



*Greenwich Village Society
for Historic Preservation*



2005–2006 Annual Report





A Note from the President

Elizabeth Ely

Without a doubt the past year has been a milestone for GVSHP; it began with our 25th Anniversary and ended with the first-ever expansion of the Greenwich Village Historic District, a cause long-championed by the Society.

In 2004, preserving the Greenwich Village waterfront was GVSHP's top preservation goal. In 2005, we helped bring that goal home with a downzoning of the area to prevent inappropriate development, and in early 2006 we secured an expansion of the Greenwich Village Historic District into this area and the creation of a new Weehawken Street Historic District. More is to come, as we have also been promised eight additional landmark designations in the area.

GVSHP's work is far from over, however, whether it is in this area or in other areas of our work. New threats arise, and new efforts are undertaken, such as our leadership on the rezoning of the East Village or our forthcoming South Village preservation effort.

Our children's education program continues to grow by leaps and bounds, with new demand coming in each year from new schools and neighborhoods and a redesign of the program in the making. Our program continues to explore new territory and find new ways to involve the public in the Society's work and issues.

Throughout it all, perhaps most critically, the support of our members has grown. GVSHP is now the largest neighborhood preservation organization in New York City, and our ever-expanding roster of work would not be possible without this strong and growing base of support. As I pass the baton to the new president of GVSHP's Board of Trustees, Mary Ann Arisman, the Society embarks upon some exciting new territory, for which I hope you will join us.



Benefit Committee

Mary Ann Arisman and Leslie Mason, Co-chairs

Members: Meredith Bergmann, Elizabeth Ely, Leslie Fitzpatrick, Jane Forman, Cassie Glover, Jo Hamilton, Marlene Hartstein, Susan Kolker, Frank Lemann, Ruth McCoy, Vals Osborne, Judith Stonehill, Kurt Weyrauch, Fred Wistow

GVSHP's 8th Annual Spring House Tour and Benefit, held on Sunday, May 7th, was far and away our most successful ever, raising more funds and introducing more people to GVSHP's important work and to the rare charm of the Village's many unique homes than any previous benefit had. Over six hundred tickets were sold to members and friends who had the pleasure of touring some of the Central Village's most historic and beautiful homes.

The Society is deeply grateful to our generous homeowners who enthusiastically opened their doors: Norman & Dale Kahn; Mitchell Lichtenstein & Vincent Sanchez; Max Friedman & Tom Romich; Cynthia Harris; Diane Scharff & John Morrison; Andrew Solomon & John Habich; and Barbara & Ray Dalio. We are also grateful to the Congregation Shearith Israel for opening their historic cemetery on West 11th Street and St. John's in the Village Church for opening their church and garden for our tour goers. Special thanks go to the Salmagundi Art Club, whose historic brownstone parlor served as the registration site, and to the Stephan Weiss Studio, which hosted a post-tour cocktail reception for Benefactors, Patrons, and Sponsors of this year's tour.

Of course, this tour would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of corporations and individuals who donated time and services, especially Bowne of Detroit, for donating printing for invitations, programs, and tickets; Salviati, for providing exquisite gifts for our homeowners; Koppers Chocolates, for donating treats for the reception; and Alexander Kaplen, for designing the beautiful invitation, map, ticket, and program. We are also sincerely grateful to our 130 plus volunteer docents



Participants in GVSHP's 8th Annual House Tour and Benefit enter the home of Mitchell Lichtenstein and Vincent Sanchez.

who helped to keep the tour moving smoothly and to Andrew Arons of Gourmet Garage who provided lunches to feed the entire volunteer crew.

GVSHP would also like to thank the tireless efforts of the Benefit Committee, who committed their time to make the tour a success, and our honorary chairs, Blythe Danner and Oliver Platt.

Finally, thank you to everyone who purchased tickets or made a contribution to the event. Without your participation, this would not have been the most successful event to date!



Awards Committee

Judith Stonehill, Chair

Members: Mary Ann Arisman, Karen Cooper, Nan Davis, Elizabeth Ely, Jane Forman, Jo Hamilton, Robert Kaufelt, Cynthia Penney, Aldo Radoczy, Raymond Sokolov

Each year GVSHP honors people, places, and organizations that make a significant contribution to the legendary quality of life in Greenwich Village and the East Village. The 16th Annual Village Awards were presented by Raymond Sokolov on June 22nd at the Society's Annual Meeting at Judson Memorial Church on Washington Square South.

