



THE ANTHEMION

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THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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New Preservation Committee

GVSHP Looks Toward Issues

To focus more attention on preservation issues, the board of trustees recently set up a preservation committee with three goals: to exercise the watchdog function of the Society more fully; to strengthen our preservation voice by joining those of other organizations; and to express preservation concerns of Greenwich Village when they are affected by New York planning.

Part of the mandate of the GVSHP is to be a watchdog on preservation in the Village. Recently one of the Society's members called the office to say that the Spanish-Portuguese cemetery on 11th Street near 6th Avenue was strewn with rubble. Fearing damage to this tiny early 19th century treasure, the Preservation Committee contacted Shearith Israel Synagogue, which owns the cemetery, and learned that construction on the boundary wall was under way and that it would be finished and the site cleaned up as soon as weather permits.

Personal contact is one way to work as a watchdog, but to bring the kind of pressure needed to help forestall demolition or damage to landmark buildings and sites, the voice of numerous organizations may be more persuasive. Accordingly, the Preservation Committee has begun to establish relationships with similar organizations, among them the Historic Districts Council, the World Monuments Fund, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and a new Village organization, the Coalition of Block Associations.

The LPC is the only one of these organizations with political authority: it can issue stop orders on construction or demolition in a designated area if it is being done without the required certificates from the LPC. But that's only good if the LPC finds out in time, which is where we come in. If the commissioners know and trust us personally, our calls will receive attention. Through our membership and that (continued on page 4)

Preservation In Education

The Cutting Edge

At the time the Greenwich Village Society (GVSHP) and the Old Merchant's House (OMH) created the elementary school program *Greenwich Village: History and Historic Preservation* in 1991, neither realized that other New York City architectural and cultural organizations would soon share their desire to introduce local history, architecture, and preservation into the lives of school children. Recently, groups such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Historic Districts Council (HDC)

have begun to design and promote curricula and programs aimed at engaging children in the study of their urban surroundings. This makes the program devised by GVSHP former director Scott Marshall and OMH director Pi Gardiner seem somewhat ahead of its time.

Nearly 1,000 Manhattan school children (many from schools outside lower Manhattan) have experienced the program since 1991. With its three-session form (history lecture, Village walking tour and OMH tour), the program (continued on page 4)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Call For Volunteers

The Greenwich Village Society is looking for a few good people! Help your community and get involved by becoming a GVSHP volunteer. Our offices in the Salmagundi Club provide a pleasant working atmosphere, and job training can be provided. The following positions are open:

Archival Assistant: reviews, arranges, catalogues and files books, articles, clippings, and other items in the Society's library. Interest in NYC and in Village history, architecture, and preservation is essential. Time commitment: 4-6 hours per week, with a flexible schedule.

Marketing Manager: markets the Society and its public programs to the community, touring organizations, and other potential audiences through preparation, distribution, and follow-up of promotional materials. Assists the staff and Trustees in membership development and public relations. An interest in and knowledge of marketing is helpful. Time commitment: 4-6 hours per week. Some work at home possible.

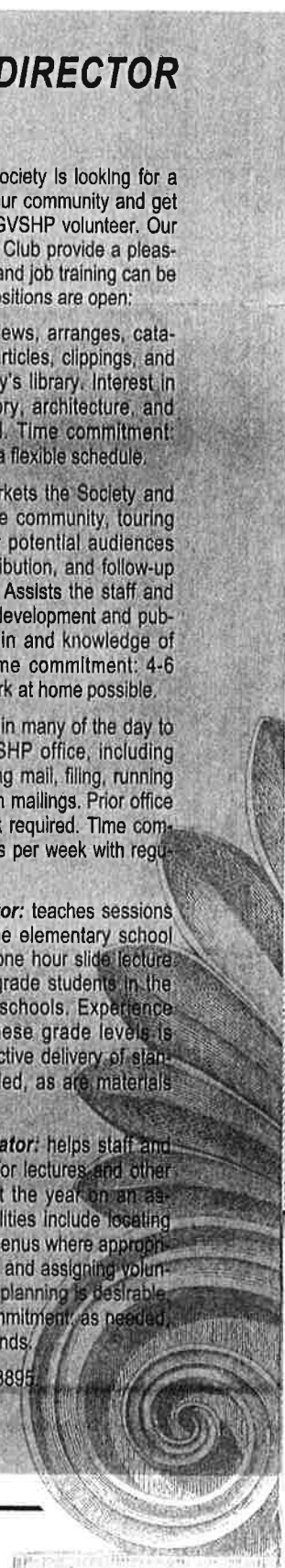
Office Assistant: assists in many of the day to day workings of the GVSHP office, including answering phones, opening mail, filing, running errands, and assisting with mailings. Prior office experience helpful but not required. Time commitment: minimum 8 hours per week with regular schedule preferred.

