

James F. Shav, President

"Serving the West Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Mrs. Slatin 255-7066

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



CAUTION: THE LANDMARK PROCESS CONTAINS LAND MINES.

New York City would not be New York City without great architecture. Our landmarks give our city its identity, grace the quality of our lives and—incidentally—enhance property values.

Thus New York City's real estate industry has always strongly supported the law under which the best buildings and historic districts can be designated as landmarks. (After all, the real estate industry created almost every landmark.)

But while the landmark *law* is a good one, the landmark *process*—the process by which buildings are designated as landmarks—has some hidden problems. Land mines, if you will, ready to go off and do damage.

A nerve-wracking uncertainty.

The owners of many old buildings have to live with a paralyzing "what if." While these buildings may not be serving much use, their owners can't plan to alter or replace them for fear that, on the eve of such work, the buildings may be designated as landmarks.

The remedy is simple: The Landmarks Preservation Commission should compile a list of buildings which will be considered for designation. Once the list is compiled, almost nothing should be added to it for five years.

The result: The owner of a building not on the "potential designation" list will be free to do something with it. The owner of a building on the list can get a prompt hearing on the property and, if it is designated, can plan how the designation could be used to the building's advantage.

An unfair penalty.

What about the buildings that are *already* designated as landmarks? Unfortunately for their owners, designation is sometimes an economic *disadvantage*.

The law does provide for relief in hardship cases. It defines "hardship" for a commercial building as an annual return of less than 6% of the building's assessed valuation.

But 6% is an unrealistically low return. An owner is likely to be paying twice that to carry a mortgage on the building. And risk-free investments yield far greater returns.

A more fair standard would be based on the building's market value—and use a return on investment at least equal to that offered by U.S. government bonds plus 1.5% during the three years preceding the date of a hardship application. In addition, reasonable hardship standards should be set for owners of *non-profit* buildings.

A distortion of the law.

Last but not least, the landmark process now has so much leeway, it sometimes becomes something other than what the law intended.

So, to supplement the personal aesthetic and other subjective preferences of the members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, there should be more specific, formal criteria as to what makes a building a landmark.

And to preserve *zoning*, landmark designation should be used only to preserve important buildings. It shouldn't be a tool for determining the scale of development in some parts of town; that's the job of the City Planning Commission.

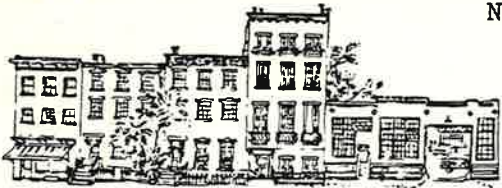
In sum, removing these land mines from the landmark process will protect property owners, preserve genuinely worthy buildings and make this aspect of New York City life more predictable.

In sum, let's make the landmark process a landmark to good city government.

For more information, write to: Research Department, The Real Estate Board of New York, 12 E. 41st St., New York, NY 10017.



**The Real Estate Board
of New York, Inc.**



"Serving and Preserving the West Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

January 1986

Mr. Bowser 243-0762

Ms. Fisher 929-3169

Mrs. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 28, 1986 -- 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall of the Church of St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place (between Perry and West 11th Streets).

Agenda: Reports and updates on various proposed changes in our community from parks to new construction. We will expect a report back from the Landmarks Commission hearing on the 10th Street/Amos Farm site.

HERE COMES THE BIG PUSH AGAIN

Perhaps it is about time we gather the past and the present together for a bit of technical analysis. Oh, not a few sentimental memories of what has been, but rather to bind the past and the present together hoping to get some answers. Or if we can't get answers, at least to determine the nature of what we've been wading through and what's the next swamp.

What with all the battles, the steamy contests, the determination of the pros and cons, and the conclusion of our victories, what do we end up with? You guessed it: "Look out! We may be beginning all over again."

From Westway the bits and pieces are washing ashore. And mixed in the shore-wash are the splinters of condensed urban renewal; the Lower Manhattan Expressway cannonades still echo, and the barricades that held our history together, so we could be landmarked, are doing some shaking.

The diagnosis for the Island of Manhattan has always been terminal. Like someone awakening in the middle of the night, landmark buffs are chasing up and down the broad lengths of the Island, scraping together bits and pieces of the time they feel should remain intact and not become the subject of disintegrating photographs.

How beautiful Central Park seems, the last spread of large trees and boulders. Like rare flowers in space many great structures of the past stun us suddenly when they appear intact within crowded confines with green lawns surrounding them.

As a city we have world-wide fame for teaching others how to twirl towers into the sky, and higher and higher they go until that almost incomprehensible moment when we will build platforms in outer space. BUT before we get further into the millenium, what's next in the parade?

Several years ago without headlines or fanfare, legislation affecting the role of the Port Authority gave tremendous leeway to this bi-state agency in developing hundreds of miles of the New York and New Jersey waterfronts. We are now about to be faced with some of the consequences of that legislation.

Actually nothing springs full-term from legislation. The process develops in stages and the first of these stages began with the construction of the World Trade Center and the landfill at the mouth of the Hudson River, now familiar to us as Battery Park City. As with any well-orchestrated development with a future, certain terms were agreed to between Battery Park City and New York. When completed, Battery Park City will provide New York with at least 3 or 4 billion dollars which the City can use for developments the municipality may wish to make. With the demise of Westway the State has established a West Side Development Task Force. The first job of the Task Force will be to design a road for the outer spine of the West Side corridor. Actually the Task Force will be doing a twin effort: planning a road and determining how to find space to add more mass transit on the West Side.

Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas Inc. will plan the road in conjunction with the City Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation. The first plans should be ready by March 1986.

A Little Here, A Little There

The City Planning Commission should be nearing the completion of their study to determine what contextual zoning they will recommend for the far West Village. The Impact Study we requested last October should also be ready.

* * *

The wildlife (not what you think) of the entire Village is telling us that developers are among us. Shopkeepers tell us that mouse traps are on "short order" as well as equipment for larger rodents.

* * *

Derricks weave on the skyline and hard hats trudge the streets or roar past in construction trucks.

* * *

With garages and parking lots fast disappearing, not an inch of street space goes unfilled for long.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE ANNUAL PARTY

Thanks to all those who gave a helping hand at the annual party last December, whether present or absent (Marlene Cohen couldn't be there but lent cloths to cover tables). At one point we counted roughly 150 people. And we didn't (almost) run out of food as we did last year. A very special acknowledgment is due Jim Brennan for supplying two superior baked hams. The only sour note we wish to sound is the large number of people who turned up without prior notice. We had laid tables and set chairs for the exact number of people expected which meant that some ladies in their late seventies, who had advised us well within the cut-off date we had given that they were coming, had to stand and eat off the piano top. Despite the frailties of human nature, we hope a good, relaxed time was had by everybody.

OUR MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

In very recent months our membership has been increasing by leaps and bounds, well into four figures by now. We deeply appreciate the voluntary contributions from those members who have given to help defray increasing postage costs. But we would also like to point out that if you would like to drop your membership and halt the mailing of the monthly Newsletter, please advise us. A punch on the computer key will pull you out of circulation and save us approximately 30 cents per month. We realize we will not please everybody, nor are our programs designed to. We gladly welcome new members, but we always look for ways to cut down ever-increasing expenses. Our purpose from the beginning when we opposed slum designation and urban renewal was community preservation. It remains that today.

WHAT WE ARE, AND WHAT WE ARE NOT

Our purpose is to educate citizens to the means and ways of community preservation. Our purpose is to inform the people. We do not have to take sides in every community issue. Most of all we are not a political body. Our membership probably constitutes people who are members of many political persuasions, and includes at least one couple who have refused for years to vote because of their disenchantment with government and politics. With a membership like that mixed bag, we are not about to get into party politics or endorsing candidates. But we are duty-bound to inform our community of threatened changes and allow the community to react if reaction is justified.

We have never instituted a membership fee. Persons on limited incomes and with good minds can serve their community. Poverty should never disenfranchise anybody from having a voice in community affairs. And there are no rewards down the road for the hundreds of members who have served their community over the years through the auspices of the West Village Committee, except that if they have acted substantially to preserve or enhance the community we all love, that has been reward enough.

AMOS FARM TO BE HEARD AT LANDMARKS COMMISSION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

The public hearing on the apartment house proposed for the Amos Farm site at the southwest corner of W. 10th and Hudson Streets will be continued in the morning of Tuesday, January 28, at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the 11th floor, 20 Vesey Street. The hearings begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day, but Amos Farm is the first item scheduled on the agenda, a continued item, a holdover. In November we cancelled our regular meeting and asked members to go to Landmarks to testify on the matter. We do not in any way anticipate that the continued hearing this time could in any way interfere with our regular meeting, and we may be able to hear a Commission verdict by evening. And we hope that once again a number of members will appear at the Landmarks Preservation Commission to defend this community. The original proposal for this site was an inappropriate structure with high arches and a high tower. The current version to be seen on the 28th would appear to be quite a pedestrian remodeling, but still with an objectionable high tower.

WEST VILLAGE PRESENTS OBJECTIONS TO CONTINUED TAX ABATEMENTS

Earlier this month the Zoning Committee of Community Board 2 held a public hearing to obtain community input on tax abatements allowed under the 421-A program, a program which rewards developers for wiping out parking lots and garages from our neighborhood. On that particular evening we had a previously scheduled meeting on Westway in Congressman Ted Weiss's office, and so that at the regular Board meeting we presented the following statement on 421-A abatements:

The Executive Committee of the West Village Committee objects to the tax abatements allowed under the 421-A program as being unsuitable to our neighborhood; the program is rapidly threatening our low-rise community; it is seriously eroding the presence of off-street parking with the steady disappearance of parking lots and garages, forcing residents to further glut the streets with curb parking.

We are at the opposite end of the coin from being a slum neighborhood, and the removal of off-street parking facilities is actually hurting the fabric of our neighborhoods. The rents which can be gotten from any residential structure built in the West Village or along West 14th Street are so astronomical that almost any degree of tax abatement would appear to be rewarding the wrong builders in the wrong community. We ask this Board to consider a resolution disallowing any form of tax abatement to residential construction within the Community Board 2 area.



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February 1986

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 243-3169
Mrs. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 25, 1986 — 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall of the Church of St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Laura Denman, Project Manager, Office of Recycling Programs and Planning, New York City Department of Sanitation, will speak to us about plans for "curb-side recycling" which is to be begun in the Village in July. We urge all of you with some knowledge of recycling to attend. An even larger meeting will be held at St. Vincent's on March 5, and information will be available about that later meeting. Many of us go back to the first steps initiated for recycling in the Village by the late Lyda McKenzie. We are hopeful that many McKenzie loyalists will attend to learn what the City is planning. We also hope it will give Ms. Denman some contact with a number of community leaders prior to her March 5 meeting. We are also grateful to Eva M. Senye Ettish, environmental chair of Community Board 2, for pushing the City to make the Village a community-wide experimental recycling station.

