

WEST VILLAGE N. SLIPPER

From: The Committee to Save the West Village

To: All Village residents

WHAT HAPPENED?

The Title I project for Urban Renewal which threatens all of our homes and businesses in the area bounded by 11th and Christopher streets from Hudson Street to the river was stopped in its tracks by alert individuals who read the fine print in the Board of Estimate Calendar with sufficient care to know that the city was already petitioning the Federal government for title I funds. A group of concerned neighbors appeared at the Board hearing and won a delay of the action until March 23.

On the following Saturday, February 26, a mass meeting of residents met at St. Luke's auditorium and set up The Committee to Save the West Village and elected Jane Jacobs and Dr. Don Dodelson co-chairmen.

Mrs. Jacobs, a city planning authority and an Editor of ARCHITECTURAL FORUM Magazine helped lead the successful fights to save Washington Square Park and to save our Hudson Street sidewalks. Dr. Dodelson leads an organization which in 1949 saved the Village area just north of the one now threatened.

WHAT WE'RE AGAINST \*

Very definite evidence has come into our hands, suggesting that most of the designated area is slated for clearance (demolition by bulldozer) and that it is intended to build a middle income cooperative in its place. Experience has shown in these cases that as soon as an area is designated for a project it begins to run down. Buildings are not maintained, new money stops coming in. Nobody wants to keep up or restore property the bulldozers will probably take. Then there is a

long waiting period between demolition and construction in these projects. The project rents may be extremely high. Washington Square Village, with rentals ranging over ninety dollars a room started as a "middle income" project. Even when some buildings are saved and rehabilitated, their rents are usually doubled or tripled.

In every case, the original community is uprooted. Virtually all original residents find it impossible to return. We have in this neighborhood today people of all different incomes. This would not be true in a project neighborhood with its income-class segregation.

WHAT WE ARE FOR -

We are 100% for improvement and we know our neighborhood can stand some. We are impressed with the improvement which we have already accomplished, absolutely unaided. Plans for still more improvement (hundreds of thousands of dollars worth) are already on record with the Department of Buildings. The rising property values in this area prove how successful our independent efforts at self improvement have been.

But we want still more improvement - and would welcome an opportunity to work with officials of the city's conservation program to make our neighborhood a still happier place to live.

We have hoped, for instance, that we may be given access to the Hudson and that a stretch of park may be located there. This and other neighborhood improvements can be accomplished by building up on what we have instead of destroying the existing neighborhood.

Our best efforts would be aimed at saving and improving, not destroying.

We want to save the tenants. Ours is one of the best integrated areas in the city. It has one of the lowest crime rates in the city. There is almost no overcrowding. We have landmarks

(including original old farm houses beautifully restored, the original carriage stop for coaches coming up from Wall Street when that was New York and this was Greenwich Village) which we cannot let be destroyed.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

On March 7th, Mr. Walter Fried, a Commissioner of the Housing and Redevelopment Board, will come to Greenwich House to answer questions from residents.

Be there. Learn all you can.

But remember, Mr. Fried bears watching. He consistently refused to say openly that what he contemplated was a Title I project proceeding, when in fact it was.

He has talked of "conservation" without once making it clear why - if "conservation" were indeed in the air - it would not make better sense to condemn specific structures, making way for specific plans, or better still to build first on open areas.

Remember that what Mr. Fried wants is the right to do as he pleases with your house and your business. He is demanding the right for his Board to decide whether or not your home shall remain, whether or not you can continue to do business.

The important thing to remember is that if Mr. Fried's Board gets official control of our neighborhood, we are completely at their mercy, and they have not been merciful to other people in other neighborhoods whose homes and businesses have been destroyed.

On March 23, the proposal will again come before the Board of Estimate at 10:30 AM in their meeting room at City Hall.

BE THERE. Whatever other demands you may have on your time, BE THERE. If you have baby sitting problems, don't let another area resident "sit." Bring her, and the baby. If you have job problems,

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tell your boss, just this once, you can't make it. This is your home at stake. If you have business problems, close up shop. Let the rest of the world wonder what they'll do without you after the bulldozers.

...BUT BE THERE!

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO

Whatever your talents, there's a way to use them in this fight. Everyone must bring to bear every smidgen of influence he has, must write letters, must send telegrams. Chairman Jane Jacobs (555 Hudson Street, WA 9-8361) can always give you names and addresses... or you can look for lists of names in your favorite bar or eating place.

FOLLOWING ARE OUR INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS:

The White Horse Tavern, corner of 11th and Hudson Streets  
Loughlin's Bar, corner Greenwich and Christophor Streets  
The Lion's Head Tavern, corner Charles and Hudson streets  
Benny's Grill, 11th Street near Washington

FOLLOWING ARE COMMITTEES SET UP TO ORGANIZE THE FIGHT

Community Wide Relations - Chairman: Mr. Loughlin, Loughlin's Bar  
Letters:-Chairman: Steve Zoll, AL 5-6164  
Legal - Chairman: Gerald Burns, 310 West 11th, WA 4-8137  
Petitions and Handbills - John Six, 327 West 11th, CH 2-3003  
Research and Surveys - Chairman: Bill Nudorf, 3 Weehawken Street,  
YU 9-1368  
Publicity - Chairman: Hilda Burns, WA 4-8137  
Spanish Translation - Chairmen: Gloria Hamilton, 302 W. 11th, AL 5-5993  
Nestor Berrios, 255, W. 10th Street

AND ONE MORE THING: Let's make this a time to show our best face  
Sweep up, Keep those garbage pails covered. If you can, paint up.  
Remember, any moment a man may drive by who may influence a deciding vote. Will he decide that this neighborhood must be saved?

# WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 1

March 10, 1962

### ANNUAL MEETING

On February 25, exactly one year to the day of the formation of the Committee to Save the West Village, the entire neighborhood held a very important meeting at the Workshop of the Children. Several things were approved, of which the new mast head above is — for the moment only — the most obvious. The Committee to Save the West Village changed its name by unanimous decision to the *West Village Committee*; the work to save the West Village is finished, and work to improve the West Village is begun. Long-live-the-West-Village.

Now, every February 25 there will be a meeting of the neighborhood, preceded by an annual party on February 21st. The party is a victory celebration and will feature, as did the last one, free beer, music, dancing, and the good time every one enjoyed a couple of weeks back. The annual meeting, every February 25th, is for the purpose of holding elections.

Jane Jacobs, with thanks from the neighborhood that are impossible to express adequately, is retiring as Chairman of the West Village Committee, and on March 20th, a Tuesday night, elections will be held for new officers. (The March 20th election is this year only) The new officers will be five in number: a Chairman, 2 Vice-Chairmen, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Workshop of the Children is the place of this election meeting—March 20—nominations will be made from the floor for the new officers whose term is to be for one year only, and who may not succeed themselves in office for more than one consecutive term. The officers will appoint a large executive committee. There will be other neighborhood meetings throughout the year, particularly to report on progress, or to determine the consensus of what the neighborhood wants on specific issues, but this first election meeting is, of course, most important—please come and vote.

### A CONTINUING PURPOSE

Two principle rules will govern all of the plans that are made for the future. The first is that whatever shall be done will be done only if not a single tenant or property owner is to be hurt. The second is that whatever shall be done will be done only if it is the consensus of the neighborhood that it should be done. By consensus what is meant is not merely a majority, but should a minority, however small, be opposed, their reasons will be considered important enough to be honored.

The best way to indicate the nature of the work to be done is to list the committees that at the meetings on February 25 were decided as the necessary beginning, and explain their function when their titles need clarification.

