

- OVER -

READ THE VID NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



- OVER -

READ THE VID NEWSLETTER

DEMOCRATS

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1987 7:30 PM

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. President's Report | 6. Endorsement for Male Democratic District Leader |
| 2. Treasurer's Report | 7. Elections for 10 New Democratic Coalition Alternates |
| 3. District Leader, State Committee, and Elected Official Reports | 8. Endorsement for Female Democratic District Leader |
| 4. Elections for Executive Committee (one seat, expiring January 1988) | 9. Committee Reports and Resolutions |
| 5. Guest Speaker: to be announced | 10. Old Business |
| | 11. New Business |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 4/17 8:00 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents: "The Inheritance"
- 4/19 HAPPY EASTER!
- 4/20, 4/27, 5/4 7:30 - 9:30 PM VID Tenants Clinic & Legal Rights Clinic (all other legal problems) - All welcome to come or call for free advice
- 5/11, 5/18, 5/25
- 4/21 6:30 PM Peace & Foreign Affairs Committee
- 4/22 8:00 PM Membership Committee
- 4/25 All out to Washington, D.C. to march for peace & justice. For bus ticket, see Bill Van Felix.
- 4/26 Chernobyl Anniversary - see enclosed flyer
- 4/27 6:30 PM Finance & Budget Committee
- 4/27 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- 4/29 8:00 PM VID Community Wellness Series: (First of a five part series on health care) Back, Neck & Spine Care
- 5/5 4:15 PM Student/Youth Outreach Committee
- 5/5 7:00 PM Fundraising Committee
- 5/5 7:30 PM VID GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - See agenda above
- 5/6 8:00 PM VID Community Wellness Series: "AIDS: Fighting Fear with Facts"
- 5/7 7:30 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents two hours of Charlie Chaplin films
- 5/8 6:30 PM VID's gala Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner
- 5/9 12-5 PM P. S. #41 Science Fair - 11th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues
- 5/9 12-4 PM N. Y. County Democratic Committee Critical Issues Workshops - Joan of Arc J.H.S. #118, 154 West 93 Street
- 5/10 HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!
- 5/11 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- 5/11 10:00 PM **DEADLINE FOR JUNE 1987 VID CALENDAR OF EVENTS and NEWSLETTER**
- 5/12 Student/Youth Outreach Committee
- 5/13 8:00 PM VID Community Wellness Series: "Getting in Shape"
- 5/13 GLID meeting
- 5/14 8:00 PM Human Rights Committee
- 5/16 2:00 PM VID's Eugenia Shelly reads her poetry at Jefferson Market Library
- 5/20 8:00 PM VID Community Wellness Series: "Nutrition and Diet"
- 5/21 Community Board 2 - Phone 533-1617 for details
- 5/22 7:30 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents: "Report from Cuba" (See flyer)
- 5/25 6:45 PM Finance & Budget Committees
- 5/25 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- 5/28 8:00 PM VID Community Wellness Series: "Stress Management"
- 6/1 7:30 PM VID GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- *** District Leader Tony Hoffmann is one of the coordinators of the New York County Democratic Committee's conference concerning critical issues facing New York City today. There will be workshops on education (decentralization), housing, ethics in government, and racially motivated bias and violence. The conference will be held Saturday, May 9, noon to 4 PM, Joan of Arc Junior High School, 154 West 93 Street.
- *** District Leader Tony Hoffmann represented VID at several community events including the Sixth Precinct Council, the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats speakout, and a celebration at Our Lady of Pompeii Church for Father Charles' 25th anniversary as a priest.
- *** VIDers attending the NOW/NYS fundraiser for the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Project were: Catherine Abate, Mary Boegner, Kathleen Conlin, Sherri Donovan, Debra Glick, Andy Humm, Jerry Meltzer, and Allen Roskoff.
- *** VIDer Catherine Abate was appointed by the President of John Jay College of Criminal Law to be on its Advisory Board.
- *** Catherine Abate was one of ten women selected nationally to participate in the Women in Leadership Mission to Israel sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.
- *** VIDers who attended the New York State Democratic Committee Issues Forum on Arms Control: Mary Boegner, Margaret Chin, Bob Cohen, Keith Crandell, Ann Orton, Ethel Paley, Bruce Feffer, and Allen Roskoff.
- *** Congratulations to VIDer Stephanie Rogall on her election as Chair of Manhattan New Democratic Coalition.
- *** VID President Bruce Feffer, Treasurer Martin Barrett, and Executive Committeemember Keith Crandell attended a community outreach meeting held by NYC Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin.
- *** Happy 30th Anniversary, Village Independent Democrats (Thanks Mary Boegner, Allen Roskoff, Mila de Costa, and all those who helped arrange our May 8th Dinner).
- *** Please note: May 5th, endorsements of VID District Leader candidates. The following membership meeting will be June 1st. All welcome!