CONSTRUCTION AND THE FLOW OF WATER AND TRAFFIC

If you don't see it, you don't believe it. That's the trouble with talking about water and traffic. It's not really a problem when the problem isn't spelled out...when the pictures aren't in print.

But problems are not immediately documented. First they are instigated. The first question then is "What instigated the problem?" What caused the whole caboose?

Okay, so we'll knock-off with the humor and get to the nitty-gritty and the rat-trap psychology which is really where we all get caught.

Look, nobody hides the facts from any of us. The facts exist on television, radio and in your daily paper, and maybe, in case you haven't noticed lately, your neighbor is raving about pollution in the air and the sediment in the water. Or suddenly the Mayor tells you, point blank, to stop running water all the time or he'll put a timer on your faucet. So your neighbor can't find a parking space, and, my God, they're building on my parking lot!

Surprised? Why should you be? Where did you think we were going all these years? Well, a reasonable thought -- in your heart and soul, you really knew, didn't you?

Remember when they told us the Chelsea Pumping Station would be feeding treated Hudson River water into our drinking glasses? Remember the law that said we had to clean up our air pronto or we'd be choking on it?

Of course in the Village we have a natural leaning towards paranoia and especially our condition in life. Ever since the threat to our existence, via urban renewal in 1960, we have a tendency to view our condition as suspicious, or, at the very least, motivated by a hidden source. And why shouldn't we? After all, didn't they try to build a truck route (in a tunnel with housing over it) the entire length of Washington Street? Is that a normal thing to do? And remember when Zeckendorf bought our waterfront, including Westbeth and all the land around it and we were threatened with the prospect of a communications center (100 stories high) with the largest underground parking lot in the world (under landfill in the Hudson River). Hey, we thought we'd really heard it all, right? But it got better. They delved into ideas about building in the river. Bet a bunch of you can't name the 6 to 9 plans for expansion into the river. Yes, the last one was Westway. But you're right, it isn't fair of us to expect you to know what our historic district, our little point in time, has been through. Whether you moved in 40 years ago or only yesterday, we all came for the same reason. The far west was a unique area of Greenwich Village. It was the waterfront. An ancient market clung to its shore. Herman Melville found employment there. The buildings date from 1817 all the way up to the present time and they were low-rise and the sun still reached the streets.

But enough of rag-tagging you about the beauty, charm and constant endangerment of the land on which we live or wander through daily.


What's troubling the natives at this point is new construction like the 22-storey Memphis and all the new gimmicks and financial encouragements that threaten to grow above our heads. Shortly, however, the hearings at the Community Board should begin to target some of our local problems. That's where the core of our personal battle will end up. But the general problems confronting our city won't end and the worst may yet to be. In a sense, we may end up as a hole in the ceiling of the New York skyline, and we won't be ungrateful for that.

It may be far better than what will surround us. But what will surround us will not let us go scot-free from Manhattan's massive construction binge.

WE TAKE A POSITION AGAINST BREAKING THE CHARITABLE TRUST AT WESTBETH

At our last membership meeting in January there was an overwhelming vote in opposition to the plan to make a cooperative of Westbeth and destroy the charitable trust under which this housing for artists operates. Our letter to the Trust Division of the State Law Department is available to members.

THIS IS PLANNING?

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

Do you think any of the city planners have the least clue as to why current predictions are that if there is lots of rain and another reservoir the shortage of water will continue in the city?

SOME STATISTICS ON THE UNPLANNED OVER-BUILDING OF MANHATTAN ISLAND
AND MORE TO COME!

Battery Park:

Will have 6 million square feet of office space.
280,000 square feet of retail space.
14,000 dwelling units.
30,000 residential population.
30,000 working population.

Times Square Project:

13 acres: between Broadway and 43rd to 40th Streets, along 8th Avenue.
4 office towers at 7th and Broadway (4.1 million square feet).

Shearson site in Tribeca:

700,000 square feet -- 900 employees.

Community Board 1 area:

16,000,000 square feet of office space is either completed or under construction in the district with 7.4 million square feet in the advanced planning stage.

Convention Center:

The largest of its kind, but planned without proper parking and unloading space. New mass transportation planned to get visitors to and from.
A grid-lock problem.

Union Square:

Private high-rise construction.

Upper West Side Development:

A combination of Trump's Television City, several Zeckendorf sites, Zuckerman's New York Coliseum redevelopment site, plus 11 other major developments.

CONGRESSMAN WEISS PLANS COMMUNITY CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA

Congressman Ted Weiss has announced plans for an open Community Conference on "critical world issues" at Columbia University's Ferris Booth Hall, Sunday, April 6, 1986, 12 Noon until 5 P.M. The several panels will discuss and hear questions on various problems including Central America, international terrorism, the Middle East, Southern Africa, and US/USSR relations. No admission charge.

ABINGDON SQUARE PARK

As you know, we have taken on the responsibility of keeping Abingdon Square Park clean. A few of us have continued at this task throughout the past winter, but we will expect more members to volunteer as the weather warms. We hope to discuss this briefly at our monthly meeting.

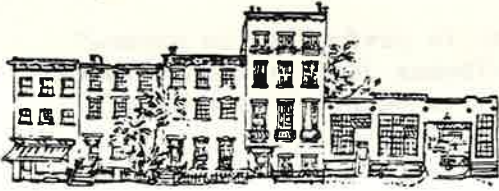
HB PLAYWRIGHTS WITH NEW OFFERING

The HB Playwrights Foundation, 124 Bank Street is presenting a new play, Jr. Prom, by Edward Napier beginning March 1 with an 8:30 curtain. The production is scheduled to run through March 9. On weekend evenings there is a varied schedule, weekday performances all begin at 9 P.M. Admission to HB Foundation productions is free, but you must call 989-6540 to confirm reservations and be at the theater 15 minutes before curtain. This production is directed by Herbert Berghof. To make reservation at 989-6540, call between 11 A.M. and 5 P.M.

