Board 2 Waterfront Committee Hearing on Wed., Sept. 21, 7 PM, at St. Joseph's School, 111 Washington Place (west of 6th Avenue) to tell Assemblyman Gottfried and State Senators Ohrenstein and Leichter that we won't allow the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) or its subsidiary, the Hudson River Park Conservancy to take over our waterfront. These three legislators have been pushing a bill that gives UDC total control on the waterfront and creates a slush fund for misplaced development there including fake wetlands. Opponents of the legislation include the West Village Committee, Clean Air Campaign, Clearwater, the Federation to Preserve the GV Waterfront, the Sierra Club, Community Board 2. NYPIRG, and others. Assemblywoman Glick has been excellent in protecting us from this awful bill, but we need to stand up and be counted so that Governor Cuomo knows we won't tolerate UDC control of the Hudson. We want a park there now. What to do: 1) speak out at the Sept. 21 meeting; 2) write to Gov. Cuomo (Executive Chamber, Albany, NY 12224) and demand that he oppose the legislation called the "Hudson River Waterfront Park Planning and Development" bill (presently S 8902, A 12294).

**WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE HARVEST FESTIVAL**

The Harvest Festival, our street fair on 8th Avenue from Bleecker to 14th Street, is scheduled for Saturday, October 8 with a rain date of October 15. Our booth will be beside the Jane Street Garden and so we urge you to bring your white elephants there after 9:30 AM. Last year we had extraordinary music thanks to Hazel James' great organizing. However, this year we are foregoing music in deference to residents who could be disturbed by it. We are thinking about doing a smaller, homemade fair next year. Any suggestions, objections, volunteers? Other ways to raise money?

and dignity for the needy. It's not a situation to be solved by an individual or even by a community. It is a situation crying out for men of conscience on influential levels of State and Federal governments to act in a responsible manner. We urge you to demand action from your elected officials on all levels of government. Just as the City has hired the needy more than once to clean street gutters after a snow storm, so are there homeless people quite capable of cleaning our streets, public parks and maintaining order in other city domains.

#### SEND A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

There is still time to send a New Year's greetings to two old friends confined to nursing homes: Rachele Wall, Cabrini Nursing Home, 62 Avenue B, NYC 10009 and Mary Cardinali, Joachim and Ann Residence, 2720 Surf Av., Brooklyn NY 11224. Ms. Wall is a past chair of Community Board 2 and Ms. Cardinali, "the flower lady," owned a flower shop on Bleecker Street for many years.

#### THANKS FOR MAKING THE ANNUAL PARTY A SUCCESS

The annual December dinner party to celebrate the survival of the West Village community over the threats of Urban Renewal some thirty years ago was one of the most relaxing and enjoyable affairs we have attended. We thank those who helped: Arthur Bond, Mel Stevens, Betty Rinckwitz, Jean Wardle, Eliza Bradley, Barbara Gillen, Eileen Bowser, Edith Zuckerman, Anna Shapiro and Claudia Sorsby. We could not have done it without you.

#### SINCERE THANKS FOR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

We wish to acknowledge generous donations from the following folks: Norman Kahn, Gabriele Knecht, Pierre and Anne Tonachel, Eliza Bradley, Henry and Sylvia Mavis, Dan and Bunny Gabel, Margaret C. K. Snow, Robert and Margery Boyar, William and Helen Blackmon Jr., Shirley Wright, Arthur Bond, Peter and Terry Fritsch, Roz Kramer, Elaine Schechter, Helen Hafner, Timothy James, Kim Southworth, Joseph and Bernice O'Reilly, William and Ruth Gross, Linda J. Millet, Barbara Cardinali, Susan Richardson, Joan Rosenfelt, Mary Miranda Wade, Hazel James, Todd Berman, Jack Heineman, Arthur and Joan Stoliar, John Short, Verna Small, Hilda Hollyer, Vera B. Williams, David Maizer (in memory of Dennis Helfend), Alfred Eriksson, Maxine Redding, Richard B. Barnett, George Haikalis, Guy and Dorothy Wiggins, and two anonymous donors. We also thank the Jane Street Block Association for a contribution from their sale, and again to acknowledge with thanks Manley's Liquor Store for collecting donations for the Jane Street Garden. We also wish to thank Ann Winslow and Mel Stevens for gifts of books for resale, and thanks to Jim Lambert and Bill Hine for helping to shovel snow from the Jane Street Garden sidewalk.

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Feb 22, 1994  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 2

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

**Agenda: The Hudson River Waterfront**

### **PUSH FOR THE PAYBACK WAIVER**

The top political powers in the State are holding firm in their attempt to return the \$80 million in Westway funds to the Feds so that they may move ahead with development on the Hudson River waterfront. These funds may well come back to New York to build highways in another area of the State. But if the Payback Waiver is employed, these funds could be used to create a splendid viewing corridor along the shoreline. What we need most on the island of Manhattan is open space and parkland. What we need least is another half-million people in new housing along the Hudson shoreline. The rail yards which became the Trump site should be open space instead of favored-son construction with promises of more than one-billion dollars in tax-abatements. The same is true of the Tribeca and Village waterfronts. The massive constructions planned will not be free - just as Battery Park City did not come free. The public will pay out of taxes for bonds and other expenditures. It will cost us in bond issues, but it will provide plenty of pork for pols and their pals. The latest thing to fear about the waterfront is an unadvertised plan to place gambling casinos on the Hudson. We can have a park without buildings. We can make the magnificent Hudson an integral part of the City's edge. Public parks built with Federal funds already exist in Erie, San Francisco and Atlanta. If the money is returned to the Feds, the plan is to create a park in any open space left after development twenty years from now. It is only the greed of Trump and the like that stand in the way. Call the Governor and let him know where you stand. Ask your friends upstate to call him. And let your local officials who wish to keep the \$80 million for a park know they have your support: Deborah Glick (674-5153), Jerrold Nadler (489-3530), Tom Duane (929-5501). We also urge calls to Governor Mario Cuomo (NYC office (212/417-2100), (929-5501). We also urge calls to Governor Mario Cuomo (NYC office (212/417-2100), Assemblymen Richard Gottfried, Scott Stringer, Ed Sullivan, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (State Assembly 518/455-4100). And State Senators Franz Leichter and Manfred Ohrenstein (518/455-2800). And other West Side Council Members: Ronnie Eldridge (765-4339), Stan Michels (788-7700), Kathryn Freed (732-5675), Virginia Fields (788-6972). In addition, phone calls to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (788-3000), Comptroller Alan Hevesi (669-3500), Boro President Ruth Messinger (669-8300), and to Public Advocate Mark Green (669-7200) may bear good fruit. Please make your phone calls of protest today! Or write letters. PS: Be forewarned that letter-writing may feel like a futile exercise. In all likelihood, you will get a double-talking boilerplate reply, or no reply at all. The real reply, however, comes when enough pressure has been felt by public officials that they act. The letters keep the pressure on.