The VID Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our April membership meeting featured a panel presentation and discussion entitled: "The Board of Estimate: Government Reform Is Possible." Speakers from various perspectives discussed the opportunities for reform presented by the recent court decision finding the NYC Board of Estimate unconstitutional. This is an issue that touches on the very role and function of the Board, and the potential for empowering the City Council and local community boards. The reforms that are enacted may potentially affect city services, the judicial system, and local democracy. In response to the significance of this issue, as well as to the increasing allegations and revelations of government corruption and conflicts of interest, I have proposed the creation of a new VID committee - the Good Government Committee. Watch for its first meeting, to be listed on our calendar of events.

Speaking of democracy, if you're a registered democrat living in the 61st Assembly District (call us if you don't know), VID invites you - and urges you - to be a county committee candidate. The County Committee is the grassroots level of the NY Democratic Party. Without attending many meetings (we really mean that) you can play an important role in shaping the political direction of our city. Sign up this month and find out more about it! Call Ellen Peterson or Bill Van Felix, evenings at VID. Bruce Feffer, President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We want to welcome the following people to the VID family: Mario Bellomo, John Burke, Marie Dormuth, Greg Faucett, Cindy Fine, John Good, Robert Herben, Anna Lloyd, Rhoda Modell, Dr. Aaron Moss, Camilo Rubino Jr., Angela Sacerdote, and Linda Stanch.

Upcoming items on our agenda include membership literature, plans on how to get even more people active, and activities aimed particularly at welcoming our new members.

Remember April is Membership Month! Invite a friend to VID.

Linda Breen and Dan Roskoff, Membership Committee Co-Chairpersons

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Committee in conjunction with the Arts Committee has begun plans for a series of public forums to address the plight of artists. Tentatively titled "The Subversive Nature of Art," three public events will touch upon different aspects of this theme: the government suppression of jazz musicians in Prague and New York; denial of entry of artists and intellectuals in this country through the enforcement of the McCarren-Walter Act; and the Reagan Administration's ideological and financial assault upon public television and radio. In addition, the Human Rights Committee is considering hosting a public debate concerning surrogate parenting. It is hoped that this event will further sensitize people to the societal implications of this practice as well as to lead to some concrete form of public action.

Lastly, members of the Human Rights Committee have initiated discussions for other possible future campaigns of conscience, including discriminatory practices against AIDS victims, and the struggle of the homeless.

Matt Birnbaum and Nancy Hollander, Co-Chairs

ARTS COMMITTEE

The Arts Committee continues to expand and develop novel and exciting ideas for fostering the arts in our community.

A meeting in March was well attended by regular committee members as well as a healthy contingent from the Alternative Press Association. The need for more facilities for alternative arts groups was discussed.

At the end of March, the Arts Committee co-sponsored a provocative evening of films on art selected by Bill Van Felix as part of his highly successful Friday night film series.