The 2006 Awards honored the Cherry Lane Theatre, for a thoughtful renovation of its façade and its contribution to the quality of theater in Greenwich Village; Café Loup, for its excellent food and outstanding service to the community; Miriam Lee, for her extraordinary service to her block and community; Aphrodisia Herb Shoppe, for its unique merchandise and exceptional commitment to serving the community for thirty-seven years; Jane Street Garden, for the rich history and beauty of this community treasure; The White Horse Tavern, for its commitment to the architectural integrity of its historic building and its storied history; the Greenwich Village Singers, for thirty years of providing music to the Village; and 64 Jane Street, for an accurate and beautiful restoration of its front stoop.



Preservation Committee

Arbie Thalacker and Linda Yowell, Co-chairs

Members: Mary Ann Arisman, Penelope Bareau, Leo Blackman, George Cominskie, Elizabeth Ely, Jonathan Geballe, Jo Hamilton, Tom Harney, Alexander Kaplen, Regina Kellerman, Arthur Levin, Florent Morellet, Peter Mullan, Rob Rogers, Katherine Schoonover, Judith Stonehill, F. Anthony Zunino

The past year saw GVSHP make some incredible leaps forward on some long-standing projects, while we began some huge new ones as well.

Our effort to save the Far West Village made historic progress. In October of 2005 the City approved a rezoning plan for the Far West Village which, based on GVSHP's recommendations, significantly reduced the size and scale of allowable new development in the area. This was the first down-zoning anywhere in Manhattan in recent memory.

In May of 2006, the City approved a westward expansion of the Greenwich Village Historic District, the first such expansion of the district since its designation in 1969. In addition, the new Weehawken Street Historic District was designated, which was, along with 2003's Gansevoort Market Historic District (also proposed and advocated for by GVSHP), the first new historic district in Greenwich Village since 1969. Additionally, after a concerted campaign by GVSHP, these new historic districts included three buildings originally excluded by the City—a very rare case where the City actually increased, rather than decreased, the size of a proposed historic district. Two of the three buildings were immediately endangered, making the designation all the more critical.

GVSHP also secured a commitment from the City to designate eight additional individual landmarks in the Far West Village, including the full-block Westbeth complex and Charles Lane. We expect that designation process to begin this fall. GVSHP was also able to secure reductions in the size of planned developments on the Superior Ink (70 Bethune at West Street) and Whitehall Storage sites (303 West 10th/150–168 Charles Street)—sites which we were unable to convince the City to landmark or downzone.

In the East Village, GVSHP has been an integral part of the process of formulating a rezoning plan for that neighborhood. The plan aims to limit the size of new development to retain neighborhood character, eliminate the current zoning bulk preference given to hotel and community facility (dorm, etc.) development, and preserve and create affordable housing. GVSHP has been an especially strong advocate for including 3rd Avenue and the blocks west of it in the rezoning, which the City has resisted including. This area is the site of NYU's planned 26-story mega-dorm at 112 East 12th Street; GVSHP has helped lead neighborhood opposition to that plan and lobby NYU for changes to the design.

GVSHP also took the lead in advocating for reform of the City's zoning regulations regarding "community facility" development, which allows overdevelopment of our neighborhoods by institutions like universities. GVSHP proposed eliminating the current bonus given by the City for dormitory and certain other community facility development, specifically advocating for solutions to NYU's ongoing expansion in the neighborhood. GVSHP spearheaded a community-wide drive to get the City and NYU to look for locations outside of our neighborhoods for the university's future expansion.

In the South Village, GVSHP led the charge against a proposed 45-story "condo-hotel" by Donald Trump at Spring and Varick Streets. GVSHP was concerned not only about the impact of this particular development, but the fact that Trump's plan would really allow residential development in a manufacturing zone where it is currently prohibited. If Trump's attempt were successful, it would open the door to other inappropriate, high-rise development in manufacturing zones like the Meatpacking District, SoHo, NoHo, and the Far West Village south of Morton Street. GVSHP also led the unsuccessful charge to save the Art Deco Tunnel Garage at Broome and Thompson Streets from demolition. Though the City and owner refused to preserve this early Deco gem,



Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Robert Tierney and GVSHP Executive Director Andrew Berman shake hands after two Far West Village Historic District designations were approved.

GVSHP did get a commitment from the owner to save the incredible polychrome terra-cotta medallion of an early automobile on the building.

GVSHP also put the finishing touches on a massive study of the history of the entire South Village—the area south of Washington Square Park and West 4th Street between 7th Avenue South and LaGuardia Place. Almost all of the area lacks landmark protections in spite of its incredible history, which our study for the first time comprehensively documents. This study will become the basis of a proposal or proposals for landmark and zoning protections for the area in the coming year.