### **PROTECT STREET TREES**

If you see anyone cutting down a street tree or destroying it (pruning is allowed with a permit from the Parks Department), we urge you to call the Parks Department hotline 800-834-3832. The department has roving cars and can issue summonses on the spot. Street trees are public property; they do not belong to the adjacent private property. You must call the Parks Department because the local police will not help with this.

### **"BONUS PLAZAS"**

Something which does not afflict the Village - yet - but which does affect us as city residents are the so-called "bonus plazas" in buildings that have been allowed extra stories in exchange for providing public spaces at street level. As many of you will have read or observed, these plazas are often closed to the general public - which is against the law. Very little is done to deter the developers from privatizing. One deterrent might be to inflict large penalties for every day that such a plaza was inaccessible to the public, on the order of at least a thousand dollars a day, without possibility of reduction by way of excuses or "plea bargaining." They are profiting from our tax money in the way of services, federally underwritten mortgages, and tax abatements, while we don't even have a place to sit in the "plaza." Demand that stiff penalties be instituted. Write the NYC Planning Commission, 22 Reade St., NY 10013; or Mayor Giuliani, City Hall, NYC 10007, and even Governor Cuomo.

## CUT VILLAGE STREETS OFF FROM THE 9A HIGHWAY

If our small side streets are to be attached to the new West Side highway (9A) we will be the only residential community in the five boroughs attached to a superhighway. We are once again enclosing a petition to prevent attachment - a small version to accommodate small households. Please help! (Return filled petitions to WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE, 702 Greenwich St., NYC 10014)

## WE APPLAUD SANITATION

We applaud the Sanitation Department for hiring the jobless and homeless to help clean the mess of winter storm damage. It proves at least that there is a degree of heart left in the city. We once again urge you to write to the Clinton administration to mount a Federal program to attack the countrywide homeless problem.

## GERALD BURNS

At the onset of winter, Gerald Burns, an attorney and long-time resident of W. 11th St., passed away following a long illness. We offer our condolences to his widow, Frances, and to his son.

## THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS PEOPLE

We wish to acknowledge recent generous donations from the following: Palmer Williams, Bill Eppes, Ruth Shafer, Robert Engler, Manley's Liquor Store, and West 4th Street Block Association.

## A FARMERS' MARKET?

Many years ago we sponsored a Greenmarket in Gansevoort Street which was successful for a long time. Then a host of Greenmarkets were started around us, all of them unsuccessful, but which in time damaged our Gansevoort Market. We started Gansevoort because the elderly came to us and complained that Union Square was too far to walk. We believe that we have the resources to break away from Greenmarket and create our own Farmers' Market. But we would need volunteers to help, and a public willing to support such a market. We have been badly treated by Greenmarket headquarters. How do you feel:

### FARMERS' MARKET

I would volunteer to help \_\_\_\_\_ Union Square covers all needs \_\_\_\_\_

I support an independent Farmers' Market \_\_\_\_\_ Don't care \_\_\_\_\_

(Return to West Village Committee, 702 Greenwich St. NYC 10014)

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

NAME

ADDRESS

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., March 22, 1994  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 3

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**708 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Agenda: The payback waiver, and our parks

**HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR LETTERS?**

Lobbying to keep the Westway Right-of-Way money for a scenic easement along the Hudson shoreline has continued with the participation of Deborah Glick and representative's from Jerry Nadler's office, Sierra Club, Clearwater, Clean Air Campaign, West Village Committee and others, urging Alan Hevesi and Ruth Messinger to support a waiver application. Deb Glick has said that the best thing we can do is to get grass roots activity in the districts of crucial state representatives (so that the \$40 million the state would have to pay back to the Feds will not go into the state budget in April). Therefore, if you know people or are connected to organizations with roots in the following districts, get them to call or write to support a waiver application so that the city can have a green park from 34th St. to below Houston unblemished by buildings and commercial development:

Assemblymember Dick Gottfried (Chelsea) 242 W. 27th St., NY 10011, or phone 807-7900  
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (Tribeca) 270 Broadway, Room 1506, NY 10007, or phone 385 6680  
State Senator Franz Leichter (Upper West Side) 10 Columbus Circle, Suite 1470, NY 10019, or phone 397-5913  
State Senator Fred Ohrenstein (our state senator) 270 Broadway, Room 612, NY 10007, or phone 417-5504

**A MONSTER THREATENS TRIBECA**

Anyone who didn't attend the February WVC meeting missed a dynamic presentation by Carole de Saram and Anita Murray of the Tribeca Community Association. A developer named Brewran is attempting to get permission to build a 35-story hotel at West and Laight St. by linking it to a potential landmark and in exchange for restoring it. If the Board of Standards & Appeals, a state-level operation whose rulings supersede city zoning, rules in favor, it sets a precedent for any landmark attached to any out-of-scale development on any waterfront block on the West Side or, for that matter, the whole city. This precedent is an entitlement; other developers would not have to go through lengthy and costly procedures applying for permits. It is a potential disaster for the Village and the entire West Side. (Furthermore, it is conjecture that the real purpose of the hotel is to become the lead gambling casino on the Hudson, since it is expected that slot machines may soon be legalized for hotel lobbies.) A term favored by the developers at hearings: "a new development corridor up the Hudson." The Board of Standards and Appeals does not require public hearings or other community input.

**STOP THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD INCINERATOR**

The city is only a breath away from a state permit to build a gigantic incinerator in the Brooklyn Navy Yard which will rain deadly waste over Brooklyn, Queens and lower Manhattan. We urge you to write to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, City Hall, NY 10007, and demand that he push for more recycling and reject the incinerator.

## WE OPPOSE PUBLIC DRINKING

We have taken a stand against the use of Weehawken Street as a site for public drinking on Sundays. It may add to the coffers of the local bar owner, but it does nothing to improve the community. And we continue that opposition for the proposal to close many other Village streets during the two weeks of Gay Games this summer and sell alcohol in the streets. If laws exist against public drinking, those laws must apply to all of us without exception. We will always defend the rights of homosexuals. But they should not ask for rights denied to others. The hoots and howls of two weeks of public drinking is not an event we anticipate with joy. Persons wishing to protest this event should write to David Klasfeld, Chief of Staff, First Deputy Mayor Reiter, 250 Broadway, NY 10007 - telephone 788-6773. We also urge letters to Rita Lee at Community Board 2, 3 Washington Sq. Village, NYC 10012, demanding that a public hearing be held on the matter.

## WATERFRONT EXHIBIT AT WESTBETH GALLERY

The Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront has an excellent photo exhibit in place in the Westbeth Gallery curated by Terry Miller. The purpose of the exhibit is to demonstrate that the many buildings of architectural distinction and historic value within the area justify the extension of the Greenwich Village Historic District to the Hudson River. We congratulate Ben Green and his staff for such an outstanding show. And if you have not yet signed the petition to disconnect Village cross-streets from the 9A Highway, you will find the petition at the reception desk.

A few days after the Federation show opened, a second display of photographs of the Village waterfront by Darleen Rubin opened at the Caffe Passione gallery, 159 Christopher St. These photos date back to 1970, and we believe that they back up our contention and that of the Federation that the waterfront be landmarked.