1. Clean-up — Sanitation — Garbage
2. Tree Planting—also selection of memorial trees
3. Experimental Housing — this committee will look into the possibilities for all kinds of new housing such as low cost apartments, row houses, artists' studios, new buildings for vacant land, co-operatives, condominium housing, etc.
4. Property improvement — a committee for both tenants and owners that will be a clearing house of information on how to do it, where to secure financing, what contractors are available, what is the best, cheapest way to achieve the greatest progress. etc.
5. Railroad Tracks — as is obvious, the N. Y. Central overhead spur is coming down, and land will be available for building and recreation purposes that will be a marvelous boon to the West Village if properly used; this committee, which might possibly merge with the Experimental Housing one, will seek out the opportunities

6. Removal of Violations — a committee to help tenants obtain the service of the City's Building Department in correcting defects, and to help willing landlords to do the same
7. Traffic, Parking and Police — greater co-operation with the 6th Precinct and Captain Savitt
8. Workshop of the Children — this function will be a way of channelling neighborhood support for the Workshop, both manpower assistance to Kay VanDeurs, and help in procuring materials
9. Playgrounds and Street Benches — The addition of playgrounds must be looked into for the land at Bank and Hudson Streets that will be available for this purpose, for closing particular blocks perhaps, or for using, at least temporarily, land under the tracks. The idea is that the grounds should be imaginative, support fun, and be safe. The benches are for sitting down on, and the addition of places to sit at
10. Newsletter
11. Distribution of Information
12. Fund Raising
13. Pier and Marina — There is a real chance of replacing the recreation dock that used to be at the end of Christopher St.
14. Eviction Resistance and Legal Aid — a committee to safeguard particularly against low rent apartments becoming higher rent with a change of occupants, and to provide legal counsel for anyone in danger
15. Businessmen's Information — a committee to see that the businessmen who leave the West Village at quitting time are kept informed of events and decisions of neighborhood meetings held in the evening, and to relay back desires, advice, donations, and well wishes from the businessmen
16. Community Center — a committee to look into the possibility of obtaining a building for a neighborhood hall, meeting place, office or whatever, and to think up activities that might be offered by a center

17. Federal Building and Others, Re-Use — investigation into the conversion of the Federal Building when it is abandoned by the Government some years hence, and any other buildings whose status may change
18. Theatre and Arts — a committee to seek an off-Broadway theatre, possibly an Art Gallery, etc. locating in the area
19. Articles of Association — the legal work necessary to allow the West Village Committee a formal statement of purpose and the advantages under the law of such a legal non-profit association
20. Zoning — a committee that would maintain contact with the Village's Borough President's Planning Commission and other agencies to seek continuance or changes in zoning laws that would aid the area

All this indicates an enormous amount of work that must be done. Some projects will be done more quickly than others, and some committees will become defunct while others are being invented. None of the twenty committees will have precedence over the others, and there is no preferred order to the various projects. The theory is that whatever is most wanted will have the most hands working at it, and the speed of accomplishment will be determined by the neighborhood itself. All the projects will be simultaneously, concurrent and noncompetitive.

#### WHO DOES THE WORK

At the February 25th meeting, many of the nearly 100 people who attended signed up for one or more of the committees, and recruitment continues. The work will be done by whoever wants to do it. Everybody is needed. Who is everybody? all the members of the West Village Committee. Who are eligible to be members?

The West Village Committee is open to membership of all the people who live, work or own property in the area, or who, through past or present help, have established their friendship. Membership will also include our area's elected government officials. What is the area? The West Village boundaries

are certainly not the fourteen blocks that suffered designation as blighted. The area organically extends north to 14th Street (where the territory then becomes Chelsea), south probably as far as Morton Street or further if residents there want to join, and east to Hudson and perhaps, in time, even as far as Seventh Avenue.

This is a large and purposely not well defined area, and one from which it is hoped all will announce their membership and join in the work. Membership is granted—obtained is a better word—merely by desire to be a member, although it is important for members to give names and addresses so that they might be reached with information and announcements.

#### COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Starting now, before the March 20th elections, the various subcommittees are meeting to formulate first steps and to arrive at subcommittee chairmen. It is these chairmen, confirmed by the officers, who will form the executive committee of the West Village Committee along with others, hard workers and valuable consultants, whom the officers will appoint. It is not clear yet how big the executive committee will be, but whatever its size, it will not be limited to the first appointments. The executive committee will meet monthly, and entire neighborhood meetings will be held on the order of about four a year.

#### A NEW PAGE

The past year has not been without benefits, and they have been large. It took the danger of the City Planning Commission's mistaken notions about the West Village to prove what the West Village was really like. The talent, resources, leadership, ideas, value and unity of our area are truly remarkable. Of those qualities, lest immodesty be a fault, unity has been the greatest, and that is possible in any community. Our unity is powerful and precious. It must be guarded, made to include more, and refined to a sharp demand on the city's official resources. It must also contribute to the city's prosperity. It will. The West Village Committee is in no way another government, it is an instrument of the people's will, and we must all join in the hard work to come in expressing that will.

#### SUMMARY

There is to be an election on March 20 at the Workshop of the Children, 306 West 11th Street.

Five officers will be elected after nominations from the floor: Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

There will be an annual Victory Party every February 21.

There will be an annual neighborhood meeting to elect new officers every February 25th hereafter. The officers may serve for one consecutive term only.

The officers will appoint an executive committee consisting in large part of the heads of sub-committees.

Anyone living, working or holding property in the loosely defined area may be a member of the West Village Committee.

Anyone may work on any sub-committee.

Projects have no order of preference.

Nothing will be done without the consensus of the neighborhood.

Nothing will be done that hurts any resident.

There will be executive committee meetings monthly.

There will be about four general neighborhood meetings a year.

The March 20th meeting will also take and answer most questions.

The Newsletter  
178 Christopher Street





# WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE



## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 NO 2

APRIL 6 1962

### New Threat!

As Jane Jacobs said at the emergency meeting of the Executive Committee, every spring the city seems to have a new scheme ready to pull on the community. On Thursday, March 22, the Board of Estimate referred to the Department of the Budget a resolution calling for \$34,500 to make a study of the feasibility of an elevated truck artery to take the place of the railroad spur on Washington Street. The idea for the study apparently originated in the Department of Marine and Aviation whose concern here is providing truck access to the piers. Jane Jacobs and Gloria Hamilton argued before the Board of Estimate that such a truck artery would not only split the area, it would stop the Committee's plan for adding more housing.

The West Village Committee has already gotten out a mimeographed notice detailing the danger and the next steps that the Board of Estimate may take—for which we need to be prepared. Further word on how the area might best oppose this new threat will be forthcoming. Below is a copy of Hugh Byfield's letter to Mayor Wagner:

March 25, 1962

Dear Mayor Wagner:

Without warning or community consultation an added item at the regular Board of Estimate hearing last week requested funds for a study of the elevated railroad tracks on Washington Street for use as a trucking highway for waterfront piers.

In recent negotiations with you on the matter of the West Village Urban Renewal Proposal this Committee emphasized that it would act responsibly to repay your faith in entrusting the destiny of this area to its citizens.

Although this neighborhood had no prior notice that the highway proposal would be considered by the Board of Estimate last week the West Village Committee (formerly the Committee to Save the West Village) appeared and demonstrated its vigilance as well as voicing its objections to the study and request for funds. Such a proposal would create a blighting influence in the very heart of the West Village and deprive the area of land that is more urgently

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MARCH 23, 1962.

### INITIAL STUDY SET ON TRUCK VIADUCT

'Village' Group Fights Any Consideration of Plan

By CHARLES G. BENNETT

The Board of Estimate yesterday ordered a preliminary study of a proposal for an elevated truck route on Manhattan's West Side.

Residents of West Greenwich Village, fresh from their victory of last fall in blocking an urban renewal plan for their area, argued vigorously that the board should not even consider a study of the proposal.

Any studies of the West Village, they said, should consider over-all needs, including housing. They protested any major truck route that would bisect their neighborhood.

The board decided, nevertheless, to direct Budget Director William F. Shea to report on whether, in his opinion, the city should employ consultants to study the truck proposal.

The consultants would be Edwards & Kelcey, consulting engineers, who would, if employed, be paid \$34,500 for the study.

In general, the proposal is for the city to take over the New York Central System viaduct, which runs from Thirtieth Street and Twelfth Avenue along the west side of Washington Street southward to the railroad's St. John's Park freight terminal, just north of Canal Street.

The idea of converting the viaduct into a truck road, Manhattan Borough President Edward R. Dudley explained, grew out of a \$300,000 survey now under way by Ebasco Inc., of Manhattan's North River piers from the Battery to Seventy-second Street. The viaduct was seen as providing a needed trucking adjunct to the piers.

The railroad now uses the viaduct only from the northern terminus to Twelfth Street. The St. John's Park freight terminal has already been demolished and the railroad is stripping the viaduct from its southern end to Tenth Street.

The spokesmen for the group opposing even a study of the proposal included Mrs. Jane Jacobs and Mrs. Gloria Hamilton of the West Village Committee.

needed for housing. In addition it would obviously necessitate added funds for stanchions to reinforce the present structure and even expand it. It is also obvious that the solution to the waterfront problem does not lie in employing an elevated highway that can not reach it, but by studying West Street which is adjacent to the piers.

What is also of concern to this committee is the apparent lack of communication between city agencies and the citizens affected by the proposals of these agencies. Since the removal of the West Village from the map of sections suitable for redevelopment we have mobilized extensive "peacetime activity." Some twenty-two committees are overseeing the various areas that interest our neighborhood and its residents. The effectiveness of their formation is evident by their appearance "without notice" before the Board of Estimate last week. But the energies of these people should be utilized in constructive cooperation.

continued on page 3



# ELECTION RETURNS

The first annual neighborhood meeting, held at the Workshop of the Children on March 20, elected the following officers:

- President: **Hugh Byfield**, Christopher Street  
 1st Vice President: **Agnes Loughlin**, Perry Street  
 2nd Vice President: **Erik Wensberg**, West Street  
 Secretary: **Jessie Dennis**, Horatio Street  
 Treasurer: **John Six**, 11th Street

The election of a board of officers is the first full participation of the entire neighborhood in transforming the Committee's work from emergency opposition to peaceful construction. The adoption of the Articles of Association (see right) preceded the election. In normal times, should they ever occur, the first duty of the officers will be to preside over the monthly Executive Committee meetings, and give administrative aid to the work of the subcommittees.