Active arts committee person Matt Birnbaum will co-ordinate a monthly Sunday night coffee house beginning Sunday, May 17 at VID which will provide another venue for performing artists as well as a chance for visual artists to exhibit their work. (Anyone interested in participating should contact the club.)

Sue Renee Bernstein and Steph Paynes, Co-Chairpersons



VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1987 7:30 PM

AGENDA

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|---|--|
| 1. President's Report | 5. Guest Speaker: Don Lorimer, Lower East Side AIDS Task Force |
| 2. Treasurer's Report | 6. Committee Reports and Resolutions |
| 3. District Leader, State Committee, and Elected Officials' Reports | 7. Old Business |
| 4. Endorsements for December Area Wide Policy Board Elections | 8. New Business |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 11/2, 11/9, 7:30 - 9:30 PM VID Tenants Clinic & Legal Rights Clinic (all other legal problems)
11/16, 11/23, 11/30 All welcome to come or call for free advice.
- 11/3 ELECTION DAY - VOTE - AND VOLUNTEER!
- 11/6 7:30 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents: "A Nous la Liberté" French classic satire, directed by René Clair. 99 minutes of fun. (See flier)
- 11/8 Phone banking for Pool fundraiser
- 11/9 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- 11/11 GLID meeting, 208 West 13 Street. Phone 861-7134 for further information.
- 11/12 6 - 9:30 PM CISPES meeting at VID
- 11/13 8:00 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents 3 smashing features about a nuclear world "Tale of Two Cities" (12 min.); "War Without Winners" (28 min.); and "If You Love This Planet" (26 min.)
- 11/13 9:00 PM - ? Fundraiser for Rick Braun at Marcella Silverman's & Foster Maer's home. 17 Warren Street, Apt. 3. \$25, \$50, \$100, or other. Phone for info.
- 11/16 7:30 PM **VID GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
- 11/17 6 - 9 PM First Annual Rudolph Walter Wanderone, Jr. Memorial Competition (VID Fundraiser) - See enclosed flier for details.
- 11/17 10:00 PM DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 1987 VID CALENDAR OF EVENTS and NEWSLETTER
- 11/19 Community Board 2 - Phone 533-1617 for details
- 11/23 6:30 PM Judicial Reform Committee
- 11/23 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- 11/26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- 11/27 7:30 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents: "Decision to Win" Life in liberated El Salvador - an exciting 75 minute documentary!
- 12/7 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!