## A ROSE FOR JEAN GOULD

A year ago Jim Shaw gave us a check to buy a Brandy tree rose in memory of Jean Gould, who wrote all those biographies of Millay and others from the creative twenties in the Village. Well, we've found one after a long search and it will be planted this spring in the Jane Street Garden.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to acknowledge contributions from the following members during the past month: Peter A. Giarratano, Anna Marie Hanley, Frank and Gloria Jennings, Harriet R. Lichtman, James and Helen Ranck, Jr., Edward and Eudice Segal, Jacqeline Slivko, Barbara Steinberg, Kimberly Vaughn, Carol Wreszin, and thanks to Helen Hellman for her gift of books.

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible.

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., April 26, 1994  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 4

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Agenda: Bleecker Playground

### **WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE PARKS COMMITTEE**

The WVC Parks Committee was set up at the November meeting with Jim Brennan as chairman, and Jessie McNab, Lou Erlanger, Cathy Revland, Anna Shapiro and Molly Tureske as members. Since then they have met to discuss such topics as the painting that was done on the shed in Bleecker Playground last year; and ways to deal with the problems of homeless people camping out in the parks. They are searching for solutions that do not involve fencing and that will not reduce the amount of space for those not using the playground area. Jim said that there are no materials or money left for Parks Department repairs and that where there were approximately 8,800 people employed by Parks in 1992, today there are about 2,400. Our parks, clearly, are up to us. Anyone who would like to be more involved, please call Jim at 675-2771.

### **WATCH ROCKROSE**

The *New York Times* real estate section featured a piece on April 3 about Rockrose Development Corporation's installation of apartments at 802 Washington Street where the overhead rail line used to run through the building, and showed where Rockrose plans new building between Horatio, Gansevoort, Washington and West Sts. "We'll try to build something contextual, that complements the area," their VP is quoted as saying. Be prepared to make sure their idea of context does not include the Memphis and 61 Jane.

### **THE PROPOSED HOTEL IN TRIBECA**

There will be a hearing early in May before Landmarks with regard to Brewran's proposal to link an out-of-scale hotel building to the historic warehouse that would be next to it on Laight Street off West. This is the linkage that would set a precedent allowing similar development up through the Village and the entire West Side waterfront. If you wish further information about testifying, call Anna Shapiro 989-5703 or Bill Bowser 243-0762. The more people who protest such development, the better. Help others, help yourself.

### **IN MEMORY OF JEAN GOULD AND JACK HANLEY**

We have recently planted the tree rose "Brandy" in memory of Jean Gould, and the tree rose "Double Delight" in memory of Jack Hanley in the Jane Street Garden. We loved them both.

### **THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

We expect a new and improved Gansevoort Greenmarket to reopen on Saturday, June 4. To date, we have the promise of 11 or 12 exhibitors who will need customers. We are planning to move it back from the first block of Gansevoort Street to the original square touching on Little West 12th Street. Final news next month.

## PERRY STREET BLOCK PARTY

Saturday May 14 (rain date Sunday May 15) the Perry Street Block Association will hold their third annual old-fashioned block party, the kind where residents sell their own stuff, and home-baked goods, too. Not the same old T-shirt vendors you see everywhere else. Perry Street between Bleecker and West 4th, 12 to 6 pm.

## WE OPPOSE PUBLIC DRINKING

We oppose public drinking by bringing the bars into the streets during the two weeks of Gay Games. This is no way opposes the lifestyle of homosexuals, for we would equally oppose a public display of drinking by straights or any variation thereof over an extended period of time. If laws exist against public drinking, then they must apply to all people. The idea of suggesting public drinking as a way of entertainment for young people visiting the Village is evidence of a society which is bankrupt on positive ideas. Nor is there is any justification for turning Weehawken Street into an open-air saloon every Sunday. There is no justification for ruining the joys of living in our community with nine days of yelling, urinating, vomiting people. If the public drinking is carried out during the Gay Games in June, it will have a detrimental effect on community relations. We urge all to write letters of protest to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at City Hall, NYC 10007 and to David Klasfeld, Chief of Staff, First Deputy Mayor Reiter, 250 Broadway, NYC 10007.

On Thursday, April 28 at 7 PM, an informational meeting will be held on this subject at St. Vincent's Hospital, Cronin 10, on this matter, sponsored by Community Board 2. The Board has so far refused to hold a public hearing on the Gay Games and public drinking for two weeks. Be there in a large body to protest.

## SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS

We wish to thank the following members for contributions during the past month: Jeremy B. Smith, Gabriele Knecht, Laura M. Johnston, Etna M. Kelley, Elizabeth Bishop, Judith Seigel, Dennis and Joyce Rosenstein, Paige Jordan, and Mildred Orlans. In addition we wish to acknowledge splendid donations of books from Vern Fry, Florence Goldberg, Rev. Duncan Clark and Leonor Amorocho.

I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., May 24, 1994  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 5

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

### **Agenda: Parks**

#### **WEST VILLAGE PARKS**

The associate director of the Grand Central Partnership will appear at this month's meeting on the 24th. You may have noticed people in GCP jackets and hats in Bleecker Street and Abingdon Square parks. They are working to get the homeless there into detox programs and other appropriate services, freeing up the parks for the whole public (rather than as private enclaves for the destitute). The Partnership is privately paid for this service, however. For many of us who are concerned about our parks, there are questions about their methods and means and the degree and kind of participation needed from the community. It should be a presentation and discussion well worth attending, whether you are a parent of young children, a bench-sitter, or merely appreciate the presence of an island free of commerce and full of green. In the meantime, we urge you to take advantage of the cleaner character of our parks - join your neighbors in sitting in Bleecker or Abingdon: relax and reclaim the open space. Because of the shortage of personnel in the Parks Department, we are forming a committee of volunteers to help clean our parks. Let Jim Brennan know if you would like to help; call him at 675-2771.

#### **A NEW AND REVIVED GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET**

We have been working hard to restore the Gansevoort Greenmarket to all its former glory this year. Starting in the second Saturday in June (the 11th), the market will be back in its old location in the spacious, cobbled Gansevoort square west of Hudson Street. It will actually open on June 4 east of Hudson, but only for that one day. The great news, however, is the number and kind of vendors who will be there. We are starting with 11 vendors, which is nearly three times as many as we had last summer. In addition to our long-time fish seller, Mr. Schultz of Atlantic Lobster, and cut-flower man, Jim Durr, there will be two vegetable vendors who expect to have very early greens as well as cider and herbs and, later, berries; as crops increase we will have two more vendors with vegetables from upstate in July as well. In addition to last year's pastry seller there will be a real home-baked-style bread baker. Our regular plant person, Anton Wagonhoffer, has had a bad year and cannot come this year. We are sorry for that, but we expect another vendor who will sell herbs and topiary in clay pots - and perennials, which we have not had. There will also be a mushroom vendor, and even as we write this we have a call promising two more vegetable vendors. In all, we are trying to arrange for the true country tender growing things so that West Villagers (and those from Chelsea and beyond) will not have to trek to Union Square for tomatoes that taste like tomatoes, mesclun, crusty bread, sweet corn, raspberries, a tempting variety of plantings, and gorgeous flowers.