## Preamble

This association is formed for the purpose of improving and maintaining the West Village neighborhood by constructive means to the end that none of its residents shall be involuntarily displaced, and its unique qualities of diversity, vigor and humor shall be forever preserved.

## Article I—Name

The name of this association is: "The West Village Committee."

## Article II—Membership

Any person who lives, works or owns property in the area of Manhattan known as the West Village, being generally the western part of Greenwich Village, shall be eligible for membership. In addition, membership may be extended to other persons on an individual basis by consent of the Executive Board of the association. A person eligible for membership shall become a member upon subscribing to these Articles in the membership roll of the association. Membership of any person shall terminate upon the termination of such person's eligibility for membership, unless such membership is extended by consent of the Executive Board.

## Article III—Voting

Each member shall be entitled

to one vote at membership meetings of the association.

## Article IV—Meetings

This association shall hold an Annual Meeting of the membership on Feb. 25 of each year upon ten days written notice mailed or delivered to all members, *provided however* that the first Annual Meeting shall be held on March 20, 1962 immediately following the adoption of these Articles. Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time by the Executive Board or 25% of the membership upon ten days written notice setting forth the time place and purpose of such special meeting. Those present at a membership meeting duly called and held shall constitute a quorum.

## Article V—Officers and Executive Board

The officers of this association shall be:

- President
- First Vice-President
- Second Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Each such officer shall be elected by a majority of those present at each Annual Meeting, to serve until the next Annual Meeting and election of his successor. Nominations for each office shall be made from the floor of such Annual Meeting. No person shall succeed himself

in any office of the association.

Promptly upon their election, the officers shall appoint an Executive Board consisting of all committee chairmen and such additional members at large as the officers shall select. The affairs of the association shall be conducted by the Executive Board.

The officers shall have such powers and duties as ordinarily pertain to the offices they hold. The Secretary shall maintain the membership roll and record the proceedings of all membership meetings.

## Article VI—Committees

The association may have any number of committees, which may be constituted at any time and for any purpose by the Executive Board. A member may serve on and act as chairman of more than one committee.

## Article VII—Dues and Fees

No member shall be required to pay dues. Contributing and Sustaining Members may pay dues in accordance with a schedule set by the Executive Board. Contributing and Sustaining members shall be entitled to receive newsletters and other publications of the association.

## Article VIII—The Annual West Village Party

The association shall hold a

party on Feb. 21st of each year, or the nearest feasible date, in joyous celebration of deliverance of the West Village from threatened destruction.

## Article IX—Amendments

These Articles may be amended by the membership by resolution adopted at a membership meeting, and ratified at the next consecutive membership meeting, the notice for which shall set forth the full text of such amendment.



These articles of association were drawn up by Pierre Tonachel; they constitute both the sentiments and method of operation of the Committee. Anyone who works, lives, or owns property in the area roughly bounded by 14th Street, The Hudson River, Morton Street and Hudson Street may become a member of the West Village Committee merely by ascribing to these articles. It is important, of course, that members who have not filled out the card listing their name and address should do so. Blank cards are at the Lion's Head Coffee Shop on the corner of Charles and Hudson. Join now, the West Village needs you.



Hugh Byfield's letter to Mayor Wagner; *continued*

Last month several steps in this constructive cooperation were undertaken so that the process of citizen participation is being openly and earnestly sought by this neighborhood. The first of these meetings only a few short weeks ago were initiated by Mr. Martin Berger and Mrs. Jane Jacobs with Mr. John Carroll of the Borough Presidents office. This meeting concerned rumors that Washington Street was to be widened for traffic use. Both Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Berger were assured that no such plans for Washington Street were under consideration. Therefore the request last week for funds to study the street in question is disturbing and disquietening.

For many weeks the New York Central Railroad has been demolishing this unsightly railroad spur that bisects the West Village. With its demise will go much of the misuse of the land underneath the spur. We await your reassurances that this new jeopardy to our neighborhood will not receive your support and the proposed use of the railroad spur for a trucking highway will be abandoned. It is my hope that we may work together so that our plans for this area may be forwarded without delay.

Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Hugh Byfield,  
 Chairman  
 The West Village Committee



While city officials toy with the idea of widening Washington Street for a truck expressway through the middle of the West Village, one of the widest streets in the world—West Street—is used partly as a parking lot for trucks and private cars and partly as an outdoor storage dump for privately owned merchandise. The photo above shows some of a large shipment of MG sports cars left in the middle of West Street until the owner, Mr. Inskip, decides to come and get them. Although the proposal for an overhead truck "viaduct" above Washington Street is obviously unworkable and would prevent the building of much needed housing, the possibility of restoring West Street to public use for regulated traffic is being ignored.



Posters will soon be appearing to announce the latest event in our continuing fund raising drive. There is to be a series of five "entertainments" for which subscription tickets will be sold. The events include something for everyone: an evening of Len Lye's prize winning movies, an illustrated lecture called Navajo Weaving and the West Village, a puppet show with clowns for children, Henry Hope Reed, Jr. talking about the history of the West Village, and a most unusual concert of Baroque Music played by a quartet of harpsichord, flute, oboe and cello. Watch for the details.

It's a boy for the Ave Greisses.

## Subscriptions

It probably never happened, but the story is that there used to be a series of Burma Shave signs that read: Listen, you birds—these signs cost money—so roost a while—but don't get funny! The Newsletter with a circulation of 1,200, costs money to get out; not a lot, but more than the editors win from each other playing pinochle. And good as the Distribution Committee is, it is difficult insuring that all mailboxes and hallways get supplied, or when supplied, that every West Villager gets his copy. The Newsletter will continue to be distributed as always, but readers now have a chance to subscribe and have each edition mailed to them directly. A \$2.00 subscription makes you a sustaining reader, and a \$5.00 subscription makes you a very good friend. Fill out the form below and mail it to The Newsletter, 178 Christopher Street. Or drop it off at the Lion's Head. Either enclose payment or wait to be billed.

### THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

I would like to subscribe to the Newsletter.

Name .....

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\$2.00

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Send to: 178 Christopher St.

or: The Lion's Head Charles and Hudson







## BOOK SALE

There will be another West Village book sale! Starting July 27th, a Friday, at about 8:00 P.M. and going on for the rest of the week end and possibly the next if there are enough books donated. The place is the same as last year, 547 Hudson Street.

Bring back the books you bought last year, and donate them to this fine fund raising event. Bring books you think your neighbors should read—bring books you don't think your neighbors or any one else should read. Books may be left starting now at the Byfields, 133 Christopher Street. All books gratefully accepted, many books desperately needed!

**GANSEVOORT MARKET** *continued*  
traffic, insufficient electrical, sewerage, refrigeration, water and ventilation conditions have, in the words of the report, made the present market "hopelessly inadequate." The city requested the study of the Department of Agriculture, and the Department took 18 months to study and report.

Their findings show that the present unexpanded facilities can be improved only to a minor extent, and this was not suggested as a solution. Two other suggestions involved relocation to Hunts Point in the Bronx, where the necessary 80 acres are available at a cost of \$61,000 per acre. The same amount of land at approximately the same price can also be had in Jersey Meadows. Just for purposes of comparison, the following figures are interesting: additional land in the West Village, were it available, would cost \$767,655 an acre, almost thirteen times as much. In either the Bronx or the New Jersey

site, transportation is far superior both by truck and by rail than at the present site. High costs in handling the produce could be reduced at the new sites by almost half (from the present \$41.53 a ton to about \$26.00) whereas reconstruction of an enlarged market in the present location could reduce handling costs less than a quarter (from \$41.53 a ton to \$33.30.) All figures are from the United States Department of Agriculture report.

At present, the market covers 14 blocks totaling 35 acres. There are 140 meat dealers and 20 poultry dealers; the average volume per dealer is about 100 tons weekly, or 56.3% of all New York's meat requirements, and 74.6% of all the poultry for the city.

## Items

Two authors from the West Village are soon to have books published: Father Flye of St. Luke's will have his correspondence with James Agee, the poet, critic and author, collected in a book brought out by Braziller. The title is *Letters of James Agee to Father Flye*. Publication is in August.

Macmillan is the publisher of the other West Villager. Barbara Byfield has a very funny cartoon cookbook called *The Eating in Bed Cook Book* coming out in November. Her own drawings, her own recipes.

The Reform Democrats have a slate of candidates seeking their party's nomination for election in November. In the 19th Congressional District, Leonard Farbstein is being opposed for nomination by Bentley Kassal, and in the State Senatorial district of which the West Village is a part, Joseph Marro is opposed for nomination by Martin Berger; in the 2nd Assembly District, Louis De Salvio is opposed by Robert Martin.