ODDS AND ENDS

The West Village Committee is due to hold elections for new officers in April, so we urge you to be thinking about it now and through March.

Our storefront has been closed several Saturdays running; Richard, our faithful shopkeeper, has been under the weather, and we have urged him to stay home and take care of himself.



NEWSLETTER AND MEETING NOTICE

James E. Shaw, President

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MARCH 1986

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 25, 1986 - 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall of the Church of St. John's-in-the-Village,
224 Waverly Place (between Perry and West 11th Streets).

SUBJECT: The West Side Highway Replacement Study.

The West Village Committee feels
that the public's role is to
determine what the priorities
for our community are.

If we don't determine what we
need and want, someone else will
do it.

We'll have some material for you
from the Study Project and you
can ponder the alternatives.

Community Board 2 has scheduled a meeting for Tues., April 1,
in Cronin Auditorium (10th Floor), St. Vincent's Hospital.
You will be able to meet and question the Highway Task Force
in charge of the highway replacement plan. Time: 8:00 P.M.

RECYCLING AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

"Recycling" means "re-using," and, as the signs in our neighborhood announced "Recycling is coming to your doorstep." We're now being challenged to "do right" with the re-usable products we generally throw away.

But how about "hazardous waste" in the city? Didn't know we had it? You're kidding! It is estimated that some businesses generate between 200 and 2,000 pounds of hazardous waste every month. Who does it? Well, for instance, gas stations, printers, auto body shops, paint shops, and dry cleaners, to name a few.

Rules on the disposal of dangerous materials are now being drawn up and will be issued shortly. Obviously, such waste will require special regulations. Like "Where do you dump it?" and "Who will pick it up?"

It makes you stop and think. "What's been happening up to now?" Ever wonder where those chemical fumes that waft from a catch-basin come from? What happens when there is careless disposal of hazardous waste? Is it really dangerous? The answer to the last question is, "You bet!"

"Delay is preferable to error."
--Thomas Jefferson in a letter
to George Washington.

HOW ABOUT RUBBER ROADS?

"Rubber roads?" Not as wild as it may sound, another job of recycling that environmentalists have in mind -- and we'd sure love it in the city. How do you make a rubber road? Well, you recycle tires. The tires are shredded into asphalt and the asphalt-rubber is made into a road.

* * *

Speaking of roads, what do 6th Avenue, 14th Street and, possibly, Hudson Street all have in common? Major re-construction, that's what. No starting dates for any of the projects at the moment.

THE PAST AND EVER PRESENT -- OR -- NOTHING EVER CHANGES

In the mid 1970s the powers of elite politics and the real estate lobbies were at their height. Beame ~~was~~ Mayor of New York and Stanley Friedman was his Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Beame has not made it back to the front pages, but Stanley Friedman has. His present re-appearance, as a sort of entrepreneur of real estate development, among other talents, are a painful reminder of where the West Village met him in days gone by. Long gone from our midst, he did return in recent weeks as the attorney for a new high rise on the site of the Dover Garage in Hudson Street.

But it was in the mid '70s, at his pinnacle of power, that we recall our encounters.

It was in such an atmosphere that the West Village Committee dared to contest the Zeckendorf plan on the West Village waterfront. The Zeckendorf plan was a proposal for a Communications and Television City (shades of Donald Trump) with towers 100 stories high. In essence, it was a bulldozer backing in from the waterfront. It was the billion dollar bonanza!

The scheme to defeat Zeckendorf and, hopefully, the many that would follow him was a ground zero effort. We began from the bottom. West Village Housing envisioned a span of low-rise houses for five blocks along the waterfront.

It was and is simple housing, unpretentious, receding in its dimensions, and dominating only by its existence.

Who opposed it? Stanley Friedman, then Deputy Mayor of the City of New York.

ELECTION AT APRIL MEETING

Members in good standing are once again reminded that the annual election of a slate of officers for the West Village Committee will take place at our April meeting.

Recent requests for persons to be added to our mailing list have been overwhelming to our files and to our budget. Attendance at meetings has also been good, but we suspect that some of you out there would like to not get the newsletter. It would save us time and postage if you would let us know who you are. You may not be into community preservation. We are, and always have been. On the other hand, you may have a friend who would like to be on our mailing list. Would you be considerate enough to return this request for information, especially if we have not heard from you in a long long time?

Delete from mailing list.

Add to mailing list.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____



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April 1986

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 22, 1986.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place (between West 11th and Perry Streets.

Agenda: The election of officers for the West Village Committee for another year.

Discussion of proposed parking changes in the West Village, with the aim of taking a position for or against. If the proposals are accepted by the Community Board and the City, a number of streets will have to endure parking on both sides of their street except for an alternating day three hour respite early in the morning; other streets, other blocks will have no parking at any time.

THE DEMISE OF GARAGES AND PARKING LOTS

A while back we suggested saving garages and parking lots, but nobody was enthused about the project except us. Actually, most people worry more about street parking. It doesn't cost and it's near where you live.

Like a lot of our ideas, the "Save our garages and parking lots" one came out of our experience with West Village Housing because so many developers wanted to buy the garage that belongs to the housing.

To a large degree West Village Housing was an experiment. It challenged height. It lauded open space, and it had to examine the issue of parking the family car.