VID BULLETIN BOARD

- *** VID is looking for a sub-tenant to share our headquarters. Willing to partition. Call 243-6555 and leave message for Bruce Feffer or Tony Hoffmann.
- *** VID Billiards Party! You don't have to be Minnesota Fats to attend. Fun for VIDers, family and friends. Tuesday, November 17th, 6 to 9 PM. (See flier; RSVP.)
- *** The New York County Democratic Committee passed a resolution criticizing Adlai Stevenson for his recent "smear letter" against the members of VID. Stevenson, Elizabeth Shollenberger and Tim James (VRDC's District Leader candidates) were formally asked to apologize publicly. A similar resolution was passed by the Executive Committee of the New Democratic Coalition. We thank County Leader Denny Farrell and NDC Chair Frank Barbaro for their support.
- *** Thanks to Madeline Chang and David Waid for their bookkeeping assistance in the absence of our Treasurer Marty Barrett (who was on a well deserved vacation).
- *** VIDers Eugenia Shelley and Daisy Aldan will read poetry at the Donnell Library, 20 W. 53 Street, December 10th, 6 - 7:30 PM. Free.
- *** A recent mail survey of 950 residents in Councilmember Carol Greitzer's district revealed that only 15.5 per cent feel Ed Koch is doing a good job, while 46 per cent say he's doing a poor job. Our faith in the wisdom of our neighbors is reaffirmed.
- *** VID President Bruce Feffer spoke at the East 12th Street anti-crime rally on behalf of VID. Also in attendance: Councilmember Miriam Friedlander, VIDer Bob Cohen (on behalf of NYU), and VIDer Harold Donohue (on behalf of Assemblymember Passannante).
- *** VID Vice President Carol Feinman was re-elected NY County Democratic Committee Credentials Chair. Carol Feinman attended Assemblymember Bill Passannante's annual cocktail party.
- *** Thanks to Fran Siegal, VID Vice President, for organizing a meeting to address problems faced by members (many of whom are Village residents) of the Thompson Street Apple Health Club due to unsafe conditions at the club. Other VIDers attending the meetings: VID President Bruce Feffer, District Leader Tony Hoffmann, Community Affairs Chairs Catherine Abate and Sherri Donovan, Membership Chair Dan Roskoff, and Vera La Farge.
- *** Additional attendees at Ermano Stingo's birthday party, sponsored by CLGR (omitted from last newsletter): Rick Braun and Allen Roskoff.
- *** Rick Braun and Carol Feinman were among those VIDers attending the County Committee Cocktail Party (omitted from last newsletter).
- *** Congratulations to Catherine Abate on her nomination to be chair/commissioner of the NYS Crime Victims Board (pending Senate confirmation).
- *** Sherri Donovan testified at Community Board 2 Parks Committee in support of Friends of La Guardia Place Community Garden Project.
- *** District Leader Tony Hoffmann and Sherri Donovan spoke at CB 2 Traffic Committee against the closing of Pier 40 and the resulting problems of local parking.
- *** Dan Roskoff's Freedom of Information Act request successfully compelled the Port Authority to reveal part of its study on structural defects at Pier 40. The study had been withheld from public scrutiny for some time.
- *** Congratulations to Dan Roskoff on being re-elected as Divisional Chair of the New York Democratic County Committee, 61st A.D., Part A, and to all of VID's members and friends who will be serving as County Committee members and officers.
- *** VIDers in attendance at the recent Village Visiting Neighbors "Crab Fest:" Catherine Abate, Bob Cohen, Sherri Donovan, Carol Feinman, Nancy Gould, Steven Gould, Paul Groncki, Tony Hoffmann, Dan Roskoff, Jean Smith, Ilene Zucker (if we left you out, let us know!).
- *** Thanks to Carol Feinman and Geoff Smith for their volunteer legal services to VID this summer.
- *** Catherine Abate spoke before the Bar Association of the City of New York on AIDS and Criminal Justice.
- *** VIDer Steve Gordon co-authored a New York Law Journal (10/23) article on the Directors Guild strike in the film industry.



VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1987 7:30 PM

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|---|---|
| 1. President's Report | 5. Elections: VID President and Vice Presidents (3 seats) |
| 2. Treasurer's Report | 6. Committee Reports and Resolutions |
| 3. District Leader, State Committee, and Elected Officials' Reports | 7. Old Business |
| 4. Discussion: Battered Women/Child Abuse (Guest Speaker to be announced) | 8. New Business |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 11/26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- 11/30, 12/7, 7:30 - 9:30 PM VID Tenants Clinic & Legal Rights Clinic (all other legal problems)
12/14, 12/21, 12/28 All welcome to come or call for free advice.
- 12/4 7:00 PM Labor Committee - Discussion on repeal of Wicks Law
- 12/4 7:30 PM SHARP! Labor Committee Film Series presents: "Before Stonewall" (87 minutes)
A look at the history of the struggle for Gay Rights. (See flier)
- 12/7 7:30 PM Executive Committee: Report from Labor Committee on Wicks Law. All welcome!
- 12/9 GLID meeting, 208 West 13 Street. Phone 861-7134 for further information.
- 12/11 8:00 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents a double feature: "La Guardia Story" (25 minutes) and "By Man's Law" (30 minutes).
- 12/13 6 9:30 PM VID Holiday Fiesta at Viva Pancho, 86 University Place. See details below.
- 12/14 7:30 PM VID GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- 12/14 10:00 PM DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 1988 VID CALENDAR OF EVENTS and NEWSLETTER
- 12/15 SUNSET HAPPY CHANUKAH! (Remember the Chanukah gelt for VID!)
- 12/17 Community Board 2 - Phone 533-1617 for details
- 12/18 8:00 PM Labor Committee Film Series presents: "Books Under Fire" with commentary by Nat Hentoff (55 minutes). See enclosed flier.
- ~~12/21~~ 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- ~~12/25~~ MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Remember to give a generous gift to VID!)
- 1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Make a good resolution for VID!)
- 1/4/88 7:30 PM Executive Committee - All welcome!
- Remember to celebrate a HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR! (we're noting it early this year, lest we forget)