But please note: if we want to keep these vendors, they must do enough business in their first weeks to make what they have to pay for their spots worth their while. So come and buy.

#### **THE JANE STREET GARDEN**

The Jane Street Garden is looking more beautiful with every passing day. Don't forget that it is available to key-holders - and that responsible community members can become key-holders by application to the West Village Committee.

#### **BEDFORD, BARROW, COMMERCE STREET FAIR**

The gigantic "Ye Olde Village Fair" sponsored by the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association is set for Saturday, May 21st, Noon to 8 PM. Rain date, Sunday May 22.

#### **NADLER PARTY**

Congressman Jerry Nadler is planning a party for friends and supporters on Thurs., June 2 at 6:30 PM, Local 802, 322 West 48th St. (between 8th and 9th Aves.) If you have any questions call Jean Cleary (212) 873-4201.

## **STOP DEVELOPMENT ON THE VILLAGE WATERFRONT**

New York State through Tom Fox and his dictatorial development entity, the Hudson River Park Conservancy - a creation of the Urban Development Corporation - speaks repeatedly of the need to designate the Hudson waterfront as parkland. But if you look closely at their plan you will see that it is overwhelmed by plans for development out into the river. We want parkland with no development and will not accept less. We urge you to write today to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, City Hall, NYC 10007 and to Governor Mario Cuomo, The Executive Chamber, Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and demand that they preserve the historic Greenwich Village waterfront as a public park unencumbered by unneeded structures. Office space in the City has a current 25% vacancy rate. And real estate could vastly increase in value if proper open space were created in an already overcrowded city. Let them know that their futures in politics may depend upon what they do with the historic Greenwich Village waterfront. We are tired of being allowed no voice in government, of being ruled by undemocratic development entities, ruled by toadies like Tom Fox who have no vision, only ambition. Write your letters of protest today!

## **ANN MCMILLAN IN VILLAGE NURSING HOME**

Long-time 10th Street resident, composer Ann McMillan, has been released from a long hospital stay to the Village Nursing Home. She would probably enjoy receiving cards and visits.

## **WE CONSIDER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST STREET DRINKING**

We are talking to other groups about legal action vs. departments of City Government which grant permits for consumption of alcohol in public streets and the privatizing of streets for this purpose.

## **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to thank the following members for contributions during the past month: Karen Ginsberg, Robert C. Waleski, Arline B. Baxter, Helen Hafner, Arline Moriarty, Norman and Dale Kahn, Bernice and Joseph O'Reilly, Irene Vlasta Phillips, Joy Hornung, Kismin Reeves, Melvin T. Stevens and two anonymous donations. We wish to thank Paul Rawlings for a large gift of books, continuing donations from Vern Fry, Jerry Nobles, JoAnn Helk and Janice Moore.

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME  
\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

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"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

15 June 1994

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

The West Village Committee and nine West Village residents have obtained a court order directing the city to show cause this Friday in the WVC's suit against the City of New York, its Street Activity Permit office, the Police Department, Community Board 2, the Department of Transportation and others to prevent street closing for the purpose of public drinking.

The street targeted is the small, historically valuable residential Weehawken Street. It has been closed off on Sundays, with a permit issued to continue the practice, for a "beer bash" sponsored by something called The Big Apple Softball League and a Christopher Street bar, The Dugout, which profits from the liquor sales.

Community boards other than Board 2 have a more public process for approving permits for street closings, and more stringent standards for what makes a sponsor a non-profit organization. In bringing suit we are working to preserve our community from disruptive and destructive activities that have little to do with the people who live here.

For further information, contact Bill Bowser at the above number. The hearing will begin on Friday, June 17th, at 9:30 a.m. The judge is Walter B. Tolub. Werner L. Loeb, Esquire, former State Liquor Authority judge, is acting as attorney on behalf of The West Village Committee and the other litigants. The location of the hearing is 80 Centre Street, Room 289.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., June 28, 1994  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXV, No. 6

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Agenda: Village parks, public drinking

**STOP THE FALSE CLEAN WATER BILL IN CONGRESS**

There is a horrendous attempt in the House of Representatives to destroy the Clean Water Act. The few positive regulations in the CWA are wiped out by hundreds of negative permissions. It is legislation that must die. Our own congressman, Jerrold Nadler, is on the committee considering this destructive bill. Rumor has it that the US Senate will make no attempt to destroy the existing Clean Water Act, unless this House bill survives, and so if the House bill dies it is dead. Jerry Nadler is an outstanding environmentalist. We urge you to ask him to kill this terrible legislation and stop it moving into the Senate. Write to him today at 1841 Broadway, Suite 800, NYC 10023, or call his local office 489-3530. Please help us on this issue.

**IMPORTANT HEARING ON SEVERING STREETS FROM 9A HIGHWAY**

You've signed petitions, made phone calls and written letters asking that our narrow residential streets in the Village be cut off from the new 9A Highway. We are now coming to the final phase of that issue with a Public Hearing planned for the Manhattan Developmental Center, 75 Morton Street, July 12, at 6:30 PM. We need bodies there to demand that our residential streets be protected from thundering traffic. This is an issue which a handful of leaders cannot win alone. We need people, hundreds of them to demand the protection of our fragile houses and streets. Morton, 12th, 11th and Christopher deserve to be protected from heavy traffic as well as any other Village streets. Help us win this one by attending this important hearing.

**KEEP UP THE PRESSURE**

Our efforts to push the State to go for the Payback Waiver and to use the \$80 million involved in Federal funds to build a park along the Hudson River shoreline have for the first time shown that some in Albany have heard our message. Only a few unrelenting die-hards like Senator Franz Leichter seem now to claim that it is only a few people in the Village and Marcy Benstock who demand the waiver and who denounce the Hudson River Park Conservancy and the Greenway equally, both dictatorial development entities. We urge you to write again to Governor Mario Cuomo, The Executive Chamber, Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and demand that he give us a park along the Hudson, not high-rise development, that he kill both the Hudson River Park Conservancy and the Greenway. Demand that we have a voice in government occasionally and tell him that we do not appreciate being ruled by toadies like Tom Fox. You should send copies of your letter to Senator Franz Leichter and Assemblyman Scott Stringer in Albany and if you know friends in the Upper West Side beg them write emphatic letters to Leichter and Stringer on these issues.

**THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET IS OPEN**

The Gansevoort Greenmarket is open on Saturday mornings selling fresh fish, mushrooms, breads, vegetables, baked goods, live herbs, etc. We urge you to patronize the friendliest of the Greenmarkets - on Gansevoort Street west of Hudson - 8 AM until 1 PM.



## **SUIT FILED AGAINST PUBLIC DRINKING**

The West Village Committee and nine Village residents have obtained a court order directing the City to show cause in the West Village Committee's suit against the City of New York, its Street Activity Permit office, the Police Department, Community Board 2, the Department of Transportation and others to prevent street closings for the purpose of public drinking. The street targeted is the small, historically valuable residential Weehawken Street. It has been closed off on Sundays, with a permit issued to continue the practice, for a "beer bash" sponsored by something called The Big Apple Softball League and a Christopher Street bar, The Dugout, which profits from the liquor sales. Community boards other than Board 2 have a more public process for approving permits for street closings, and more stringent standards for what makes a sponsor a nonprofit organization. In bringing suit we are working to preserve our community from disruptive and destructive activities that have little to do with the people who live here. To add impetus to the lawsuit, and political clout to our position in case the suit fails, you may wish to sign and send the enclosed letter to Mayor Giuliani, or create your own letter.