We also continued to closely monitor applications for changes and alterations to buildings within our neighborhoods' designated historic districts. A Design Review Committee was formed as a subcommittee of our Preservation Committee to analyze the trends among the increasing number of applications for changes we have seen to designated buildings in our neighborhoods. This committee is developing clear and consistent guidelines for responding to proposed rooftop and rear yard additions, façade and storefront alterations, and other types of alteration proposals.



Nominating Committee

Jo Hamilton, Chair

*Members: Mary Ann Arisman, Elizabeth Ely, Andrew Paul,
Judith Stonehill, Arbie Thalacker, Linda Yowell, F. Anthony Zunino*

At the GVSHP Annual Meeting held on June 22nd, 2006, the membership elected the following Trustees to serve an additional term on the Board: Mary Ann Arisman, Meredith Bergmann, Jo Hamilton, Jonathan Russo, and Linda Yowell. Immediately following, the Trustees unanimously elected a new slate of officers, including: Mary Ann Arisman, President; Arthur Levin, Vice President; Linda Yowell, Vice President; and Katherine Schoonover, Secretary/Treasurer. The Nominating Committee, along with the entire Board, would like to thank Robin Maxwell for her six years serving on GVSHP's Board of Trustees.



Education Committee

Mary Ann Arisman, Chair

Members: Meredith Bergmann, Jane Cowan, Elizabeth Ely, Dana English, Lisa Feitel, Amy Hitchcoff, Judith Langer, Shirley Wright, Linda Yowell

GVSHP's Children's Education program, *History and Historic Preservation*, continued to teach children across Manhattan about the diverse history and architecture of the Village. This year, almost 1,500 students participated in the program from twenty-four different city schools. Our teacher, Jane Cowan, continues to teach the three-part program that includes a classroom presentation, craft project, and a walking tour of Washington Square Park. GVSHP also welcomed Amy Hitchcoff as an additional teacher to meet the growing needs of the program.

This year, the Education Committee has undertaken a two-year plan to develop, write, and print a new children's education workbook that will include interdisciplinary activities and materials students can use to continue their study of architecture and historic preservation after they have participated in the program. The Society's current edition, which was written and printed over ten years ago, needs to be updated to reflect changes within Greenwich Village and to the New York City curriculum. GVSHP has tapped Julie Maurer, the Education Director at the Gotham Center for New York City History, to advise and assist us in this important process.

Last summer we once again offered our education program through the Grace Opportunity (GO) Project at Grace Church School for at-risk students from Lower East Side schools. We served over 200 first-grade students through the project in the summer of 2005.

Support for this program in 2005–2006 was provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation; the NYU T.G. White Fund; City Council Speaker Christine Quinn; Councilmembers Alan Gerson, Margarita Lopez, Rosie Mendez, and Eva Moskowitz; the Manhattan Delegation of the City Council; and our members.



Program Committee

Penelope Bareau, Chair

Members: Mary Ann Arisman, John Bacon, Elizabeth Ely, Jonathan Russo, Ed Tristram, Fred Wistow

GVSHP sponsored a great variety of programs since June 2005, and we thank everyone who lent their time and expertise.

2005

July 13: *A Private Evening in July at the Jefferson Market Garden and Library Complex.*

August 4: *The Far West Village: What We're Trying to Save*, an art show benefiting the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

September 21: *John Sloan in Greenwich Village*, a lecture by Heather Campbell Coyle of the Delaware Museum of Art.

September 22: *Brownstone and Iron—Views of the Village*, an exhibition of paintings by Andrew Jones at Elliot Smith Contemporary Art.

October 6: *The Streetcars of Greenwich Village*, a lecture by George Haikalis.

October 10: *Edward Hopper: New York Artist*, a lecture and book signing with author Avis Berman.

October 30: *The Ghosts of Greenwich Village: An Enlighteningly Creepy Walking Tour* with Marilyn Stults.

November 16: *7th Street*, a film screening with an introduction by creator and director, Josh Pais.

December 7: *The Poetry of E.E. Cummings*, readings by Mort Kroos and Judy Rhodes.

2006

February 14: *A Valentine for You from Edna St. Vincent Millay*, readings of Millay Love Poems by Sloane Shelton, Frances Sternhagen, and Amanda Ronconi.

March 14: *Italian Women of the South Village*, a lecture by historian Miriam Cohen.

April 23 & May 20: *Italian Churches of the South Village*, a walking tour with Terri Cook.

April 27: *How Fires Changed New York City Architecture*, a lecture by Don Cannon with Monty Mitchell and William Neeley.