School Program Educator: teaches sessions throughout the year in the elementary school program. Involves giving one hour slide lecture to second through sixth grade students in the public and independent schools. Experience and interest teaching these grade levels is required. Training for effective delivery of standardized lecture is provided, as are materials and transportation costs.

Special Events Coordinator: helps staff and Trustees plan receptions for lectures and other special events throughout the year on an as-needed basis. Responsibilities include locating reception sites, planning menus where appropriate, arranging for catering, and assigning volunteers. Experience in party planning is desirable but not required. Time commitment, as needed, some evenings and weekends.

Interested? Call (212)924-3895.

Vicki Weiner



Upcoming Events

LECTURE

Edith Wharton and Design: The Unspoken Language of Rooms

Pauline C. Metcalf

February 28th, 1994 at 6:00 p.m.

National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, \$12 members/\$15 guests.

The Society is pleased to present an illustrated lecture by Pauline Metcalf on the roles that architecture and



Wharton's Pavillon Colombe

interior design played in Edith Wharton's houses and writing. The event is co-sponsored with Edith Wharton Restoration and the National Arts Club. An architectural historian and interior designer, Ms. Metcalf has curated exhibits at the Rhode Island School of Design and the National Academy of Design; she serves on the board of Edith Wharton Restoration, which is restoring Wharton's home, The Mount, in Lenox, MA. The lecture will be held in the gallery of the National Arts Club, a location site of the recent film, *The Age of Innocence*.

WALKING TOUR

The Ethnic East Village

Joyce Gold

March 12, 1994 at 1:00 p.m.

Meets at St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery, 10th Street and 2nd Avenue \$12 members/\$15 guests.

From Stuyvesant's bouwerie to the Tompkins Square site of recent riots, the East Village is a fascinating neighborhood that is home to the second oldest church in Manhattan, a McKim Mead & White library building, and the auditorium where George Gershwin gave his first public concert. It includes late-nineteenth century tenements that housed artists, beatniks and punks alongside immigrants whose ethnic presence is still felt. GVSHIP member Joyce Gold, author and teacher of New York City history at New York University and

the New School for Social Research will conduct the tour.

ANNUAL BENEFIT

Stories My Father Told Me: Dinner and Conversation with William Passannante

April 10, 1994 at 5:30 p.m.

Tiro a Segno of New York, 77 MacDougal Street, \$250/person.

The Society's annual benefit this year will feature former Assemblymember and noted conversationalist William Passannante, who will share stories his father told him about the Village in the early part of the 20th century. Seats will be limited, so the event promises to be intimate as well as immensely entertaining. Call the Society soon to ensure a reservation.

INSIDE LOOK

Greenwich to Greenwich

Alan Neumann and Vicki Weiner

April 16, 1994 at 10:00 a.m.

Meets at Rambusch Studios, 40 W. 13th Street, \$24 members/\$30 guests.

This special all-day tour will start in Greenwich Village, travel by bus to Greenwich, Connecticut, and return by 5:00 p.m. Are there parallels between the two places? Both had a bohemian painters' colony in the first decades of this century; both experienced many social changes; both were founded by the 1640s and today strive to preserve their histories and architecture. The tour will explore these and other connections, taking an "inside look" at the former campus of Rosemary Hall, currently owned and operated by the Greenwich Japanese School. Alan Neumann will provide a behind-the-scenes glimpse of his work on the current restoration of St. Bede's Chapel, on the campus, which includes conservation of a significant collection of stained glass. We will also visit the Historical Society's Bush-Holly House, once inhabited by the nascent bohemian community.

WALKING TOUR

Lesbian and Gay Liberation Trail

Ken Lustbader

May 21, 1994 at 1:00 p.m.

Meets at The Stonewall Inn, Sheridan Square, \$12 members/\$15 guests.

Throughout the 20th century, Greenwich Village has been a place of refuge for the gay and lesbian community, but the history of the Village's development as a gay enclave remains folklore. The most visible expressions of gay life—bars, restaurants, nightclubs—reveal the history of oppression, political activism and liberation. The liberation trail follows a route which continuously pushed the community westward. Ken Lustbader, architectural historian with the Sacred Sites Conservancy, will examine the social expression of gay life. As June 1994 marks the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which laid down the gauntlet for gay rights, we hope you will travel this liberation trail with us.

