



THE ANTHEMION



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THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Fall Waterfront Exhibition

"Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge: The Survival of a Neighborhood", an exhibition focusing on one of New York City's last relatively undisturbed waterfronts, will be on view September 26 - October 25, 1990 at the Urban Center Galleries on Madison Avenue and 51st Street. The exhibition is jointly sponsored by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and the Municipal Art Society.

A large-scale model of the Village waterfront will form a centerpiece for the show, which will highlight the many activities that have traditionally co-existed there, including shipping, markets, and industrial and commercial uses. In addition, many of the neighborhood's residential and institutional buildings will be surveyed through texts and historical and present-day photographs.

The exhibition will also include a section on future concerns and opportunities that this area is currently facing, among them plans to create a waterside park and esplanade, the upgrading of Route 9A, recent crime, the prison barge, abandoned piers, and future high-rise development.

A Members' Reception on Wednesday, September 26 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm will celebrate the opening of the exhibition. Invitations will be mailed shortly. A fundraising preview to benefit the Society will be held on Tuesday, September 25th. It will feature playwright John Guare reading selections by Herman Melville about the Hudson River. Tickets are \$50; \$250 for patrons. Please call (212) 924-3895 for tickets or further information.

"Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge" is made possible by generous grants and contributions from the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Hudson River Improvement Fund of the Hudson River Foundation, the Milstein Family Foundation, the Daniel and Joanna S. Rose Fund, the Rockrose Development Corporation, Forbes Magazine, A.I. Friedman, and the Cooper Union School of Architecture, among others.



Pier #54 at the foot of West 13th Street, c. 1910. Built just after the turn-of-the-century as part of the "Chelsea Improvement Project", Pier #54 was one of a series of nine ocean liner terminals that extended from Little West 12th Street north to West 23rd Street. The architects, Warren and Wetmore, were also responsible for the New York Yacht Club and Grand Central Station. Pier #54 was one of a trio of piers for the Cunard Line (Piers #53, #54 and #56); today it is the only one to survive with its pier shed and facade, which was stripped of much of the original ornamentation in 1951. The striped awning marked the passenger entrance. (Collections of the Municipal Archives, City of New York)

1990 Fall Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- Tues., Sept. 25 6:00 pm Fundraising Preview for "Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge" Exhibition. (Tickets: \$50; \$250 for patrons, please call 924-3895 for tickets/further info.). To benefit the Greenwich Village Society. Urban Center Galleries
- Wed., Sept. 26 6:00 pm Members' Reception for Exhibition (free); Urban Center Galleries
- Wed., Sept. 19- Thurs. Oct. 25 Exhibition: "Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge"; Urban Center Galleries

OCTOBER

- Thurs., Oct. 4 12:00 noon "The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront", lecture by Dr. Regina M. Kellerman; Urban Center Galleries (see enclosure for more info.)
- Wed. Oct. 24 6:30 am Walking Tour: "The Gansevoort Market Area -- Past and Present", followed by breakfast (see enclosure for more info.)

DECEMBER

- Wed. Dec. 5 6:00 pm Annual December Meeting Peter Cooper Suite, Cooper Union Foundation Building, 7 East 7th Street, 8th Floor

Waterfront Exhibition Activities

In addition to the opening receptions for the Greenwich Village waterfront exhibition, two other related events have been planned:

On Thursday, October 4 from 12 noon to 1 pm, the Society's Executive Director, Dr. Regina M. Kellerman, will give a slide lecture about The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront. The Society's new book, edited by Dr. Kellerman and published by New York University Press in December 1989, documents the architectural history of the more than 350 buildings and the surviving piers in the 36-square-block neighborhood. The lecture, which is free, will be held at the Urban Center Galleries of the Municipal Art Society as part of their fall Author Lecture Series, "Writer's

Talk", concerning recent books on New York City's architecture, history and urbanism.

On Wednesday, October 24 the Society will sponsor a special morning walking tour entitled "The Gansevoort Market Area -- Past and Present." The tour, which will be conducted by the Society's staff, will offer behind-the-scenes looks at how the meat industry, a staple of the Village waterfront for over one hundred years, operates today. The tour is scheduled for 6:30 - 7:30 am and will be followed by breakfast. Special price for members. Space is limited; reservations are required; call (212) 924-3895. See enclosed flyer for further information.

New Executive Director and Trustees

At the Annual June Meeting at Grace Church President Richard Barnett announced that Scott Marshall would become the Society's new Executive Director, effective November 1, 1990. Dr. Regina M. Kellerman, Executive Director since 1981, will be leaving to head her own consulting firm in architectural history and preservation.

Marshall, who has been Executive Assistant since January as well as Director of the waterfront exhibition, received an M.S. in Historic Preservation from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation in 1986. While at Columbia, he worked for the Society as



Scott Marshall (photo by Cal Jopru)

a work-study student, producing two walking tours: "Edith Wharton's Old New York" and "The Old Churches of Greenwich Village". From 1986-89, he was Assistant Director of Edith Wharton Restoration in Lenox, MA, which administers the author's 1902 home, The Mount. Marshall has recently joined the Board of Directors of Preservation Alumni at Columbia University and the Victorian Society of America -- Metropolitan Chapter.

Two new members of the Society's Board of Trustees -- Tiziana Hardy and William F. Passannante -- were elected at the Annual June Meeting. Mrs. Hardy, a resident of Charles Street for the past 15 years, owns a firm that rehabilitates old buildings, concentrating on buildings in the Harlem area. Mr. Passannante, a resident of Barrow Street and a lifelong Village resident, is presently the senior member of the New York State Assembly, as well as Speaker Pro Tem. For 36 years he has served as Assemblyman for the Village's 61st District and recently announced that he would retire.

Annual December Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the Society's Annual December Meeting, which has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 pm in the Peter Cooper Suite atop the Foundation Building of the Cooper Union School on Cooper Square between Astor Place and East 7th Street. Dedicated to the "advancement of science and art", this grand brownstone building in the Italianate style was designed by architect Frederick A. Peterson. Completed in 1859, it has been a significant Village landmark for over 130 years. Society members will receive a separate invitation to this special holiday event during November.

Long Range Planning Study

During September and October, the Long Range Planning Committee of the Board of Directors is undertaking a strategic study to review both the present mission and the future direction of the Society. The committee, which is headed by Kendyl K. Monroe, has identified the fall of 1990 as an appropriate time for the Society to analyze its structure, programs and needs in order to continue to grow and to better serve its membership. The study will be conducted in association with Arthur D. Raybin Associates, and will also produce a five year plan for the Society.

Society members are invited to participate in a discussion group to help the organization evaluate its programs and plan for the future. Please call the office at (212) 924-3895 if you would like to be involved; your ideas and suggestions at the discussion group would be much appreciated.



The anthemion was a standard architectural ornament of the 1830-1850 Greek Revival period in the United States. It abounds in Greenwich Village, especially as a cast-iron cresting atop fences and basement window grilles, and in modified wooden form over doorways.