June 20: *The Lost Waterfront and Beyond*, photographs by Shelley Seccombe.

June 28: *Jane Jacobs: A Public Celebration* in Washington Square Park.



Archives Committee

Vicki Weiner, Chair

Members: Mary Ann Arisman, Elizabeth Ely, Martica Sawin Fitch, Cynthia Penney, Jay Shockley, Cas Stachelberg, Judith Stonehill, Anthony Wood, F. Anthony Zunino

In the last year, GVSHP completed an appraisal and assessment of the holdings of the *Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project*. Consultant Marianne Percival made several recommendations for the care and maintenance of the photographs, papers, and oral histories in GVSHP's collection. The Archive Committee has reviewed the completed assessment and is currently deciding how best to implement the suggestions within the report.



Development/Membership Committee

Judith Stonehill, Chair

Members: Mary Ann Arisman, John Bacon, Meredith Bergmann, Elizabeth Ely, Cassie Glover, Andrew Jones, Nira Lipner, Leslie Mason, Ruth McCoy, Florent Morellet, Peter Mullan, Andrew Paul, Arbie Thalacker, George Vellonakis

Membership continues to be the single largest source of income support for the Society and has grown commensurately with the Society's robust growth in the last several years. Income from memberships increased by 50% in 2004 and by an additional 25% in 2005. Since 2001, membership support for GVSHP has tripled, and our membership has more than doubled.

In the past year, GVSHP worked hard to recruit new members, retain current members, and woo back lapsed ones. Membership support events, increased communication via the Internet, and outreach to new area residents and property owners have all been a part of these efforts. Discounted gift memberships and free trial memberships for subscribers of *The Villager* also continue to bring in new members. In addition, GVSHP has worked successfully to encourage members to participate in their employers' matching gift programs.

GVSHP is now in the process of putting in place a planned giving program. Such a program will help ensure the Society's financial future. GVSHP also continues to aggressively seek new sources of grant and foundation support. In the past year, GVSHP again received support from a number of long-time grantors, while enjoying a first time grant from Councilmember Eva Moskowitz and funding from the J.M. Kaplan Fund for writing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Westbeth. GVSHP also received increased support from the Kaplen Foundation, the Auchincloss Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Society is grateful for the support of its members and friends, allied organizations, Village businesses, foundations, and corporations. We offer special thanks to those who have been particularly generous this year.

I. General Support

FOUNDERS: Edward & Mireille Guiliano, Andrew S. Paul, Aaron Sosnick.

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IN-KIND DONORS: Frederick Wildman & Sons, Alexander Kaplen, Murray's Cheese, Paula Perlis, and Wine & Food Associates.

II. The Benefit

BENEFACTORS: Elizabeth Ely & Jonathan Greenburg, Norma Langworthy, Andrew S. Paul, Melissa & Robert Soros, Dorinda & Mark Winkelman, Fred Wistow.

CORPORATE BENEFACTORS: Halstead Property, LLC, Diane von Furstenberg.

PATRONS: Frank & Mary Ann Arisman, Michael & Michelle Ashworth, Michael Beltrami, Andrew H. Brimmer & Thomas E. Molner, Nancy & Richard Davis, Max Friedman & Tom Romich, Deborah Garrett & Arbie R. Thalacker, Paul & Cassie Glover, Elizabeth Grayer & Aidan Synnott, Jo & Bill Hamilton, Elissa Kramer & Jay Newman, David Langan & Constance Walsh, Arthur Levin, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Elinor G. Ratner, Daniel & Rachel Rucker, Katherine W. Schoonover & Alan G. Straus, Barbara Sheerin, Jonathan & Jennifer Allan Soros, Michael Stewart, Judith Stonehill, F. Anthony & Sally Auer Zunino.