## **TAKE BACK YOUR PARKS**

The Grand Central Partnership has helped to clear our parks of many of the homeless and induced many of them to enter detox programs, etc. We urge our neighbors of all ages now to reclaim the benches in Abingdon and Bleecker and help to recover our parks by using them.

## **SINCERE THANKS TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS**

We wish to thank the following for generous donations during the past month: Robert Tendler, Lucy Kent, Judith Seigel, George D. Harris, Jr., Sheila Schwid Milder, Whiskey Dust (Merv Bendewald), Rosalind and Fredric Newman, Norman and Leonore Rosenfeld, Donald P. Waldauer, James and Shirley Mann, Christabel Gough, Claire Tankel, Robert Krones, Barbara J. Houser, Leslie Lowe, Elizabeth Hicks, Eileen M. Kelly, Anna Marie Hanley, Adelaide Irvine Richter, Eleanore A. Jackson, Nancy Page, and one anonymous donor. We are also grateful for a fine gift of books from Dr. Joyce Wallace as well as an outstanding book collection from the estate of Grace Sowerwine - she was the lady who helped Lyda McKenzie establish recycling here in the city.

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

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JD 94

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**708 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 248-0762**

*The fastest way to ruin a neighborhood is to run  
traffic through it.*

**- Jane Jacobs**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
ON  
KEEPING WEST SIDE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC OFF VILLAGE STREETS!  
Tuesday 12 July 1994  
before Community Board 2 at  
75 Morton Street  
The Manhattan Developmental Center  
between Hudson and Greenwich Streets  
6:30 PM**

Rattling trucks rattle old buildings and rattle our brains.  
No other neighborhood in Manhattan has access to the ring road on  
every street. On the Upper West Side, highway ramps are every 10 to  
20 blocks, as on the FDR Drive.

Demand a service road cut off from the highway except at Houston  
and Fourteenth Streets.

- 1) Come to the hearing. This is an issue which a handful of leaders  
cannot win alone. We need people, hundreds of them, to demand the  
protection of our fragile houses and streets.
- 2) Mark "in favor" of street detachment on sign-in card.
- 3) You don't have to speak but if you want to, bring a sandwich and  
a book and prepare to sit through many speakers.

Trucking companies and garages will be at the hearing to speak  
against street detachment, for traffic on our streets. Don't let  
these companies ruin our historic residential neighborhoods and  
pollute our lungs.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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No Meeting until September  
Newsletter Volume XXXIV, No. 7-8

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

### **KEEP UP THE PRESSURE - DETACH OUR STREETS FROM THE HIGHWAY**

Thanks to many, many of you who showed up at the public hearing to speak up for detachment of Village streets from the planned highway. Detachment carried the day with our community board, as noted in an article in the July 24 "City" section of The NY Times. It remains to be seen whether the excellent resolution in favor of a service road separating our streets from Route 9A will have the desired effect on the plans of the Department of Transportation or on Mario Cuomo. You might want to write to him and let him know that your vote depends on his decision in this regard. Only the threat of losing votes is likely to have an effect on his long-standing determination to promote development along the waterfront, which we believe is what through streets are in aid of. Twenty-five years ago West Street served as a service road to get on the elevated highway at Spring or 17th Street. We were not smothered with endless traffic on our small, narrow streets. Despite our victory at the Community Board, State DOT is still intent upon connecting every Village street to the proposed eight-lane superhighway. You must help us win this one. And if it takes a street demonstration to get through to the powers that be, then we think we should all take to the streets.

Write Governor Cuomo today:

Governor Mario Cuomo  
The Executive Chamber  
Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

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### **PARKS**

Jim Brennan, who heads our Parks Committee, reports that Seravalli Playground will soon have a part-time Parks Department attendant, and that the water fountains there are finally functioning. Bleecker Street Playground is also benefitting from renewed Parks Department attention in the form of a maintenance person, which it has lacked for some years. Henry Stern has also weighed in on the dog question: Seravalli, a playground and games court, is not a dog run. The Parks Department, with the financial help of the West Village Committee, is replacing the rotting wood in the benches of the Bleecker Park sitting area. The West Village Committee is also committed to the repair once again of the ironwork fence around Abingdon Square Park - one finial is missing and three of the upright bars are stolen. Contributions to cover the expense of this work will be greatly appreciated.

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### **THE GRAND CENTRAL PARTNERSHIP**

Many have no doubt noticed the presence and/or effects of the Grand Central Partnership in Bleecker and Abingdon Parks. These trained people in uniform are often formerly homeless and substance-abusing people themselves, who act mainly as a deterrent to would-be drug dealers and vagrants who might camp out in a public park or use it as a toilet. They also talk to the homeless people in the parks to try to persuade them to try detoxification programs or other needed services. We know they have had at least a partial success with some individuals. The services of the Partnership are \$1,000 a week. About

half of this is being levied from businesses in the area and some cooperative apartment buildings. While we applaud the job they are doing, one wonders why it cannot be done through programs already funded by our taxes. The Partnership works with the local police precinct, which has apparently become much more responsive to calls concerning park problems as a result. Perhaps that good work could be kept up whether the Partnership is there or not.

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#### HOUSING WORKS THRIFT SHOP MOVES

The Housing Works Thrift Shop, which provides housing and furniture for people with AIDS, has moved to 141 W. 17th Street, across from Barney's. Used clothing and furniture in good condition are gladly accepted as donations and sold for the benefit of the project. The new site is larger and a block closer to the West Village. Volunteers to work are also welcome.

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#### THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET

As many already know, we are losing our Greenmarket for August. In addition to losing this prime month of the growing season, there is a danger that we could lose our local market permanently if people in the community do not speak out for it and patronize it. Though we had some excellent vendors in July, with a delicious range of produce (from sweet, yellow-fleshed small watermelons to exotic mushrooms to purple sweet peppers and round white eggplants), it was felt by many that the market would be more accessible and visible to many new customers if it moved the few blocks down to Abingdon Square, to the wide sidewalk along the edge of the park. Community Board 2 is holding a public hearing on this question on September 7, place and time not yet given out. If you cannot speak in person, write a statement and ask a neighbor to read it or submit it to the board. The market will be an enhancement to the park area for the few hours on Saturday mornings when it is there - it is quiet, a colorful array of flowers and nature's bounty, not much of it in competition with the Sloan's and D'Agostino supermarkets nearby but a natural complement to them, and a great bonus for the community. It is a pleasant place to meet your neighbors.