BENEFIT TOUR

Beautiful Gardens of the Village

Martin Hutner, Benefit Chair

June 5, 1994, stay tuned for details.

Hosted by a committee of horticulture experts, landscape architects, and interior designers, this benefit tour will include visits to seven historic Greenwich Village houses and their gardens, culminating in a champagne reception at the final stop. This event promises to offer viewings of some of the city's most stunning backyards and rooftops.



St. Bede's Chapel, c. 1910.

Book Notes

Kafka Was the Rage, A Greenwich Village Memoir

Greenwich Village after World War II "was like Paris in the twenties—with the difference that it was our city." How evocative that statement is. How well it applies to the sixties too—or maybe simply to Greenwich Village in one's youth, whatever the decade. At any rate, it is the late Anatole Broyard's youth we're looking at here, and he pulls up the shades to give us a good one.

Broyard was born in New Orleans in 1929, moved to Brooklyn with his family as a boy, fought in World War II and returned to New York City in 1946, the year this book begins. Best known as a book critic for the New York Times, a position he held for nearly twenty years, Broyard's life and the lives of his friends in those post-war years revolved around books, sex and art. Of books he says, "If it hadn't been for books, we'd have been completely at the mercy of sex." He says plenty about sex too and art, and of course his friends. They were the literary lights of the years to follow, and Broyard tells stories about all of them—how he

helped Delmore Schwartz buy a suit at Brooks Brothers, how Dylan Thomas swung his wife Caitlin around and onto a bed when she got too outrageous, how Dwight Macdonald looked dancing with a hootchie-kootchie girl at a club in Spanish Harlem.

Granted that the memoir is a literary form which tends to favor the main character, Broyard nevertheless comes across here as an exceptionally likeable person, bumbling sometimes, silly sometimes, handsome, smart, witty and funny. He is very frank, and so genial an individual that he makes caustic criticisms of some contemporaries look like good-natured descriptions of less than perfect fellows. Delmore Schwartz says to him at one point, "You have less talent for concealing your opinion than most of my friends..." Verily.

—Penelope Barea

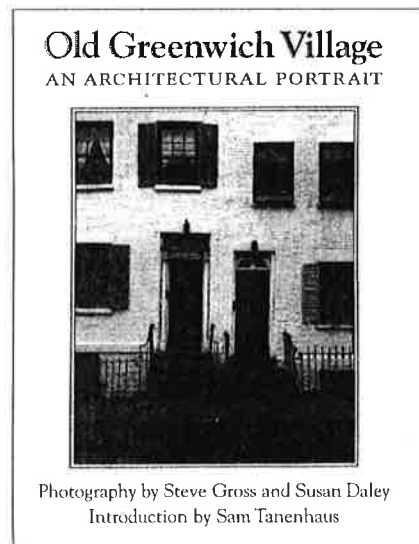
Kafka Was the Rage, A Greenwich Village Memoir by Anatole Broyard, published by Carol Southern Books, New York, 1993.

Old Greenwich Village, an Architectural Portrait

Crooked lintels, broken shutters, drip-scarred walls, peeling paint—how can all this be so beautiful, so achingly beautiful? Is it just beauty in the eye of the beholder? Or beauty in the eye of a camera? Maybe both. The 123 pages of sensitive and perceptive photography in *Old Greenwich Village*, which is primarily a picture book, are hardly enough.

For those who love the architecture of Greenwich Village, the best shots are the still, unpopulated close-ups of doorways, details, windows, and a dazzling Washington Square Park on a winter night. The introduction, on the other hand, is an obligatory history of the Village, written in a fancified style at odds with the photographs. Even at 13 pages, it seems too long.

—Penelope Barea



Old Greenwich Village, an Architectural Portrait. Photography by Steve Gross and Susan Daley, introduction by Sam Tanenhaus. The Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., 1993.

BULLETIN BOARD

News bits, hot tips and other items of interest...

SEMINAR *Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Selling a Townhouse* by Sara Gelbard, The Corcoran Group. February 23, 1994 at 5:30 p.m., The Corcoran Group, 25 E. 21st St. RSVPs and questions should be directed to Ms. Gelbard at (212) 780-2455. Free.

LECTURE *African-American History in New York City before 1900* by Christopher Moore. February 24, 1994 at 6:30 p.m., Avery Hall, Columbia University, Room 114. Presented by Preservation Alumni. Direct RSVPs and questions to Vicki Weiner, (212) 924-3895. Free.