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SPONSORS: Arthur Applebee & Judith Langer, Penelope Bareau, Meredith & Marshall Bergmann, Daniel Bernstein & Nancy Langsan, Rick S. Bierman & Kathy Fein Bierman, Diane Carol Brandt, David C. Burger, Mary & Brad Burnham, James F. Capalino, Dr. & Mrs. Raymond E. Carnes, Graydon Carter, Betsy & Jonathan Cary, Patricia Cliff, Sarah E. Cogan & Douglas H. Evans, Christine & R. Cromwell Coulson, Elizabeth & Allen Cutler, Cary Davis & John McGinn, Tamasin Day-Lewis & Robert Kaufelt, Donald F. Donovan, Dana English & Tom Whalen, Marcelline, Jerry, & Alexis Fischhoff, Timothy C. Forbes, Jane Forman & Edward Wolff, Tanner Garland, Jill Gill, Glenn Gissler & Susan Harris, Elaine Goldman, Anick & Alex Guira, Johanna Hecht & Raymond Sokolov, Martin Heinz, David & Andrea Holbrook, Pat & Paul D. Kaplan, Tony Kiser, Susan C. Kolker, Mr. & Mrs. Hercules D. Kontos, Steven Kuchuck, Richard Kumro & Kaare Phillips, Robb Lady, Gregory Long & Scott Newman, Robin Maxwell & Jim Wilentz, Carolyn & Thomas Meehan, Dale & Donna McCormick, Ruth & Kevin McCoy, Patricia O'Grady, Jeff & Cynthia Penney, Ellen & Eric Petersen, Dr. A. Podhorodecki & Mr. Zenon Chernyk, Rob Rogers & Alissa Bucher, Mitch Rose & Ken Leung, Clifford & Betsy Ross, Jonathan Russo & Deborah Grayson, Sheila & Ben Safirstein, Stuart Shapiro & Janice Lee, Beverly Sonnenborn, Ferne Goldberg Sperling & Allan Sperling, Ted Sperling, Lois Teich, Jane Timken, Mia Ting, Henry van Ameringen, Gay Young & Daniel Schindler, Linda Yowell & Richard Zuckerman.

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IN-KIND DONATIONS: Bowne of Detroit, Gourmet Garage, Alexander Kaplen, Koppers Chocolates, Salmagundi Art Club, Salviati, Stephan Weiss Studio.

III. Grants

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following for grants supporting our work since June of 2005: the Kaplen Foundation, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Flora Family Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the NYU Community Fund, and the NYU T.G. White Fund. We wish to acknowledge the work of City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Councilmembers Alan Gerson, Margarita Lopez, Rosie Mendez, and Eva Moskowitz, and the Manhattan Delegation of the City Council for securing funds for GVSHP through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Youth and Community Development. We also thank State Senator Tom Duane and Assemblymember Deborah Glick for securing funds through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.



GVSHP Trustee Arbie Thalacker greets member Barbara Chacour during the 8th Annual House Tour and Benefit reception at the Stephan Weiss Studio.



Finance Committee

Katherine Schoonover, Chair

Members: Mary Ann Arisman, Elizabeth Ely, Arthur Levin, Andrew Paul, Fred Wistow

As a community-based organization largely funded by our members, the Society takes a consistently conservative approach to our finances. In the past year, as in recent years, GVSHIP has managed to keep expenses below projections while income has exceeded projections, enabling the Society to continue to build modest reserves to ensure our future fiscal security. The Society has chosen to invest this endowment in low-risk bonds which will earn interest while remaining accessible if needed. The Society has continued its long-standing policy of not embarking upon any major projects unless funding sources for them have been identified, a policy which has allowed GVSHIP to remain financially strong while maintaining the flexibility to take on new projects as they arise.

GVSHP Fiscal Year 2005

Income	
Membership	\$147,464
Benefit (net)	93,802
Save Gansevoort Market	14,211
Grants	131,200
Earned Revenue	12,610
	\$399,287
Expenses	
Programs	\$24,278
Personnel	198,786
Fundraising & Membership	8,488
Rent	15,403
Office Supplies and Expenses	10,878
Telecommunications	3,607
Printing and Mailing	13,597
Accounting Fees	4,874
Payroll Fees	1,454
Other Fees	635
Other Operating Expenses	1,244
Fund Balance, Restricted	65,000
Fund Balance, Unrestricted	51,043
	\$399,287



How to Support the Society

New membership benefits include a 28-page self-guided walking tour booklet of Gansevoort Market; invitations to our many lectures, symposia, discussion series, and walking tours; free access to the Society's research sources; regular issues of our newsletter; and a free six-month subscription to *The Villager* newspaper.

Most importantly, your support will help make GVSHP a more effective preservation leader. The Society also invites members to give gift memberships to your friends or neighbors for only \$25 (that's half price!). Please use the form below, and we will send a lovely gift packet, informing them of your thoughtful gift.

Give at the \$100 level or above and you'll receive a free set of Greenwich Village notecards. Give at the \$500 level or above and you'll receive an invitation to a special thank you event at a unique historic Village location.

YES! I would like to support the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and its preservation efforts.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 Founder | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family/Dual |
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☐ \$25 Gift Membership – Special Offer for Current Members to Give!

I am already a member, but would like to contribute \$_____

Name of Donor or Gift Recipient _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Member's name (for gift memberships only) _____

Please note: Memberships can now be purchased online with a credit card at www.gvshp.org/membership.htm

Please return this form with your check to:

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

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