We joke a lot that whatever the West Village touches becomes controversial, but that isn't true. Actually, it's common sense that's controversial.

When we were planning West Village Houses, the-powers-that-be said that we had to build garages under our low-rise buildings. We said that that would be like putting a mountain under an ant hill.

Our solution was to buy a garage. The West Village garage is situated on a corner of Greenwich Street and, as we said, a lot of developers would surely like to buy it -- and you know why.

As a matter of fact, developers have practically wiped out the supply of garages and parking lots in the West Village.

And we are a poorer, more deprived community because our garages and parking lots have been destroyed.

THE PEAR TREES ARE BLOOMING AGAIN

The gloriously blooming Callery pears in the West Village have momentarily turned vast stretches of Greenwich, Washington and various cross streets into billows of fluffy white. This is the legacy that a woman named Lyda McKenzie left the West Village where she lived for many years in Bank Street in what was historically an old captain's house. Lyda McKenzie initiated recycling efforts on an organized basis in the West Village many years ago. She was a frugal person to the extent that she did not spend the income from recycling to print flyers to compliment her own efforts or to encourage more participation in her program. She depended upon her neighbors to spread the word -- and we did. With her profits, she deliberately planted Washington and Greenwich Streets, and many of the cross streets as well with Callery pears. At this moment the West Village is magnificent with blossom. Lyda McKenzie gave us this gift where for a very brief time each spring we look like a park with rows of houses in it.

WE'LL WORK ON ABINGDON SQUARE PARK AGAIN ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26

We'll have a work crew in Abingdon Square Park again on Saturday, April 26 at 10:30 in the morning. We must continue the cleaning of the fence. We'll supply hammers and we have the black Rustoleum for painting where the ironwork has been cleaned. We have talked to one ironworker about replacement of the missing finials, but we can do the cleaning before we get into that. We are hoping that some of the veterans will join with us for the day. You need not be an expert at cleaning ironwork to help. We will have some genuine experts on hand to guide us.

THOSE HIDEOUSLY UGLY INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC SIGNS IN OUR BLOCK

Some person or group recently got enormous and hideous "international" traffic signs installed in the block where our headquarters is located on West 11th Street. These signs are inappropriate and illegal in the Greenwich Village Historic District. Most people have not the least idea what they mean. They are paid for by Federal funding. We are indeed impressed when political muscle is used to do wrongful things. And the impression is not good. These illegal signs have not stopped accidents at Greenwich and 11th Streets. And how do you propose we undo this wrong? This action shows a certain contempt for the Historic District, and even more for residents occupying the block.

WE LIVE BY BOOK SALES

When Jane Jacobs founded the West Village Committee well over a quarter century ago, she argued against charging a membership fee. Her sound reasoning was that if people give you time in aiding preservation of a community, we should not have the nerve to ask for more. She also felt that poverty should not prevent anybody from being a member of a community effort or group. That is not to say that we do not get and welcome generous gifts, but if you were to look at our sources of income you would see that our twice-a-year book and white elephant sales are the core of our funding. We are going into another book sale again on Sunday, May 18 with a rain date of June 1. Bring us your unwanted books or white elephants, or call to have them picked up. And God bless every one of you for whatever form your generosity has taken over the years--whether time, books, white elephants or money.

"BITS AND PIECES"

Safety first! A number of accidents occur when cars start out. If the Feds agree (since State laws bar extra lights on cars) "running lights" will be built into the grill of cars. They will go on automatically when the engine starts. International tests indicate that they can reduce daytime accidents by, at least, 20%. Should be a boon to "in and out" parking in Village streets.

Vacation time on the way! With the mark, the yen and the franc rising above the dollar, economics will probably determine your vacation plans this summer. Touring Canada will be a bargain for U.S. vacationers. The U.S. dollar will be very strong against the Canadian dollar. Vancouver, where the World Exposition opens in May, will draw a lot of tourists--especially Americans.

On the environmental side we hope that Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), head of the House conferees, will go with the House version (tough on polluters) and not the lenient Senate bill. While poisonous wastes are seeping into our environment the House and Senate conferees are making slow motion attempts to resolve their separate versions of the Superfund renewal. If you know the guy, make him a pitch.

Further on the environment. A new pesticide law will soon be voted on. It will give EPA seven years to figure out which chemicals should remain in use and which should not. Got any suggestions?

WE HAVE NOT ENDORSED ANY ELEMENTS OF THE WESTSIDE HIGHWAY REPLACEMENT PLAN

We have not endorsed any part of the Westside Highway Replacement Plan, because we feel there is a great deal more to be learned before we accept any part of it. The plan is a State plan, and the members of the planning group keep assuring us that there is "no landfill connected with this replacement highway." But then some of us recall in the very recent past maps showing landfill all the way to 34th Street, so we ask, since the State owns the land under the water to the end of the piers, "What is the State's plan for development beyond the present shoreline?" And the answer from the panel is "That's to be taken care of by another committee yet to be appointed by Governor Cuomo." We are thinking less and less kindly, however, about the proposed light rail line along the waterfront. And before we endorse parks of any sort anywhere, we want assurances that they will not interfere with the operations of the Gansevoort/14th Street Meat Market or the workings of the Chelsea longshoremen.

THE COMMERCIAL GLUT IN REAL ESTATE

In the Depression that began in 1929, farmland fell first--even while the stock market and other real estate continued going up. You don't have to look far in America's heartland for evidence that farm crisis is spilling over into other real estate values. Commercial real estate is already underwater in many areas simply because retailers who service farm clientele are losing business.