## WEST VILLAGE THROUGHWAY

The latest in the City's attempts to create a through truck route bisecting the West Village went to Court on June 28th in the case of The West Village Committee against the City of New York, Henry A. Barnes, Commissioner of Traffic. The Supreme Court of New York did not accept oral argument, but briefs on both sides were submitted. The West Village Committee, granted a temporary stay against the accompanying bus route change, is seeking a permanent injunction; Barnes has asked for summary dismissal of the case. The outcome is still pending before Justice Frances X. Conlon.

To change Greenwich Street's traffic from one way north to one way south, as Barnes has announced the City's intention, would mean that through truck traffic moving south on Ninth Avenue would continue across 14th Street and down Greenwich. In effect traffic would be given the route—but definitely not the access—through the West Village previously sought by the conversion of the New York Central overhead spur into a truck artery. The overhead truck artery was declared not feasible.

In its complaint against the reversal of Greenwich and Washington Streets' one way flow, The Committee stated that at least part of the heavy truck traffic pounding south on Ninth would attempt to continue down Greenwich, inundating this work street which is already being used to capacity by trucks making local deliveries and loading and unloading at various businesses and warehouses. Members of Mr. Barnes' staff in a meeting with members of the Committee who attempted to dissuade the change, said that it was not the intention of the Traffic Commission to allow through traffic down Greenwich and that trucks bound for the Holland Tunnel would be directed to use Fourteenth Street.

However the invitation to use a south bound Greenwich street as a throughway would prove an irresistible temptation. Further, because Greenwich Street is so narrow, any additional traffic will create terrible jams and back-ups; truck traffic will still have to follow its current route east on 14th with a dangerous short cut south on Bleeker to Seventh. Bleeker Street is a local work and residential street as narrow as Greenwich, and the terrible problem of Bleeker Street's unpoliced traffic will not be relieved by creating a through route on Greenwich. The result of changing Greenwich Street's flow will be only to make one more street suffer snarls and bottlenecks, noise and diesel fumes, dangers to pedestrians and severe economic perils to businesses which use the street.

This will not solve the real problem, unless, of course, changing the traffic is only the first step of an intended two step solution: the second step being the widening of Greenwich

Street. Several times in the past news items have appeared in the city papers mentioning plans for widening either or both Greenwich and Washington Street. Greenwich Street has already had its sidewalks shortened and the stoops removed from many of its houses.

Another plan must be found to solve the traffic problem. The West Village Committee has maintained that the solution is proper direction and enforcement to move Ninth Avenue traffic east on 14th Street and South on Seventh Avenue. North-bound traffic can use Hudson and West Streets. These streets were designed for such heavy flow as the local streets were not.

In support of his request for a summary dismissal of the Committee's action for a permanent injunction, Commissioner Barnes submitted a curious document full of inaccuracies and irrelevancies. It was accompanied by two answering affidavits from the Committee challenging the substance, intention and competence of the Commissioner's brief. Mrs. Jacobs said in her affidavit that it was clear from Barnes' defense that his supporting studies, traffic counts, street measurements and stated reasons for the change were all determined only after his announced plan was challenged. One conflict of traffic Barnes stated that he wanted to avoid was not even in the area that received the injunction. Nowhere did the Commissioner indicate that the six weeks stay against his change had in any way been harmful to the overall traffic condition. Many of Mr. Barnes' measurements were wrong and the implication was clear by his selection of half truths and misstated facts, that he fully intended Greenwich Street would indeed be used as a through street despite assurances to the contrary.

In a summary of events since last January, the City seems determined on a clear route through the West Village. First the elevated truck highway on Washington, now the opening wedge for an expressway down Greenwich. Both seem suspiciously reminiscent of the north south buffer zone that was to be part of last year's Urban Renewal scheme.

## Committees

There has been a lot of reordering of the committees as they were originally announced: several have merged, and one or two have completed their work, such as the Articles of Association committee, and quietly expired.

Many of the committees need additional members. Below is a listing of those committees who have made some progress and are pleased to report it, or have it reported about them:



**Experimental Housing:** This committee is working on a very great number of plans and projects, and a measure of their thoroughness is indicated by the attention paid to associated facets

*continued on page 2*

NEWSLETTER 178 Christopher St. N. Y. 14

Miss Kelley  
647 Hudson Street  
New York 14, New York





# Editorial

When the New York Central Railroad tracks were built, a substantial row of buildings that housed a great number of early West Villagers was destroyed and its occupants scattered. It is quite likely that a new highway, any new highway, might displace at least twice as many, taking as it must, not one side but both sides of any street along whose route it builds its right of way. Whether trains or trucks, the requirements of transportation are allowed too often to make deadly inroads on space for living.

This point was made quite strikingly by Henry Hope Reed, Jr., in his lecture on the history of the West Village at the Workshop on May 8th. In recounting the many uses the land of the West Village has been put to, the Indian trading post at the water end of Skinner's Road (now Christopher Street), farmland, river landing, coach route, prison site, steamship docks, rail spur, ferry slip, truck terminal, and so forth—Mr. Reed gave a picture of a small community sharing its space for both living and working. He also drew a parallel history of New York and the rest of the country undergoing successive changes in the dominant mode of transportation, sailing vessels and coaches replaced by ocean liners and steam locomotives, horse vans and wagons replaced by automobiles and diesel trucks. With each change a great new family fortune was established, each with its own style: Sir Peter Warren and Stephen Delancey with sailing ship fortunes, the Vanderbilts rich with trains, the Rockefellers supplying oil to power the internal combustion engines of today's transport.

And with each change of transportation a larger and larger amount of land was needed for its facilities. Staring us in the face right now are the unsettled questions of the Broome Street Expressway, the possibility of a 30th Street Crosstown Expressway, the route through the West Village, two hearings on July 10th, one for a highway despoiling Fire Island, and another concerning the World Trade Center on the lower west side which will need huge amounts of space for trucking.

If in the West Village the news seems to contain mostly tales of emergency it is because we are deeply concerned that highway cloverleaves do not mean good luck; we are concerned that the stability of people is not sacrificed to the transportation of goods. We are for reversing a trend and putting the houses back on the West Side of Washington Street.

## COMMITTEES *continued*

of new housing. Rachelle Wall has raised enough money from friends and associates within and without the West Village Committee to finance a supervised recreational program through the summer months. St. Luke's has donated their playground for the use of all West Village children, and Mr. Kirk Avery has been hired as director. He will have an able Spanish-speaking assistant in Miss Maria Serena of Hudson Street.

Many West Villagers have volunteered their services to attend the children.



Three sprinkler permits have been arranged for the West Village: this is an attachment put on a hydrant which delivers a cooling spray for children's cut-ups in the evening. Two of the hydrants are on Washington Street and one on Greenwich. When they are being used, the street is a play area and traffic must detour around the block.

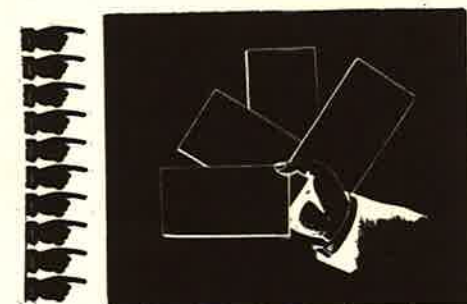


Sanitation and Property Improvement circulated a petition and found 700 signers requesting more frequent waste removal. Members of this Committee headed by Ann Tonachel met with Assemblyman Louis De Salvio to present the petitions to the Sanitation Commission of the City. An improvement in collection was promised. Ave Greiss negotiated a contract with a painter to repaint all of the houses on Greenwich Street between Perry and 11th at a considerable saving to each home owner. The block is particularly shining and handsome.

On Memorial Day, members of this committee, assisted by neighborhood children, had a fine time painting the trim and stoops of 327 West 11th Street. Nice as these buildings were before, there is a decided improvement.



Green Thumb committee, of which Eudice Segal, Jane Street, is chairman, distributed a leaflet in spring inviting interest in more greenery in the neighborhood. Mrs. Segal finds herself answering all kinds of questions about window boxes and the chemical content of various soils. Among the many other virtues of the West Village, Mrs. Segal reminds us of the long growing season and fertile atmosphere. She has worked out an arrangement with the city to obtain trees (which the city will plant in October) at special discount rates. She has so far orders for thirty-nine trees to be planted in front of various West Village houses.



The Distribution Committee has at present a record of distributing approximately 10,000 pieces of information and news, including this Newsletter, so far this year.



One of the last members of the New York Central overhead Washington Street railway disappearing. The West Village Fresh Air Fund is offering a prize for the best suggested method of celebrating the completion of this fancy demolition job. Send entries to the Newsletter. The prize hasn't been decided yet, but it will fit the celebration; perhaps it will be a free subscription to the Newsletter. One entry per contestant.