VID BULLETIN BOARD

- *** VID Holiday Fiesta! December 13th from 6:00 to 9:30 PM at Viva Pancho, 86 University Place. \$25 regular contribution, \$15 limited income. Thanks, Jeff Stewart, for organizing this party.
- *** To those of us who were forced to miss the First Annual Rudolph Walter Wanderone, Jr. Memorial Competition on November 17th, our condolences. Here are the results, hot from the pool tables: The winnah & champ, our own winner, former housing chair, former prez, etc. Richard Kelmans. The prize: an 1876 political cartoon from "Harper's Weekly." Congratulations, too, to the runners-up in this tough competition: Frieda Bradlow, Susan Kivelson, Bob Herben, and a new-comer on the scene, Karen Wilshinsky. Good work!
- *** Thanks to Mimi Hurd, Mary Boegner and Ellen Peterson for their fundraising efforts for VID.
- *** VIDers Eugenia Shelley and Daisy Aldan will read poetry on December 10th, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the Donnell Library, 20 West 53 Street. Free.
- *** VIDers present at the Anti-Crime Forum sponsored by Community Board 3's Public Safety Committee concerning the problem of drugs on the Lower East Side: VID President Bruce Feffer, District Leader Tony Hoffmann, Councilmember Miriam Friedlander, Assemblymember Bill Passannante, Carrie Hoyt (representing Congressman Ted Weiss), Bob Cohen (on behalf of NYU), Harold Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Philip Van Aver, Katherine Wolpe.
- *** VIDers Bob Cohen & Tony Hoffmann attended the Eleventh St. Block Association meeting on Crime.
- *** The Gansevoort Street Greenmarket is located at Hudson Street & 14th Street on Saturdays.
- *** Congratulations to CB #2 Chair Rosemary McGrath, who was honored at the October 28th Caring Community Annual Dinner. VIDers who attended: VID President Bruce Feffer, District Leader Tony Hoffmann, Councilmember Miriam Friedlander, Bob Cohen, Sherri Donovan, Steve Gould, Jean Smith, and Margaret Taylor.
- *** VIDers attending Assemblyman Passannante's Cocktail Party (omitted from the last newsletter): District Leader Tony Hoffmann, State Committeewoman Margaret Chin, Frieda Bradlow, Bob Cohen, Sherri Donovan, Paul FitzGerald, Bob Hoffman, Stephanie Rogall, Allen Roskoff, Dan Roskoff, as well as Carol Feinman.
- *** Congratulations to Sherri Donovan on her being honored by the Korean Small Business Association for her efforts in seeking commercial rent protection legislation.
- *** VIDers Tony Hoffmann and Bob Cohen participated in the Washington Square Park Coalition meeting called to deal with the problem of insufficient park maintenance.
- *** VID Vice President Jeffrey Stewart was elected Co-President of the Washington Square Park Council / Parents for Playgrounds, along with Sheila Haas.
- *** VIDer Mary Stewart was elected Co-President of the Tenth Street Block Association.
- *** VIDer Sherri Donovan attended the Citizens for Charter Change Land Use Conference.
- *** VIDer Dan Roskoff attended the People with AIDS Coalition Open House on November 7th.
- *** VIDer Tony Hoffmann participated in CB #3's Second Avenue Task Force Committee meeting concerning the peddler problem on Second Avenue.
- *** VIDers Tony Hoffmann, Dan Roskoff, Carol Feinman, Bob Oliver and Art Strickler attended CB #2's Traffic, Transportation & Waterfront Committee meeting on the Port Authority's proposed 46 foot shafts for Morton and West Streets (on the waterfront).
- *** VID is looking for a sub-tenant to share our headquarters. Willing to partition. Phone 243-6555 and leave a message for Bruce Feffer or Tony Hoffmann.