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#### THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks for generous donations from Robert M. Packer, Jack A. Weitzman, Sanford Gaster, Carolyn Wolfe and Arthur Bond. We would also like to thank Irene Connors and Chris Stroligo for keeping us supplied with print jobs, including envelopes, in emergencies. We also acknowledge excellent contributions of books for the West Village Committee's bookstore at 702 Greenwich Street from Gene and Fran Schoor and from Wendy Schwartz.

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I enclose a contribution for the following purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_ General purposes (postage/printing) \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Street Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Repairs in Abingdon Square and Bleecker Parks

\_\_\_\_\_ NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS

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Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible.





"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Jan. 24, 1995  
Place: St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXVI, No. 1

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 242-0762**

Agenda: State decides to connect our streets to 9A  
Threat of River Project to the Village waterfront

**COURT VICTORY OVER HUDSON RIVER PARK CONSERVANCY**

Most of you have already heard that numerous environmental groups gained a court victory over the Hudson River Park Conservancy before State Supreme Court Justice Kristin Booth Glen. The ruling did not kill HRPC, but stated that Governor Cuomo violated the law by creating HRPC without any environmental study. But there is no real victory until HRPC is dead. Tom Fox has been dismissed as head of HRPC, but he is refusing to leave since he says that only the board of dictatorial HRPC can fire him. But Governor Pataki can dissolve HRPC altogether. We strongly urge you call the Governor's local Manhattan office - 417-2100 - and urge that he kill HRPC - or, if you prefer, write to Governor George E. Pataki, The Executive Chamber, Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and beg him to dissolve HRPC. And don't wait - act now!

**ABINGDON SQUARE GREENMARKET EXTENDED**

Community Board 2 has approved the enlargement of the Abingdon Square Park Greenmarket to include the east side of the Park along 8th Avenue. The market will reopen in May with its usual array of goodies including a fish truck.

**WORK NEEDED IN JANE STREET AND JEFFERSON GARDENS**

The next few months will be spent in cleaning and reviving the Jane Street Garden and the Rock Garden area behind Jefferson Market Library. Jane Street will not be very difficult, Jefferson is more of a disaster with many plants destroyed. Somebody decided that the fence would be better painted green, so they walked on and broke all the roses planted along the 10th Street fence. Grey or black is better than green on a garden fence. But at least the exterior of the Library is cleaned and restored - magnificent! We can always plant another garden; but nobody is going to build another mid-Victorian beauty like Jefferson Market.

**STOP THE GARBAGE STENCH ON MORTON STREET**

The stench of kitchen waste being stored in the Atlas Paper site near the foot of Morton Street continues to cause disgust in the area. Residents insist that the garbage has brought an increase in truck traffic as the rotting material is delivered, packaged, and trucked away to landfill. A meeting with Deputy Mayor Frances Reiter got us nowhere, as usual. But letters to Reiter are still in order, 250 Broadway, 14th Floor, NYC 10007, and letters to Hon. Reggie Fitzgerald, Transportation Committee, Community Board 2, 3 Washington Square Village, NY 10012-1899 asking for relief might be even more helpful. This facility does not belong in what is an essentially a mixed residential/commercial neighborhood.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., July 25, 1995  
St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXVI, No.7-8

**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Note: There will be no meeting during August.

**UPDATE ON THE WATERFRONT**

We knew that the HRPC always had commercial uses in mind for the waterfront. Now, after the architect presented some fairly green designs, the Pataki-powered HRPC proposes several restaurants, a food market, a Kiddie City, a caterers', and a boat showroom on Pier 40, as well as the one softball field. This in a space where there should be room for just about every park use, including much-needed green play space for the burgeoning child population downtown. HRPC's justification is MONEY, though if they would forgo commercial uses, we would have ample funds with which to create the kind of simple green space we want, with the Westway trade-in money. If we were granted a waiver on paying back that \$80 million, commercial uses would be forbidden -- which is just what we want.

The HRPC plans march arm-in-arm, of course, with the highway plans. The highway -- our section of it -- is going to be begun within months. The HRPC's much-vaunted bikeway is actually part of the highway design. The median strip of the highway is still projected as being 19 feet wide. That 19 feet could have given us our service road and thereby the limited access to our streets that the entire community supports. It can also be regarded as at least 15 feet less of park on the shore side. Either way, it seems an absurd and objectionable design element. This is mystifying. Why can't we have street cutoffs, as every other neighborhood in Manhattan does? And will the median strip be our park when they get done installing commercial uses on the shore side?

We have all had to speak at too many hearings and write too many letters -- but don't stop now. Don't let them think we've given up in exhaustion, even though we are exhausted. Write Pataki, Gargano, HRPC, DOT. Tell them we want the Westway money, street cutoffs, no commercial uses, green landscaping without buildings, and no so-called public authorities on the waterfront. Our plans are modest. It is their projections that are grandiose and costly, and that our tax money will end up subsidizing.

**SERAVALLI PLAYGROUND**

Seravalli Playground has been fortunate, given the drastic Parks Department cutbacks, to have a full-time attendant assigned for the summer. He is Bruce Adams and he is doing an outstanding job, not only in keeping the Playground exceptionally clean and safe, but also by providing recreational activities for the many programs and hundreds of children using Seravalli daily.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Sept 26, 1995  
St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXVI, No.9

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

Note: This issue of the newsletter will reach you earlier than usual: therefore be sure to note the date of the next meeting on your calendar.

### **UPDATE ON ROUTE 9-A**

According to the Pataki-appointed new head of the state Department of Transportation, construction of the highway is to begin this January. It will start with our segment, between Houston and Fourteenth Streets and *no street detachment* is in the plans. Their plan for parkland west of the highway includes restaurants, boat showrooms, and other commercial establishments. In short, what so many of us have worked so hard for over the years, they are determined to deny, despite the clear wishes of the community and the excellent alternatives that are available.

At a time when budgets are ruthlessly shredded and workers are slashed to save mere thousands of dollars, \$80 million has been thrown away. Why? So that government cronies can make as many millions with commercial development paid for with our tax money. The Department of Transportation refuses to request a waiver on the Westway payback because, they say, it will potentially entail delay and they want to start building now. As we know, keeping that federal highway money left over from Westway would preclude commercial development of the waterfront.

The construction-business executive Charles Gargano, appointed by Pataki to the state Department of Economic Development authority in control of the waterfront, has a substantial interest in a riverboat-gambling outfit he has been trying to bring to New York. Riverboat gambling has been proposed for the Hudson. Do you want Vegas in the Village?

It further seems to be the case that the reason we cannot get street detachment, such as every other residential neighborhood in Manhattan enjoys, is because that would preclude extending our streets and city services (paid for with our tax money) to the commercial ventures, such as gambling casinos or yacht salesrooms, on our shore. Developers on their own could never afford to provide the road service and infrastructure. Legally, street detachment would prevent our having to provide them.

Our local legislators - Glick, Duane, Nadler - have been staunch on these issues. Our problems have always been higher up in the political hierarchy: the governor, the mayor, and the powerful authorities they control and endlessly fund with our money through bond issues. Next year, over 100% of our city taxes will be needed to start paying off overdue bonds. You may be sure they will use this as an excuse to further muck up our shores, saying that the income generated by development is needed to pay for the highway we didn't need in the first place and the three trees they are going to call a park.