## Broome Street Expressway

On June 18 a hearing concerning the desirability of a cross town expressway for Lower Manhattan at Broome Street linking the Holland Tunnel with the Williamsburg Bridge went on for close to twelve hours. Many of the speakers against the proposal were West Villagers, denouncing the plan as both unnecessary for traffic and criminal in its disruption of the homes and businesses of some 20,000 along the intended route. No one spoke in favor of the plan, although it was understood that written reports were submitted by the Traffic Commission and Mr. Barnes advocating the expenditure of \$100,000,000 for its construction.

The throughway has consequence for the West Village as part of the proposal calls for an extension going north on the far west side.

This extension, it may be presumed, has a direct connection with the proposed through route along Greenwich Street in the West Village.

The plan for a Broome Street Expressway is some 18 years old, and the result of repeated and now outdated studies. It has not until the present been looked on favorably by City officials, even though there is less apparent need for it now than in years past. The bridge across the Narrows, under construction, will provide a direct route across Staten Island to Long Island for traffic and trucking coming north from New Jersey, and the Holland Tunnel, whose volume of traffic is decreasing, is able to handle local traffic for lower Manhattan. The added deck of the George Washington Bridge will add to the capacity of flow into the upper end of the Island.

Just why the expressway is necessary is not clear. Mr. Barnes rashly promises that it will take 75,000 cars a day off the streets of New York, which may be true, but he does not say how many additional cars it is likely to unleash

into Manhattan. The roadway is to be ten lanes wide, even though the streets at either end can only accommodate, at best, one or two lanes in either direction. The proposal sounds like a Los Angeles mania for throughways run wild.

Mayor Wagner requested a delay on the decision until August 23rd. In the meanwhile more time will be spent studying the difficulties of relocating the nearly 2,000 families whose homes will be destroyed.

## Gansevoort Meatmarket

On April 12, both the Times and the Tribune featured stories concerning the possible expansion of the Gansevoort Meat Market south as far as Perry Street. The news stories, more alarming than necessary, covered a meeting conducted by the Agricultural Marketing Division of the United States Department of Agriculture at which three possible solutions to the wholesale meat market's difficulties were presented. The expansion of the meat market to cover 60 acres bounded by 15th Street, Hudson Street, West Street and Perry Street, was, at least on the face of it, the least practical and seemed only a remote possibility. Further, it would be the only plan of the three that would find stiff opposition.

The very real difficulties of the wholesale meat market have to do with high cost of operation because of badly outdated facilities. The West Village Committee is aware of these problems and is sympathetic with the market in its search for a solution.

The market was originally planned at a time when horse drawn vehicles were the chief method of distribution. Both the physical layout and the marketing arrangements were designed for far less than the 700,000 tons of meat and 115,000 tons of poultry such as were handled in 1960. Poor design of loading and unloading docks, rough

*continued on page 4*

### THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

I would like to subscribe to the Newsletter.

Name .....

Address .....

\$2.00

\$5.00

Send to: 178 Christopher St.



# The New York Times

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1963.

Story on front page  
of the New York Times.



## 'Village' Group Designs Housing To Preserve Character of Area

By ALEXANDER BURNHAM

The construction of 475 apartments in a series of five-story structures on vacant land in Greenwich Village was proposed yesterday to test new theories in urban housing.

The suggestion was made by the West Village Committee as part of a major effort to substitute new thinking for the current approach to urban housing that centers on massive apartment buildings. The committee, one of the most vocal citizen housing groups, said the plan would require no one to move and would preserve the character of the neighborhood.

It is envisioned that the plan could be adapted to either private or public financing. In the West Village site it is proposed to use state financing and private funds provided by the International Longshoremen's Association.

The plan seeks to combine humaneness and architectural beauty with what are called the social and economic realities of the 20th century. Its intention is described as putting "harmonious" housing into existing communities in place of the present "standardization and regimentation of urban society" through tall, massive and barracks-like projects.

At the same time, the committee contends it can reduce construction costs by as much as 60 per cent while creating more apartment dwellings.

"The plan is based upon a concept of mixed land use and community texture," the committee said. "Instead of high-rise buildings with low land coverage, the West Village plan utilizes the land fully with

Continued on Page 42, Column 3

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE  
304 West 11th Street  
New York, N. Y. 10014

April 11/64

MEMORANDUM: TO ALL MEMBERS

From: Officers - A. S. Greiss, President  
Elsie McDonald, 1st Vice-Pres.  
Thomas Morgan, 2nd Vice-Pres.  
Gloria Hamilton, Ssecretary  
Peter Fritsch, Treasurer

Subject: Report on membership meeting of April 7th, 1964, and schedule of forthcoming committee meetings.

A. Results of the membership meeting of April 7th.

1. The proposed amendment to the Articles of Association was voted on and not adopted.
2. The recommendations of the elected officers, based on the discussion of the previous membership meeting, were accepted by the membership as follows:
  - a) Open membership meetings are to be held the second Tuesday of each month.
  - b) Executive Board meetings will be held 15 days prior to each membership meeting (Mondays).
  - c) The new table of organization of the West Village Committee was voted on and adopted unanimously. Chairmen of committees and the elected officers have only one vote each on the Executive Board with the exception of the three technical staffs. These technical staffs will have one vote each, but that vote is to be decided by the members of the particular unit.
  - d) Procedures and responsibilities were defined as follows:  
The officers recommend policy, hear all committee reports at Executive Board meetings, supply information submitted by committees to the membership at every meeting, and establish meeting procedures.  
The other Executive Board members expedite the solution of problems, report to the officers on all matters concerning policy decisions, and supply monthly reports of the progress or status of projects 15 days prior to each open membership meeting.
  - e) The work of the West Village Committee will be channeled through the committees. Committees without signed-up members will be dropped. If a new problem or interest appears later, it will be handled through Ad Hoc committees.
  - f) The new committees will convene, unless otherwise notified, as shown on the schedule below. The meetings will begin at 8:30 p.m. in the West Village Community Room, 304 West 11th Street. The conveners indicated will lead each meeting until the committee elects its chairman. ALL MEMBERS are welcome to come on the day scheduled to join the committees of their choice. If you wish to communicate with any of the committees, simply drop a note, addressed to that particular group, at 304 West 11th St., and it will be forwarded.
  - g) The first Executive Board meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. on April 27th at 304 West 11th Street. Since the Executive Board will meet regularly 15 days prior to membership meetings (Mondays), it will not be necessary to mail reminders each month.
  - h) The next open membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th, at 8:30 p.m. at 304 West 11th Street.

B. Schedule of committee meetings.

Tues.	April 14th	- Housing & Buildings, Convener: Bob Rohacek
Wed.	" 15th	- Human Relations, Convener: -- (businesses, teenagers, other neighbors)
"	" 15th	- Trees & Spruce-up, Convener: --
Thurs.	" 16th	- Public Safety & Police, Convener: Joan Stoliar
"	" 16th	- Newsletter & Distribution, Convener: Joan Thompson
Fri.	" 17th	- Fund Raising, Convener: Terry Fritsch
Mon.	" 20th	- Sanitation, Clean-up, & Rats, Convener: Thomas Morgan
Tues.	" 21st	- <u>Ad Hoc Committees:</u> Abingdon Sq. buses, Convener: -- Chelsea Neighbors, Convener: Jessie Dennis Lower Manhattan Expressway, Convener: -- Barnes Traffic Plan, Convener: Arthur Stoliar Street Widening, Convener: --
Wed.	" 22nd	- Aesthetics, Convener: Ann H. Pierce
Thurs.	" 23rd	- Parks & Playgrounds, Convener: Bob Rohacek
Fri.	" 24th	- Membership, Convener: --





THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

## NEWSLETTER

January 1, 1965

Here's a quick review to show how much has happened since our last Newsletter!

### Our Financial Situation

Lucy Moss and her Fund Raising Committee raised over \$1,318.01: the book sale, \$617.65; cocktail party at the Edward Segals, \$61.75; garden party and art sale at the Arthur Steliars, \$304.00; Jean Seidel's art show at St. Luke's, \$124.61; and, thanks to Danny Loughlin, our exciting 4-hour party at his Salonearium added \$210. The report on our sale of Christmas wreathes is forthcoming.

### Our Boys' and Girls' Program

The children's summer program enjoyed St. Luke's facilities for a third successful summer. Children aged 6 to 12 had a variety of activities to choose from, and younger tots enjoyed the sand pit and swings. The program staff, under chairman Eudice Segal, consisted of neighborhood volunteers, several Hunter College student teachers, a paid supervisor and his assistant. The daily attendance was excellent, and the successful season was capped by a bang-up ice cream party on closing day, August 15th. The program, by the way, has been incorporated and is now officially "The Boys' & Girls' Program of the West Village, Incorporated." Eventually, all gifts and donations made to it will be tax deductible. On November 6th, the officers of the new corporation met and adopted by-laws.