Historian Christopher Moore will present a slide lecture on African-American history that focuses on the histories of two Harlem institutions: Abyssinian Baptist Church and Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, both of which are among the city's most recently designated landmarks. Their landmark designation reports were co-written by Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore was the lecturer for the GVSHP's event *Greenwich Village Before Bohemia* in October of 1993.

EXHIBIT *Reaching Out: The Landmarks Preservation Commission 1990-1993.* February 1–March 9, 1994 at The Municipal Art Society's Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue (at 51st St.) 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Saturday (closed Thursday). Free.

The exhibit features photographs and artifacts from the five boroughs which chronicle the Commission's recent efforts to preserve the city's architectural and cultural resources.

PANEL *Pre-Stonewall Greenwich Village* with Martin Duberman, Interlocutor; Martha Shelley, Allen Young and others, Panelists. April 29, 1994 from 1–3 p.m. Location TBA. Presented by New York University, The Humanities Council. For more information, call (212) 998-8330 or (212) 998-1610.

Co-sponsored by The Humanities Council and several NYU and CUNY Gay and Lesbian Studies organizations, the panel will be followed by a lecture by George Chauncy, author of *Everyday Acts of Resistance Before Stonewall*.

SYMPOSIUM *Career Fair 1994: Emerging Opportunities in Preservation* April 9, 1994. Avery Hall, Columbia University. Presented by Preservation Alumni. Call (212) 866-5022 for more information. Fee at the door TBA.

A panel discussion by preservation professionals with diverse specialties, and group discussions on such topics as women in preservation and computer documentation. Information tables will provide attendees with facts on practicing professionals and their projects.

Bulletin Board (continued)

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES Jamaica, W.I. with Linda Lee Burks, Touring Society of Jamaica. Package Tours and Day Trips arranged for groups and individuals. Brochures available in GVSHHP office, (212) 924-3895, or by calling Ms. Burks at (809) 975-7158.

The Touring Society of Jamaica develops tours that bring visitors closer to island life, introducing them to Jamaica's art, architecture, music, literature, history, and natural resources. Preservation of the island's 18th century architecture is ongoing and may provide the perfect distraction for the sunburned and rain-weary tourist. Tours and destination planning are tailored to the interests and budgets of each client.

TIFFANY NOTECARDS Dolomite Press has introduced a series of twelve notecards highlighting the work of **Louis Comfort Tiffany and Associated Artists** at Manhattan's Seventh Regiment Armory. This handsomely packaged



set includes a twelve-page booklet on the history of the landmark building and its spectacular interiors. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Friends of the Seventh Regiment

by supporting efforts to preserve the building and collections. To order, send a check for \$16.50 plus \$2 S&H (NY State residents must add 8.25% tax) to Dolomite Press, P.O. Box 347, Dept. GV, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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THE GREENWICH VILLAGE SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Preservation Committee...

(continued from page 1) of the other organizations we network with, the eyes and ears of the preservation community are multiplied, and through our personal relationship with LPC, our watchdog function will be enhanced.

The third mission of the Preservation Committee is really that of the Society as a whole: to represent preservation interests in Greenwich Village when they are or may be affected by city planning.

We are therefore in touch with planning groups concerned with development of the West Village. No one knows yet what will happen with the Hudson River waterfront. The area from the river to Greenwich Street is not part of the G.V. Historic District, so it is not

legally protected. As a first step toward seeking designation, in 1989 the Society sponsored and Regina Kellerman produced *The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront, An Archival Research Study*. To date, no action has been taken but the book remains an indispensable tool for the preservation community in planning sessions for this area.

Our intention is to keep current with developments and to work, as our mandate says, to protect the cultural and architectural heritage of Greenwich Village from exploitation and decline.

Preservation Committee members are: Dick Barnett and Jack Meserole, co-chairs; Penelope Barea, Regina Kellerman, Vicki Weiner, Alice Sandler and Alan Neumann.

Preservation in Education...

(continued from page 1) recently came to the attention of HDC, which is preparing the *Heritage Education Curriculum*, that, when published, will provide educators with fifteen teacher-tested programs about neighborhood history and architecture.

The AIA's education committee, *Learning By Design: NY*, is seen as a "forum for architects to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of the physical city with educators, schools, and communities." The group develops programs, collaborates with other institutions such as the

Cooper-Hewitt, and works to integrate architecture into curriculum.

The recent attention paid this type of program is an encouraging sign. As the GVSHHP/OMH program has shown, children and teachers respond remarkably well to special activities focusing on the history of the city and its architecture. They not only enrich the educational experience, but also plant the seeds that may someday come to flower in the next generation of architects, engineers, planners, and preservation-minded New York City residents.

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