Don't stop writing letters to the governor and the mayor expressing your outrage over these offenses. But even better if you join forces with individuals and groups in other parts of town, in the boroughs and upstate. It has been made clear by both Democratic and Republican administrations that Village votes are not important votes. Show them that no one wants to see the river spoiled, that no one wants the ruination of the national treasures that are our historic neighborhood and harbor. No one except those who stand to profit directly from such ruination. Photocopy this issue of the newsletter and send it to your far-flung friends. The Upper West Side is threatened by the same forces, as are parts of Queens (at Hunter's Point) and Staten Island (at the Alice Austen Homestead).

### **NOTE THE ENCLOSED LETTER**

When we contacted the National Trust for Historic Preservation they told us that the West Village Committee was the only organization requesting support for streets detached from Route 9A. We urge you to get your group, block association or other, to



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
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## THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALS/LETTERS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

# Don't Ponder New Westways When Subways Are Crumbling

To the Editor:

Randy M. Mastro, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's chief of staff, laments the days when big-spending government could sock taxpayers for wasteful mega-roadway projects like Westway (Op-Ed, Aug. 26). His views augur poorly for beleaguered straphangers, who are awaiting funding for long-overdue repairs to crumbling stations, unsafe track and signals, and aging subway cars and buses.

Westway died because it was the wrong choice for the region. Since the project's demise, more than \$1 billion in Westway trade-in funds has flowed in to fix city subways and buses. It is scary to think what city transit would be like without that support.

The Giuliani administration seems poised to make the wrong choices today. Mayor Giuliani's representatives on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority just moved to cut the subway and bus rebuilding program by \$625 million over the next five years.

E. Virgil Conway, the new Metropolitan Transportation Authority chairman, says there is a \$4 billion gap in transit funding over the next five years, due to huge cuts by

the city, state and Federal Government. Unless resources are found to prevent this massive disinvestment, fares will shoot through the roof and service will collapse. More than ever we need elected officials like Mayor Giuliani to be making the right spending choices on behalf of the city's five million daily transit riders.

GENE RUSSIANOFF  
Staff Attorney  
Straphangers Campaign  
New York, Aug. 27, 1995

## Bring On the Green

To the Editor:

Re "The Road Not Taken" (Op-Ed, Aug. 26): No one could more urgently wish for a park on the West Side waterfront than the people who fought Westway and those who were confident that the will of the majority would prevent its being built.

Greenwich Village residents, rebuked by Randy Mastro for blocking every alternative, have long since filed a detailed alternative plan with the City Planning Commission, which the city has not acted on. It is for a green park without buildings — a plan we in the Village wish to see implemented by the state Parks Department as was Riverbank State Park, farther up the river.

What we oppose is enriching commercial developers with our tax dollars, as the Urban Development Corporation, which has charge of the waterfront, would do.

The Giuliani administration may call this a "grand dream," but to almost anyone not involved with developers, it looks like grandiose avarice.

ANNA SHAPIRO  
New York, Aug. 21, 1995



## The New York Times Company

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# THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

54 EAST 64TH STREET  
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## CHARLES A. GARGANO: MASTER OF SLEAZE

**W**hen Charles Gargano eats dinner, people pay: \$1,000 a plate, in some cases, for Mr. Gargano is one of the state's leading Republican fund-raisers. But other people pay, too: The citizens of New York, who expect honest government from their elected Governor. For Mr. Gargano also happens to be Gov. George Pataki's Commissioner of the Empire State Development Corporation, which means he distributes contracts worth millions of taxpayer dollars to state businesses, some of whose executives have chowed down with Mr. Gargano at those same fund-raisers. Indeed, one imagines they've developed heartier appetites since Mr. Gargano began his ethically dubious straddle in February.

Mr. Gargano won the Governor's blind loyalty last fall, when he harvested \$14.5 million to finance Mr. Pataki's startling Cuomo-coup. Which means that Mr. Gargano is untouchable in Albany. That's too bad: As this newspaper has reported, Mr. Gargano seems to consider himself immune to the proprieties to which most government officials at least pay lip service.

Mr. Gargano made his wealth in the 1970's, as a vice president and a major stockholder at J.D. Posillico, a construction firm, which, by the way, the Suffolk County District Attorney charged with influence peddling and bid rigging. (Posillico pleaded no contest and settled for \$315,000.) He moved south as President Reagan's Ambassador to Trinidad—though, when rebels attempted a bloody coup in 1990, the U.S. Embassy had some trouble tracking Mr. Gargano down: He was on Long Island. But Mr. Gargano does show loyalty to his friends: He testified as a defense witness in the bribery trial of former U.S. Representative Mario Biaggi of the Bronx and Meade Esposito, the late Brooklyn political boss.

It is in 1995 that Mr. Gargano has blossomed. *The New York Times'* Joe Sexton and Douglas Frantz recently reported the story of a developer, Pyramid Companies, which for a decade had been trying to erect a \$250 million shopping center in Rockland County. Local and state officials turned it down over environmental and traffic concerns. But in March, Governor Pataki made a personal fund-raising appeal to a Pyramid executive, who then wrote a \$25,000 check to the Republican State Committee. Two months later, Mr. Gargano made a few phone calls to state agencies, and the obstacles to the shopping center disappeared.

Mr. Gargano operates in a universe of one. As he told *The Times*, "As long as I know in my heart and my head that I'm fine about what I'm doing, that's fine with me." Surely a statement to put every New Yorker at ease.

Mr. Gargano's presence says a lot about Mr. Pataki's idea of how business should be conducted: if not always under the table, then certainly across it, and moral niceties be damned. (Not surprisingly, Mr. Gargano's supreme patron is Senator Alfonse D'Amato.)

It is outrageous that taxpayers are stuck with this man and his methods. That Mr. Pataki apparently supports him fully says much about the price of friendship: It seems \$14.5 million buys a lot of leeway.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community  
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting date: Tues., Nov. 28, 1995  
St. John's Parish Hall  
224 Waverly Place at 7:30 pm  
Newsletter Volume XXXVI, No.11-12

## **THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

### **WEST VILLAGE ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER**

The December meeting will be Tuesday, December 5, at 7 PM in St. John's Parish Hall. This will be the annual celebration that our neighborhood escaped urban renewal back in the sixties. A feast will be provided at a charge of \$10 per person. You may bring your own wine if you wish. If you have a favorite dish you would like to prepare for the event, please let us know. This is an informal party where you can meet your neighbors and make new friends. You must let us know by Saturday December 2 if you are attending so we will know how much food to provide.

### **ON THE WATERFRONT**

We are disturbed by recent statements that Pier 40 is to be the waterfront park for the West Village. The rest is proposed for development, with walking and bike paths only. Rumors abound that the city would like us to back off from the Community Board's 197A plan which does not allow high-rise building. There are also rumors that the city would like to kill the meat market and hand it over to developers. Pressure is on to rezone the south side of 14th Street to be compatible with the higher Chelsea zoning. Let us have no dirty deals to gain an inch here and lose a yard there. Governor Pataki's excuse for why the state is determined to attach all local streets to Route 9A is that it was a decision made by State Commissioner Daly. Yet we know the Governor has some influence: Daly was not self-appointed to his position of power. We must fight back - dig our feet in the Hudson shore and refuse to move.