We thank West Villager Wally Popolizio through whose efforts the program received two \$50.00 gifts, and also Ruth Wittenberg for her gift of game equipment.

Through the efforts of Gloria Hamilton, WVC secretary, the 6th Precinct Youth Council bussed 40 West Village children to Bear Mountain for a full day in the country. A delightful boat trip down the Hudson made the day complete, and everything was free!

### The Bus Predicament

Ave Greiss' Abingdon Sq. Bus Committee inspired a large number of West Village residents to sign a letter of protest to Mayer Wagner last spring deploring the schedule changes which have resulted in inadequate service. The Mayer referred our letter to Mr. Walter Schlager, Jr. who is in charge of city surface transportation. Mr. Schlager's reply was unsatisfactory. A second letter with additional signatures, carbon copy to the Mayer, was mailed on July 20th and remains unanswered. The committee is contemplating action.

### Parking Lot vs. Growing Space

On June 16th, the West Village Committee formally appealed a zoning variance request made by the owner of the parking lot at Charles & Greenwich Streets. Despite all our efforts to postpone the decision until the Committee could come to some agreement with the parking lot owner—who couldn't be reached—the Board of Standards and Appeals approved the variance. Since this Committee believes in reserving space in a residential area for new housing, we are very dissatisfied with the Board's decision, and will re-appeal when the zoning variance expires in two years.

### Action on the Expressway

In June, during an open meeting, the West Village Committee voted to support the "City-Wide Organizations Against the Lower Manhattan Expressway."

## Public Safety and Police Matters

Members of Jean Steliar's committee met with former Police Captain Leddy to discuss neighborhood cooperation with the 6th Precinct. The committee helped to correct and re-fold 30,000 printed circulars dealing with safety rules that Captain Leddy wished to have distributed throughout the precinct.

The committee is now waging an active campaign against traffic violations in the community. It is studying conditions of combined residential and commercial use of streets and sidewalks—parking, obstructions, noise, etc. Our new precinct captain, James Shannon, has been most helpful and receptive to our ideas and suggestions. With his help, the committee is compiling a checklist, which we hope to distribute in the neighborhood, of the major problems, and a guide to show how the public can help the police in the enforcement of all regulations.

Two letters were sent to Traffic Commissioner Barnes on June 9th. The first expressed the urgent need of a traffic light at the corner of Hudson & Charles Streets in the interest of pedestrian safety. The second requested that "No Parking" signs be placed on the east side of MacDougal Street from West 4th to Bleecker in order to break up the heavy congestion caused by tourists and general summer traffic conditions. Mr. Barnes replied that he was investigating these matters.

## A Clean Sweep

Thanks to Tom Mergan's committee, Sanitary Inspection, Rats & Clean-up, pressure was put on the Health Department and resulted in the removal of refuse from backyards and the empty lot in the area of Greenwich, Perry & Charles Streets.

## Our Meeting Place

We are renovating the little store to make it more flexible—art displays, book sales, committee meetings, etc. In keeping with our desire to be of service to the community, the Board of Elections is using our headquarters as a polling place.

## Newsletter

Sorry it's been so long in coming! Chairman, Jean Thompson, found that business pressures would not abate, and finally had to resign. A new chairman was not easily come by, but we have one now. We salute chairman Carol McShere's first effort—this newsletter!

## Membership

We've been growing! Signed-up members now number well over 250 strong.

Would you like to participate more fully? Please, then, either contact the chairmen directly or drop a note with your name, address and telephone number to the W. V. Committee. Volunteers would be more than welcomed on:

Fund Raising: Lucy Moss, AL 5-3172  
Public Safety: Jean Steliar, OR 5-3527  
Clean-up, etc: Tom Mergan, CH 3-6257  
Traffic Patterns, etc: Ave Greiss, WA 4-7924  
Boys' & Girls' Program: Eudice Segal, CH 2-6025  
Trees & Plantings: Elizabeth McFadden  
Housing & Buildings, Human Relations, and Membership Committees

While we're on the subject of membership, we would like to pass the word along that contributions to the W. V. Committee are badly needed. The largest part of the funds we raised went toward the children's summer program. Our other expenses include rent, light, mailing and distribution, and—currently—the renovation of our committee headquarters. Anything you can give to improve the committee's financial health will be appreciated!



## West Village Housing Plan

From April 6th to May 11th, a display of our West Village Housing Plan appeared at the Union Carbide Building as part of an exhibit entitled "Our Town, 1970".

Here are the latest details on the progress of our Housing Plan. After extensive work with builders, real estate consultants, appraisers, and our architects, our preliminary application on complete economic feasibility of the plan was submitted to the City's Housing & Redevelopment Board. Review of the housing plan by H & R was successfully completed and it is now before the City Planning Commission. Commissioner Ballard met with members of the community and Planning Board # 2 to determine its acceptability in the larger Greenwich Village area. The community representatives assured Commissioner Ballard that they were heartily in favor of the plan.

### Little-publicized Accomplishments

We are very proud that... (1) Martin Berger united all the tenants and successfully employed the New York City "receivership law" to renovate, repair, and remove all building violations from a tenement building on Greenwich Street without a single tenant being evicted. (2) West Village Committee members not only helped generate pressure to rebuild Gansevoert Pier, but cooperated with other Village organizations until the City spent \$38,000 to preserve the only public access the Village had to the Hudson River.

### Cooperation with Other Civic Organizations

West Villagers have acted upon their verbal support of other groups' civic projects. We're happy to say that our members have helped...

1. The Landmarks Committee. The W. V. Committee voted at an open meeting to support legislation to establish a Living Landmarks Commission in Greenwich Village. Members of Ruth Wittenberg's Landmarks Committee are working to have the entire West Village designated a Landmark Area.
2. Abingdon Square Park Committee. Mrs. Wittenberg and her committee deserve our congratulations for this outstanding example of community involvement in city planning decisions. Mr. Robert Nichols' dramatic and unusual plan gained the sympathy and enthusiastic support of City Planning Commissioner Eliner C. Guggenheimer, and the plan was passed with only slight modifications. Park construction is expected to start in April. Not only did some of our members work actively with this group, but our own Aesthetics Committee, chaired by Dean McClure, advocated the inclusion of free-form sculpture in the new park. Art, after all, is our great cultural tradition.
3. Gansevoert Area Redevelopment Committee. A small delegation from our committee attended a meeting called by the New Chelsea Club to discuss Gansevoert Market area developments with Mr. Roger Feinstein of the City Planning Commission. Carol Greitzer suggested that both the Greenwich Village and Chelsea communities plan the kind of housing to be developed. Thereafter, the Gansevoert Area Redevelopment Committee was formed and Mrs. Greitzer elected its chairman. Subsequently, a meeting was held at the V. I. D. to formulate procedures.

Arthur Steljar volunteered to do a building survey of the area. His team completed this work in December. The W. V. Committee was asked to present a complete traffic plan for the area. A motor tour to examine present traffic patterns was the first step. More volunteers are needed to continue the work.

After an announcement that the City Planning Commission would proceed with its plans to survey and analyze the Gansevoert area, civic groups requested Commissioner Ballard to postpone such action thus giving the community time to work out its own plan. Mr. Ballard has given assurances that the City Planning Commission would not proceed until later this year, that public hearings would be held first, and that no plans for development would be forthcoming for at least a year.

4. Citizens Committee for Artist Housing. We are happy to be able to offer our premises to this group for their meetings. They are drawing up plans to be filed with the Depart-



ment of Buildings. These plans will help to clarify the need to amend the legislation passed a year ago. Without this clarification, the requirements for conversion of lofts into legal living studios would prove impractical and make the rents too high for low-income artists.

Outdoor Art Show for Abingdon Sq. Park Opening

We are more than enthusiastic with the idea of an outdoor art show in the West Village area. Messrs. Bendenwald and Kent, whose galleries are on Hudson Street between Charles and West 10th Streets, have consented to co-chair this committee. We're fortunate, indeed, because these gentlemen are not only talented but capable as well. They will, however, need volunteers to help them make this time-consuming task a successful reality. Won't you please step forward?

Announcement of Next Membership Meeting — DON'T FORGET THE MEETING!

Secretary G. Hamilton would like to remind all members that the regular monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12th, at 8:30 p.m. at 304 West 11th Street. On the agenda for this meeting are the following items: 1. West Village Art Show, 2. Traffic Committee, and 3. Membership.