But the problem in commercial real estate is not confined to small towns and rural areas. It is getting worse in the biggest cities--including our own. The skyline is dotted with big cranes at work adding still more apartments, hotels, and office space.



"Serving and Preserving the West Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

May 1986

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Mrs. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 27, 1986 -- 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall of the Church of St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly
Place (between Perry and West 11th Streets).

Agenda: Reports on less traffic planned for West 11th and 12th Streets,
waterfront changes, highway replacement update, etc.

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES, OUR VILLAGE WATERFRONT

As the battle to inject common sense into our City, and State plans for the West Side corridor progresses, the fate of city land purchased by the State for Westway, and still under the jurisdiction of the State, should be viewed with considerable concern.

In the past weeks a proposal to build an indoor training and competition facility for school and olympic training, to the west to a renovated West Side Highway, seemed to plant the proposed construction on land presently owned by the State. The project, when it came before the Community Board on May 15th, was voted down. However a number of members did favor the idea of construction for the so-called "amateur sports alliance."

WVC points out that if use of this land were to be utilized for such projects it would endanger the possible extension of the historic district. The proposed extension comprises the narrow strip of land between Washington Street and the waterfront. This area presently contains some of the warehouses (now converted to housing, but still the original facades). Such use of land west of the highway would probably require landfill, and the historic district of the deep water port -- the Greenwich Village waterfront -- that which made New York the world's greatest port in the day of the big ships, would vanish.

ON A SIMILAR SUBJECT

On May 20th the appearance of equipment, supposedly to prepare piers on the Village waterfront for the July 4th celebration of a renovated Lady Liberty were met with distrust and suspicion. At this writing, the matter of "what goes on" rests in the hands of our representatives in the State Legislature. But one fact predominates in this dispute -- so long as the shoreline of the Hudson River is alienated from the rest of New York City by State ownership, its fate is a mystery and it exists in limbo.

TOWN HALL MEETING AT OUR LADY OF POMPEII CHURCH

Mayor Edward I. Koch is inviting residents of the Community Board #2 area to participate in a "town Hall" meeting on Thursday, May 29, 1986, 7:30-9:00 P.M. in Father Demo Hall, Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 25 Carmine Street (off Sixth Avenue at Bleecker Street). The Mayor and other top city officials will be present to answer questions about community and city-wide problems.

Save the Village Save the East Side Save the West Side

Let's make it one slogan SAVE MANHATTAN!

"When we are planning for posterity, we ought to remember that virtue is not heredity."

Thomas Paine, Common Sense (1776).

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

THE NEW CABARET LAW

In June of this year the old Cabaret Law which limited the types of instruments which could be played in a cabaret or restaurant, and also limited by zoning where cabarets could be established, was killed, and replaced by a new law. The new law does not discriminate against types of instruments, but still limits them to three. But a more damaging effect, according to a zoning expert is that "zoning would be eliminated and, in fact, cabarets would be able to locate in any areas of the City zoned commercial," which could include a very great portion of Greenwich Village. Our expert continues "This Local Law would alter the present zoning by removing the protection presently offered by the two categories of eating and drinking places." This new law was pushed heavily by Councilmembers Messinger and Friedlander, and their battle cry was always that the old Cabaret Law was discriminatory.

We are anxious to hear from any of our members as to whether they are hearing loud, live music in spots never heard from before. The city has promised new action in enforcing a Noise Code, one of the most ignored areas of Environmental Protection. We will be happy to compile any reports of increased noise havoc. The excuse for passing the new law has been that a law suit was pending charging the City with discrimination. But there is another side to this issue which the courts could also hear.

THE COOPER COMMITTEE REPORT

About a year ago, under pressure from Big Real Estate Interests, the City created the Cooper Committee to study the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Landmarks Law. This summer the Committee turned in its report, which if followed by the letter would create an impossible work load for an already overworked agency, gutting both the Commission and the Law administered by it.

The City has asked that citizens react to the Cooper Committee Report, and they have set a cut-off date of September 30 of this year to receive comments. We urge you to react. Please write to Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, New York, New York 10007. We have copies of the Cooper Report available in quantity and will have them at the meeting on Tuesday, September 23. The Commission needs more money to operate to enforce the law; it does not need the Landmarks Law gutted and shredded.

Help us, help yourself. Save our beloved Historic District.

ANNE SLATIN AT DYCKMAN HOUSE

On Sunday, September 14, Anne Pratt Slatin, a member of our Executive Committee, represented us at the Country Fair held by the Metropolitan Historic Structures Association, with some baked goods. WVC is a member of the Association, which has turned out to be one of our better efforts to reach out to responsible leadership in other civic groups within the city. The fair is held every year in Dyckman House in Upper Manhattan, and this is our second year for participation. Mrs. Slatin is also a member of the Board of Metropolitan Historic Structures.

CRAB FEST TIME FOR VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS

Village Visiting Neighbors, Inc., has announced its 9th Annual New Orleans Crab and Beer Fest for Friday, September 26, 6-9 P.M. in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall, 6th Ave. and Bleecker Street (corner of Carmine St.) The event is a fundraiser for this worthy group which visits and aids the ill and elderly in our community, and which was founded many years ago by Ernest Mayer with initial help from the West Village Committee. The dinner is \$20 per person, \$15 for Senior Citizens, and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Call 929-5869 for information and reservations. This is a worthy group serving our community. Contributions are tax deductible. Contributions may be sent to Village Visiting Neighbors, Inc., 371 Sixth Avenue 10014.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

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

"We stand equally against government by a plutocracy and government by a mob."

--Theodore Roosevelt, 1913, in a letter to Sir Edward Grey.