The VID Newsletter



BRUCE FEFFER, *President* • ANTHONY S. HOFFMANN, *District Leader*
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the start of the year, I announced three priorities for VID to focus on: 1) Improve our financial status, 2) Increase our community involvement, 3) Promote progressive politics over the smear-style politics of a rival club in the community.

I am pleased to report that despite some disappointments we have met these challenges. Our 30th Anniversary Dinner, combined with our annual VID Street Fair and other smaller events raised more money for VID than ever before. We sponsored numerous public forums on such topics as: housing, education, drug abuse, and lesbian and gay rights, among others. VID marched in NOHO against crack dealers, we rallied in support of the Coors Beer Boycott, and we gathered with parents in Washington Square Park to demand cleaner and safer playgrounds. It's hard to believe, but we've done all this - and much more!

On the electoral front, perhaps we will never forget the terrible smear campaign launched against us by the Koch-club in their effort to destroy VID. Not only did we retain the Male District Leadership in our district, but VRDC was strongly condemned by political leaders from all over the city. Progressive, issue-oriented politics prevailed.

As we enter 1988, VID faces new challenges. Campaign costs have skyrocketed. The expenses of operating a large, active organization, have become staggering. Our community is more diverse than ever, requiring our members to be politically involved in more diverse ways and in areas of our district that heretofore were relatively inactive. Basic services to our membership (a newsletter, social events, etc.) need to be better planned and produced with higher quality.

The months ahead, therefore, will be a time of exciting new improvements in the way VID operates. My vision of VID one year from now is of a more efficient campaign operation combined with widespread community involvement on a variety of issues. I hope to improve the quality and appearance of our newsletter, and generate a new spirit of friendship and support among our members.

I urge you to contribute not only your ideas and advice, but your labor, towards these goals. Our success will assure VID's place at the forefront of the movement for political reform for another 30 years.

I thank all of you for a great 1987 and look forward to an even better 1988.

Bruce Feffer, President

WASHINGTON SQUARE PROGRESS REPORT

On November 12th, Tony Hoffmann, Sheila Haas, who is co-president with me of the Washington Square Parks Council/Parents for Playgrounds, and I met at the Community Board #2 office. Among those present were Manhattan Borough Commissioner of Parks, Pat Pomposello, District Manager Rita Lee, Bob Cohen of N. Y. U., Chair of Community Board #2's Parks Committee Tony Dapolito, and the Supervisor of Washington Square Park, Al Cannizzo.

Sheila, Tony and I presented a comprehensive list of problems plaguing the Washington Square and Bleecker Street Playgrounds. We obtained firm commitments from Commissioner Pomposello for work to be performed and a time schedule for completion.

Jeffrey Stewart, Vice President

A PLEA FROM A CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

December is a month with an extremely heavy volume of mail. In order to stand any chance of getting our third class monthly mailing to you before the end of the year, cooperation is needed. Get meeting dates on the calendar early -- VERY early. Get newsletter copy and short items of interest in early -- VERY early.

The next edition of the Calendar and Newsletter starts going to press within a week of the mailing of this one. If everything is done by the deadline, the printer can get it within a day or two, and the exciting news can be on its way to you within the week, assuming the Post Office gives minimal cooperation.