THE  
WEST  
VILLAGE  
COMMITTEE

304 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y. 10014

March 1, 1965

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 9, 1965

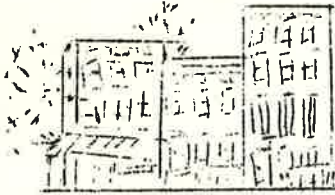
8:00 PM West Village Headquarters  
304 West 11th Street

The following officers were elected at the annual election meeting to serve you for one year:

President	-	Arthur Stoliar
1st Vice President	-	Wally Popolizio
2nd Vice President	-	Dee Herrick
Secretary	-	Ruth Gottlieb
Treasurer	-	Leon Seidel

The agenda for the next meeting will include:

- Financial and budget report
- Activity Plans:
  - West Village Housing Plan
  - Art Festival
  - Anti-Poverty and Housing Violations
  - Horatio Street Playground
  - Gansevoort Area
  - Children's Program
  - Artists' Housing
  - Public Safety and Police Liason
  - Jackson Square Library
  - Tree Planting
  - Garden Party-Cocktail Party-Book Sale
  - Traffic
- If time permits motions will be entertained for amending Articles III and VIII of the Articles of Association.



THE  
WEST  
VILLAGE  
COMMITTEE

304 West 11th Street, New York, N. Y. 10014

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GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 8, 1966

8:15 p.m. West Village Headquarters  
304 West 11th Street

The following officers were elected at the annual election meeting to serve for one year:

President	-	Leticia Kent
1st Vice President	-	Mervin Bendewald
2nd Vice President	-	Joan Stoliar
Secretary	-	Mary Adamson
Treasurer	-	James Shaw

The agenda for the next meeting will include:

- Program for 1966-67
- Discussion of goals
- Appointment of Committees



THE  
WEST  
VILLAGE  
COMMITTEE

304 West 11th Street, New York 10014

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, June 14, 1966  
8:15 p.m. West Village Headquarters  
304 West 11th Street

(Note: There will be no general membership meetings during July and August)

The agenda for this regular monthly membership meeting will include:

- financial report
- reapportionment and the West Village
- Officer John Hollywood will discuss youth activities
- A report from our local school board about short and long range plans of the Board of Education for our community
- Boys and Girls Summer Program plans

---

Our May 21-22 Flea Market was an outstanding success, under the dedicated guidance of Jim Shaw. Truly a community effort, it took many people, too many to thank individually here, to provide our kids with another summer program.

Many friends among local businesses were also generous in their donations of items to be sold:

Antiques, Inc., Hudson St.  
Bendewald Studio, 523 Hudson St.  
Bourjois, Inc., 711 5th Ave.  
Bovencamp Studio, Hudson St.  
Hudson Hardware, 548½ Hudson St.  
Nicola Food Market, 271 W. 4th St.  
Ted O'Gawa, Bleecker St.

Pat chin Place Emporium, Ltd., 109 W. 10th  
Pine Knoll Nursery, 45 N. Airmont Rd., /  
Pioneer Super-Market, 7th Ave. /Suffern  
Prints Shop, Hudson St.  
Schapira Coffee Co., 117 W. 10th St.  
Second Hand Rose, Hudson St.  
Westlane Pharmacy, 251 W. 11th St.

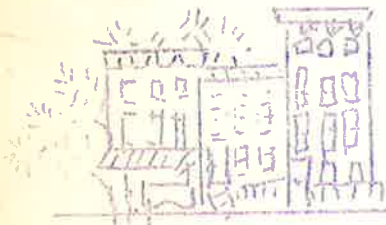
Kiwanis Club is again supporting our Boys and Girls Program with a \$100 gift.

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Bleecker St. Antique Dealers SPRING FESTIVAL, June 15, 12 n to 12 m. All invited!  
between Abingdon Square and 7th Avenue

---

Leticia Kent, president / WA 9-7254 . Mervin Bendewald, 1st vice pres. / 924-6276  
Joan Stoliar, 2nd vice president / OR 5-3527 . Mary Adamson, Secretary / 255-4998  
James E. Shaw, treasurer . CH 3-8779



THE  
WEST  
VILLAGE  
COMMITTEE

304 West 11th Street, New York 10014

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GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, January 10, 1967

8:15 p.m. West Village Headquarters  
304 West 11th Street

A G E N D A

- Election of Nominating Committee for 1967 Officers
- Report on proposed Greenwich Village historic district designation
- Discussion of strategy for continuation of hearing, scheduled for February 7, at City Hall
- Status of New York University proposed library-administration building
- Committee reports - CHAIRMAN: Please attend!
- Other uses for our headquarters?
- Sponsorship of art show - Dr. Dan Saffels

Wanted: BOOKS

Please start bringing books to the headquarters in preparation for our next book sale, in the spring. If you are not ready with books now, call James Shaw, as listed below, to arrange a time.



THE  
WEST  
VILLAGE  
COMMITTEE

304 West 11th Street, New York 10014

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1967

8:15 p.m. West Village Headquarters  
304 W. 11th Street

AGENDA

Introducing the new officers for 1967

James Shaw - President  
Richard Barnett - First Vice-President  
Mervin Bandewald - Second Vice-President  
Mary Adamson - Acting Secretary  
Peter Fritsch - Treasurer

Landmarks Report, and what it means  
Book Sale Report  
Theatre Party Report  
Committee Reports

GUEST SPEAKER: MR. B. A. RITTERSPORN, JR.  
VICE-PRESIDENT of CITIZENS FOR CLEAN AIR, INC.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

PLEASE COME PROMPTLY AT 8:15 SO ALL BUSINESS CAN BE FINISHED IN TIME  
FOR OUR GUEST TO SPEAK TO US BY 9 P.M.

ELIZABETH MC FADDEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TREE PLANTING COMMITTEE MUST FEEL  
VERY HAPPY, AND WE OF THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE CAN FEEL VERY PROUD OF  
HER HARD WORK IN BRINGING TREES TO HUDSON STREET. WE PLEDGE OURSELVES  
TO WORK HARD WITH ELIZABETH IN HER EFFORTS TO BRING MORE TREES, AND HELP  
THE VILLAGE FIND ITS PLACE IN THE SHADE.

MANY, MANY THANKS ARE DUE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE  
WHO GAVE SO GENEROUSLY OF THEIR BOOKS, TIME, AND SUPPORT TO HELP MAKE  
OUR BOOK SALE A SUCCESS.

IN ANSWER TO MANY INQUIRIES, THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL FLEA MARKET HAS BEEN  
SET. SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH AND SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH ARE THE DAYS. PLEASE  
START SAVING ALL THOSE LITTLE KNICK-KNACKS, (AND THE BIG ONES TOO)  
AND LETS MAKE THIS YEAR'S FLEA MARKET EVEN BIGGER, BETTER AND MORE FUN



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**JUNE 11, 1969 8:15 P.M.**

**304 W. 11TH ST.**

**BOOK SALE**

**THE BOOK SALE SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**PREVIEW FRIDAY JUNE 13TH 7 P. M. TO 10 P. M.**  
**SAT. JUNE 14TH 12 NOON TO 9 P. M.**  
**SUN. JUNE 15TH 12 NOON TO 9 P. M.**

**A 50 CENT DOOR CHARGE WILL BE IN EFFECT ON THE PREVIEW DATE ONLY**

**BOOKS WANTED**

**WE STILL ARE COLLECTING BOOKS AND RECORDS FOR OUR SALE. THE HEADQUARTERS WILL BE OPEN FROM 8 P. M. TO 10 P. M. ON WED. JUNE 11TH AND THURS. JUNE 12TH TO RECEIVE DONATIONS OF BOOKS AND RECORDS. PICK UPS MAY BE ARRANGED BY CALLING JIM SHAW CH 3-8779 (MORNINGS). WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SELL ON SAT. AND SUN. PLEASE CALL CH 3-8779 TO ARRANGE SCHEDULE.**

**A DISCUSSION**

**MRS. DORIS DIETHE, CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ZONING COMMITTEE OF PLANNING BOARD NO. 2 WILL DISCUSS TWO ZONING MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE WEST VILLAGE.**

**JAMES SHAW, PRESIDENT (CH 3-8779)**  
**MARY ADAMSON, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT (255-4998)**  
**PETER FRITSCH, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT (WA 9-8234)**  
**RICHARD BARNETT, TREASURER (675-8705)**  
**LESLEY BLOCH, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (924-3275)**  
**JUANITA LUTZ, RECORDING SECRETARY (CH 2-1714)**



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCT. 21ST TUES. 8 P. M.

ST LUKE'S CHAPEL OF TRINITY PARISH

487 HUDSON ST. N. Y., N. Y. 10014

AGENDA: THE WEST VILLAGE HOUSING

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MEETING, AND IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE GOOD AND PROMPT ATTENDANCE.