### **IT'S ONE WATERFRONT**

At first sight it may look as if the proposed Trump project called "Riverside South" has little to do with us in the West Village, but if nothing else, we are connected underground: the impact of those 4,000 or so new housing units on the already overburdened North Sewage Treatment Plant will cause more flooding of basements with sewage on Jane and Horatio Streets. As you know, we have joined in the lawsuit initiated by the Coalition for a Livable West Side to prevent this eventuality. But there are larger issues here, as well. Trump has applied for a \$350 million loan guarantee from HUD and is eligible for outsize tax abatements in exchange for some limited lower income housing (8% of the units, and only for 20 years) in the luxury project. All city taxpayers will be subsidizing those abatements and loans, as we are already subsidizing the 63 million empty square feet of office space for which we allowed our government to float bonds and guarantee payment in the eighties. Payment for bonds on such projects is expected to amount to 118% of our city tax dollar in 1996. In other words, there is already no way to pay for it. Hundreds of West-siders turned out recently to speak to HUD against the project. The New York Observer followed up with an article, as did *The Nation*. If you can stand to write any more letters, your views can make a difference, whether they are letters to editors, to Clinton or HUD; or checks to the Coalition for a Livable West Side, P.O. Box 78, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023; or to the West Village Committee, in support of the lawsuit.

### **JEFFERSON MARKET LIBRARY BELL TOWER**

The Jefferson Market Library was built as a police court and jail at the height of the Victorian period. The city intended to demolish this Victorian landmark, but Margot Gayle and Ruth and Philip Wittenberg aroused the community to preserve it as a library. It was a marvelous restoration but the one thing they never achieved was to make the bell in the tower ring once more. The Wittenbergs are gone, but Margot Gayle is still here and she is making a giant effort to restore the ringing bell. Together with Verna Small, Cynthia Crane, Marilyn Dorato and others, she is raising \$10,000 for the repair work, which will include the installation of an electrical mechanism to make the bell ring on the hour during daytime hours up until 10 PM. You may make a tax deductible donation to this project through the West Village Committee by marking your check "for the bell tower."

J-D 95 1

# To: West Village residents DO YOU REALIZE...

*Your quiet Village street is about to become the on/off ramp for a major highway...  
Your house is going to shake with the traffic vibrations...  
You & your kids will have to dodge more speeding cars & trucks...  
Your air quality is going to get worse...*

## **WAKE UP! WE DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS!**

Construction for Route 9A (West St. rebuilt for a whopping \$380 million) will begin next year. It will have three southbound lanes, a closed center median of 21 feet, and four northbound lanes. ALL VILLAGE STREETS CONNECT DIRECTLY TO THE NORTHBOUND LANES.

NO OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY HAS ITS LOCAL STREETS CONNECTED TO A MAJOR HIGHWAY. THE FDR DOESN'T CONNECT AT EVERY LOCAL STREET. THE UPPER WEST SIDE STREETS DON'T CONNECT TO THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY AT EVERY LOCAL STREET. ARE OUR LIVES AND HOMES LESS VALUABLE?

They're saying there's not enough room for a service road—but they have a 21 foot median and four traffic lanes northbound, which narrow to three above 14th Street. They're saying it would delay Route 9A, as if that's more important than the impact of this bad decision on the Village.

## **DETACH VILLAGE STREETS FROM ROUTE 9A!**

### **BOMBARD THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS WITH LETTERS:**

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, City Hall, NY, NY 10007  
Commissioner John Daly, State DOT, 5 Gov. Harriman State Campus, Albany, NY 12232  
Governor George Pataki, Executive Chambers, Albany, NY 12224  
Frank Sanchis, National Trust for Historic Properties, 1785 Mass. Ave. Washington DC 20036  
Borough President Ruth Messinger, Municipal Bldg., NY, NY 10007  
State Senator Catherine Abate, 270 Broadway, NY, NY 10007  
State Senator Franz Leichter, 10 Columbus Circle, NY, NY 10019  
Assemblymember Deborah Glick, 853 Broadway, NY, NY 10003  
Congressman Jerry Nadler, 1841 Broadway, NY, NY 10023  
Councilman Tom Duane, 275 Seventh Ave., 12th Fl., NY, NY 10001

Tell them that Route 9A plans must include detachment of Village streets.

## **DETACH VILLAGE STREETS FROM ROUTE 9A!**



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**THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE**

**702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762**

If you were concerned about Westway and the subsequent controversy over the land between West Street and the underwater land extending to the end of the piers, you have probably heard about the \$80 million in Federal money currently in control of the State Department of Transportation and the custodianship of Governor Cuomo.

The money came from the Feds to purchase the waterfront for Westway. The money is available to be used for landscaping - for creating a scenic view along the Hudson. A green park could be built tomorrow if the Governor were to okay it. However, Mario Cuomo was for Westway, and still favors development. What that Federal money cannot be used for is buildings and commercial development. Therefore, Cuomo wants to give it back. He would rather give favors - and our tax money - to his developer friends than have a park built with Federal funds - a park that people who live in Chelsea, the Village, and parts south have been fighting for and needing so long that many of the children for whom the park was originally required already have children for their own.

Furthermore, if a simple green park were created, other Federal funds for such enhancements would become available.

On Feb. 3, the agency Cuomo put in charge of this stretch of waterfront, the misleadingly named Hudson River Park Conservancy - which plans to build luxury residential housing on the piers in the water, among other things - will vote to return the \$80 million to the Federal coffers. This will not only keep us from having a bucolic park, but will quite probably destroy the working waterfront and the natural shoreline as well. The Hudson River Park Conservancy will possess the same dictatorial powers as its parent agency, the Urban Development Corporation. It will cost us in bond issues, but it will provide plenty of pork for pols and their pals.

We can have a park without buildings. We can make the magnificent Hudson - one of truly great rivers of the world - a viewable and integral part of the city's edge. It is only the greed of developers that stands in the way. Call the Governor and let him know where you stand. Ask your friends upstate to call him. And let your local officials who wish to keep the \$80 million for a park know they have your support: Deborah Glick (674-5153) (fax 674-5530), Jerrold Nadler (489-3530) (fax 977-3546), Tom Duane (929-5501) (fax 929-5562). We also urge phone calls to the following:

Governor Mario Cuomo, New York City office (212/417-2100).  
Richard Gottfried, Scott Stringer, Ed Sullivan, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, State Assembly, Albany (518/455-4100).  
State Senators Franz Leichter and Manfred Ohrenstein, State Senate, Albany (518/455-2800).

And other West Side Council members: Ronnie Eldridge (765-4339), Stan Michels (788-7700), Kathryn Freed (732-5675), Virginia Fields (788-6972). In addition, phone calls to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (788-3000), Comptroller Alan Hevesi (669-3500), Boro President Ruth Messinger (669-8300), and to Public Advocate Mark Green (669-7200) may bear good fruit.