THE LAST STEP TO STOP 11TH AND 12TH STREET HIGHWAYS

National law protects streets in historic districts. They are not to be used as access or exit routes to and from main roads financed by Federal funds.

The City has now taken a position against use of 11th and 12th Streets as main thoroughfares leading to the West Side Highway.

However, one more agreement is essential and that must come from New York State DOT. So gear up on 11th and 12th Streets! And thanks for turning up on a stormy night at local hearings with City officials.

The next meeting with State DOT officials was scheduled for June 3 at the Fashion Institute of Technology. That has just been cancelled and replaced by a date of June 17th.

Prepare your statements of protest. It is essential that you attend the following public hearing:

New York State Department of Transportation hearing.

Subject: The West Side Highway Replacement.

Place: Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street.

Date: June 17, 1986, at 7 P.M.

CURB-SIDE RECYCLING COMES TO GREENWICH VILLAGE

Beginning in July, the City will institute a program where one day each week newspapers will be collected at curbside. If this program is a success, glass and tin can can follow in this first serious attempt by the city to catch up with the rest of the world in dealing with waste materials. It is very important that citizens cooperate with the city in this program. For if it does not work, it means the City will immediately move back to the Old World Formula of constructing giant incinerators -- two in each boroughs. One was planned for the Village waterfront, but plans for it have now moved to Tribeca. At one time we had the Gansevoort Incinerator, and in the surrounding area, one of the highest cancer rates in the nation. It is said that the dangerous outfall from the modern incinerators now falls anywhere from a half mile to a mile away. Thus the outfall from the incinerator to be built in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, will fall on Cobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights. In the June newsletter we will deal more completely with this issue and mail you the latest directives from the City's Department of Sanitation. Please cooperate, and help this recycling program to succeed for your own sakes.

GREENMARKET RETURNS WITH BARBARA FISHER AS MANAGER

Greenmarket on Gansevoort, returns on Saturday, June 14, with our own Barbara Fisher in charge. There will be a fish truck, and cool weather crops such as lettuce and strawberries and probably some other goodies. We have always considered Gansevoort the friendliest of the farmer's markets, easily gotten to by citizens from Chelsea and the West Village from where it exists in the heart of the meat market. If you want this market to continue to serve this area, please patronize it. WVC is the local sponsor working with the Council on the Environment.

SO AFTER ALL THE BATTLES YOU WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

Here's our May hint for one alternative. National Parks will be jammed this summer. The most popular spots are Yosemite, Yellowstone and the Great Smokies. Access, however, is limited, so make your reservations right now. For forms to reserve space, write to Ticketron, San Francisco, California 94126.

SAVE MANHATTAN!

June 1989



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice
"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

243-0762

Volume XXIX, No. 6

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 · Port Authority Station · 15th Street and 9th Avenue · New York, New York 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Late developments re a prison barge at Pier 40, should we join in with Ban the Barge for a street fair fund-raiser, and the need for volunteers to serve in our bookstore/headquarters on weekends.

INJUNCTION AGAINST A PRISON BARGE AT PIER 40 IS LIFTED

Despite the lack of press coverage, we regret to inform you that Judge Shorter lifted the injunction against permanently locating the prison barge, Bibby Venture, at Pier 40 near Morton Street earlier in the month. The City had said all along that they planned to have the Venture in place at Pier 40 by the end of July, and they will probably be able to keep their promise. However, the State in granting permission for placing a prison barge at Pier 40, gave permission for only a temporary mooring of five years since they admit that any such use of the Hudson River waterfront violates Federal Coastal Zone Management policy. Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard is said to be delighted, but then prison barges are said to be his idiotic idea to begin with. What else would you expect from such a hack planner? An appeal is being prepared, and we once again will accept tax-deductible donations to support the appeal in the courts.

Bad planning may originate here in the City, but it does not help when State officials in Albany reinforce bad planning with a five-year temporary permit. The splendid oratory of the Governor, when measured against the compromising acts of his Secretary of State Gail Schaffer, seem less impressive than when we first heard his mellow tones years ago.

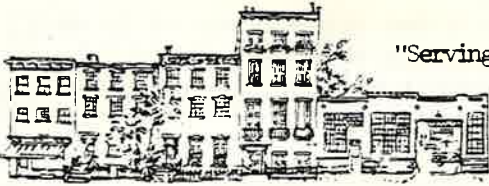
CALL YOUR ASSEMBLYMAN, CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR

In the State Senate and in the State Assembly, there is a worthwhile bill dealing with energy and environment, but it contains a very dangerous provision -- giving the State a total veto power on where waste disposal and incinerators are to be placed. This is not the Governor's Bill #63, which is considered to be dead at this time, but it contains the same provisions we objected to in the Governor's Bill #63. In the State Senate, it is #S4051, in the Assembly, #A7491. We do not ask that the bill be killed, only that those hidden provisions to override Local Law be removed. The wishes of local communities are often enough dismissed, we don't need to be stomped on besides. Please call your Assemblyman and your State Senator. In the Village, your Assemblyman is Bill Passannante, 385-6622, and Senator Ohrenstein's office is 587-5531, and phone calls are quicker. But if you want to write, they both have offices in 250 Broadway NYC 10007.