MANY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WRITE AND CALL AND ASK, "WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?" OUR POSTAGE AND PRINTING EXPENSES TO KEEP YOU INFORMED RUNS RATHER HIGH. WE COLLECT NO DUES, AND OUR ONLY FUNDS COME FROM FUND RAISING VENTURES AND DONATIONS. IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT WE NEED MOST IMMEDIATE HELP. ANY DONATIONS SMALL OR LARGE TO THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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TO RAISE FUNDS, WE MUST HAVE ANOTHER BOOK SALE AND FLEA MARKET. WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE BOOK SALE MID OR LATE NOVEMBER. WE NEED MORE BOOKS! ALL KINDS OF BOOKS. PAPER BACKS, CHILDREN BOOKS, COOKBOOKS, BOOKS ON ANY AND EVERY SUBJECT. WHILE YOU'RE CLEANING OFF THE BOOK SHELVES, YOU CAN ALSO CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS, ATTICS AND BASEMENTS OF ALL THOSE UNWANTED OR SELDOM USED ITEMS SUCH AS GADGETS, GAMES, PUZZLES, ELECTRIC APPLIANCES (WORKING), CHINA, GLASSWARE, PICTURES, PRINTS, ETC. WE'LL FIND A BUYER FOR ALL THOSE LITTLE TREASURES. WE'LL TAKE ALL THOSE DUST CATCHERS AND CLOSET CLUTTERS. PLEASE CALL JOAN STOLIAR - OR 5-3527 OR JIM SHAW - CH 3-8779 (MORNINGS) TO ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY AND IF NECESSARY PICK-UP. OF COURSE YOU CAN BRING BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS TO THE MEETING.

\* SORRY -  
NO CLOTHING

JAMES SHAW, PRESIDENT (CH 3-8779)  
MARY ADAMSON, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT (255-4998)  
PETER FRITSCH, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT (WA 9-8234)  
RICHARD BARNETT, TREASURER (675-8705)  
JUANITA LUTZ, RECORDING SECRETARY (CH 2-1714)



MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOV. 17TH 8:30 P. M.

HERBERT BERGHOF STUDIO - 124 PARK STREET  
(BETWEEN GREENWICH ST. & WASHINGTON ST.)

N. Y., N. Y. 10014

AGENDA

HOUSING REPORT  
OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS AS AVAILABLE  
BOOK SALE  
FLEA MARKET  
CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

AS YOU MAY HAVE READ, THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION ON NOV. 5TH REPORTED APPROVAL OF OUR WEST VILLAGE HOUSING PLAN BY A 5 TO 0 VOTE. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE HAD A GREATER TURNOUT THAN THE WONDERFUL SHOWING WE HAD AT CITY HALL ON AUGUST 13TH.

THE BOOK SALE WILL START FRI. EVE. NOV. 21ST, 8 P. M. TO 11 P. M. AS IN THE PAST, THERE WILL BE A 50 CENT DONATION AT THE DOOR ON FRIDAY EVENING. THE SAT. & SUN. HOURS FOR THE SALE ARE 12 NOON TO 10 P. M. THE 50 CENT DONATION IS NOT IN EFFECT ON NOV. 22ND & 23RD. WE WILL HAVE BOOKS AND RECORDS FOR THE BOOK SALE. WE CAN USE BOOKS OF ALL KINDS. FALKER BOOKS - CHILDREN BOOKS - COOK BOOKS - ART BOOKS & BOOKS ON EVERY SUBJECT.

THE FLEA MARKET IS SCHEDULED FOR SAT. DEC. 6TH AND SUNDAY DEC. 7TH. THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS, ATTICS AND BASEMENTS OF THOSE THINGS USED AND UNWANTED ITEMS SUCH AS GAMES, TOYS, PUZZLES, ELECTRIC APPLIANCES (WORKING), CHINA, GLASSWARE, PICTURES, PRINTS, ETC. (PLEASE NO CLOTHING) PLEASE CALL JOAN STOLJAR OR 5-3527 OR JIM SHAW OR 3-8779 (MORNINGS) TO ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY AND IF NECESSARY PICK-UP.

IT ISN'T TOO EARLY FOR US TO THINK ABOUT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE. AS USUAL WE EXPECT TO HAVE KICE ABOUT 12 INCH BALSAM WREATHS. OUR WREATHS ARE USUALLY AVAILABLE ABOUT DEC. 16TH. EARLY ORDERS ARE VERY HELPFUL TO US IN MAKING OUR PLANS FOR ORDERING STOCK. PLEASE USE ORDER FORM AND ORDER WREATHS EARLY.

JAMES SHAW, PRESIDENT (CH 3-8779) MARY ADAMSON, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT (255-4998)  
PETER PRITSCH, 2ND VICE PRES. (WA 9-8254) RICHARD BARNETT TREASURER (675-8705)  
JUANITA LUZZI, RECORDING SECT. (CH 2-3714)

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CHRISTMAS WREATH ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF WREATHS AT \$3.00 Ea. \_\_\_\_\_



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**SEPT. 11TH 8:15 P. M.**

**ST LUKE'S CHAPEL OF TRINITY PARISH  
487 HUDSON ST. N. Y., N. Y. 10014**

**AGENDA: THE WEST VILLAGE HOUSING**

GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, AND WELCOME BACK FROM HAPPY HOLIDAYS. THIS IS THE FIRST MEETING AFTER OUR USUAL SUMMER RECESS. AS YOU KNOW, IT HAS BEEN A VERY BUSY SUMMER WITH THE CITY PLANNING BOARD HEARING, BUT THE HARD WORK IS NOT YET BEHIND US. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN OUR EFFORTS TO WIN THIS BATTLE.

**THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT MEETING**

**URGENT - URGENT**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A LARGE TURN-OUT FOR THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE HEARING, BUT ALSO WE ASK FOR A LETTER FROM EACH AND EVERY MEMBER AND FRIEND ADDRESSED TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE CITY OF NEW YORK CITY HALL. REFER TO THE HEARING ON THE WEST VILLAGE HOUSING PLAN, AND EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PLAN. DO NOT SEND THE LETTER TO THE BOARD. SENT TO:

MR. JAMES SHAW, PRESIDENT  
THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE  
304 W. 11TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10014

ALL SUCH LETTERS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD AT THE HEARING. PLEASE IF POSSIBLE MAKE A CARBON COPY SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE IT FOR OUR FILES.

**ANY QUESTIONS? CALL:**

TERRY FRITSCH - WA 9-8234  
ERIK WENSBERG - OR 5-2922

GLORIA HAMILTON - AL 5-5993 (EVENINGS)  
JOAN STOLIAR - OR 5-3527

**THIS IS MORE THAN A FIGHT FOR HOUSING!**

**THIS IS A FIGHT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE WEST VILLAGE AS WE KNOW IT!**

JAMES SHAW, PRESIDENT (CH 3-8779)  
MARY ADAMSON, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT (255-4998)  
PETER FRITSCH, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT (WA 9-8234)  
RICHARD BARNETT, TREASURER (675-8705)  
JUANITA LUTZ, RECORDING SECRETARY (CH 2-1714)





THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DEC. 9th TUES. 8 P.M.

ST LUKE'S CHAPEL OF TRINITY PARISH

487 HUDSON ST. N.Y., N. Y. 10014

AGENDA

HOUSING REPORT

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS AS AVAILABLE

BOOK SALE REPORT

FLEA MARKET

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE FLEA MARKET HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY DEC. 13TH AND 14TH TO ELIMINATE THE CONFLICT WITH THE ANNUAL ST LUKE'S CHRISTMAS SALE AND FLEA MARKET. OUR FLEA MARKET WILL BE HELD AT OUR HEADQUARTERS - 304 W. 11TH ST. TIME: 10 A. M. TO 7 P. M. BOTH DAYS. THE HEADQUARTERS WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 8 P. M. AND 10 P. M. MON. DEC. 8TH UNTIL THE SALE. TO RECEIVE YOUR DONATIONS OR CALL CH 3-8779 (MORNINGS) TO ARRANGE PICK-UP.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE AND FLEA MARKET AT ST LUKE'S AT THE CORNER OF HUDSON AND GROVE STREETS. TIME: FRIDAY DEC. 5TH 5 P. M. TO 10 P. M. AND SAT. DEC. 6TH 12 NOON TO 5 P. M. ALWAYS LOTS OF VERY NICE GIFT ITEMS AVAILABLE AND COME MEET OLD FRIENDS.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AND PICK-UP AT THE FLEA MARKET. PLEASE USE ORDER FORM BELOW AND MAIL ORDERS NOW. THIS WILL HELP US IN THE ORDERING OF STOCK.

+ OURS OF COURSE

- JAMES SHAW, PRESIDENT (CH 3-8779)
PETER FRITSCHE, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT (WA 9-8234)
RICHARD BARNETT, TREASURER (675-8705)
JUANITA LUTZ, RECORDING SECRETARY (CH 2-1714)

CHRISTMAS WREATH ORDER FORM

NAME: (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS:

PHONE NO.:

NO. OF WREATHS AT \$3.25 EA.:
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Handwritten mark or signature.