RUMOR SAYS A WATERSIDE PARK IS ON THE WAY

Rumor has it that Governor Cuomo and Mayor Koch have agreed to a waterside park along the Hudson River waterfront and will declare a ban on waterside development. We are curious only as to how much of the waterfront will fall under such a plan for a waterside park, because if it only considers the Village waterfront, it will not be enough. We urge you to write to Governor Cuomo and ask that he pursue making the entire Hudson River waterfront a park, and also demand that streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District not be attached to the superhighway to be built along the Hudson as a replacement for the West Side Elevated Highway. Cuomo may be addressed as follows:

The Hon., Mario Cuomo, Governor
The State of New York
The Executive Chamber
Capitol
Albany, New York 12224



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

July-August 1986

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

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

The Historic District Comes First

The following is the text of testimony presented by William Bowser at the West Side Highway replacement hearing on August 6 at Manhattan Community College.

Our first concern is a defense of the Greenwich Village Historic District, and to demand that none of the streets within the Historic District be connected with the replacement highway — just as none of our streets in the Historic District were connected with the late elevated Miller Highway. We would hope to be the first organization to petition Federal

*In a city where zoning
has been cast to the
wind, we are led
by planners who have
lost their way.*

agencies for relief if Christopher, 11th and 12th Streets continue to have crossover connections with the highway.

We question some of the statistics in this study. We cannot conceive of how you can arrive at a probably 15 to 20 per cent increase in traffic by 1995, based upon supposed West Side Development, at a time when nobody has the least notion when that development will stop. When the construction of the Convention Center has made it almost impossible at certain hours for pedestrians to cross 34th Street, we wonder if your high load of traffic in 1995 wasn't figured for 3 A.M. In a city where zoning has been cast to the wind for a kind of contextual garbage, and the mood is ever upward to acres in the sky and stress in the streets, we are led by planners who have lost their way. There is little evidence that

they ever think of the essentials of life — water and air. Nor do we see how you can judge that a highway built for the sizeable but unknown increase in traffic is going to meet even minimal air quality standards in the belief that a device will be invented and installed in all automobiles by 1995 to lower pollution to required levels.

You have given us four plans, and we need to see more details of these plans. In giving us four plans in which features and elements may be traded or borrowed from one plan to another, you offer us many more plans. Previous suggestions such as the light rail line around Manhattan we have rejected resoundingly — for if you have 50 cents to spend on mass transit, it certainly ought to be spent on the existing subway system.

Our faith in these deliberations was not encouraged by the announcement of the panel of 19 to oversee development. We do not see a single community activist-advocate in the list. There is not a single person who can say he represents Greenwich Village. Where is the funding that should go to Community Boards to hire technical experts to interpret data for communities to use to reach decisions? If we seem like Doubting Thomases, remember that we have a memory of first encountering Vollmer Associates in the heyday of Robert Moses, and we have encountered Parsons Brinckerhoff more recently with Westway.

We have far more to lose in this overdevelopment than the quality of life in our cross-streets. This increase in traffic threatens historic Hudson, Greenwich and Washington Streets, running through the area where our community historically began. We are not optimistic that you can save us, and we do not appreciate weighted panels which may prevent us from saving ourselves. — William Bowser, for The West Village Committee.

August 21, 1986, THE VILLAGER, Page 7

WE ASK YOUR SUPPORT

What is being proposed on our waterfront is a replacement for the demolished Miller Highway. They are not building Milligan Place or historic Charles Lane, but a major interstate highway link. They are planning land-fill and development on the underwater land purchased by the State with Federal Westway funds. But the road panel insists that it can only discuss highway, and that another group will deal with development. Some would like to see 11th and 12th bear the burden; one group even went so far as to induce the city to place international superhighway signs on our street west of Hudson. We have even heard a ridiculous suggestion that Perry and Charles alternate with 11th and 12th or Christopher and 10th in sharing the heavy traffic (with movable barriers!). We urge all who agree with our position to write to Mr. Foster J. Beach III, Regional Director, NYS Dept. of Transportation, Two World Trade Center, NY, NY 10047.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE COOPER COMMITTEE REPORT

Remember all those paid Op ed page pronouncements in the New York Times, mostly as we recall from the Real Estate Board of New York. They tended to denounce the Landmarks Preservation Commission and demanded that only individual buildings or sites be designated landmarks hereafter and that no additional landmarked "districts" be created. Well, the City heeled to, and named the Cooper Committee to study the Landmarks Commission and the law it administers. The Cooper Report is sharply critical of the Commission and suggests that the Commission be given large (but inadequate) sums to set about studying every structure in the City to determine worthiness as a landmark. We see no suggestion that funding be greatly increased to enforce the Landmark Law or that there be any substantial addition to the staff. If you would like a copy of the Cooper Committee Report, call us. We have a limited supply. The Community Board's Landmarks Committee is holding a public hearing on the Cooper Committee Report at 8 P.M. in Cronin Auditorium, St. Vincent's Hospital, 153 W. 11th St. on Wednesday, Sept. 3. We believe that many of the recommendations of the Cooper Report are a means to destroy the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the best friend this community has among city agencies. We also have available copies of Village Views, the publication from The Society for the Architecture of the City, which contains a critical review of the Cooper Report.

WEST VILLAGE BID FOR THE JANE STREET GARDEN IS SUCCESSFUL

The City's Division of Real Property recently put the Jane Street Garden up for auction to the highest bidder with a stipulation that it go to a group with a not-for-profit status. The auction was held on Thursday, July 31 at 125 Worth Street, and the West Village Committee's bid was the successful high bid. We were told at the auction that the earliest we will be permitted into the garden will be September. Because of certain financial entanglements, the Jane Street Block Association was not permitted to bid on the garden. However, we regarded bidding for the Jane Street Garden not as something we might consider doing, but rather something which was our duty to do because of our many members and friends in Jane Street. We recall that a lady named Phyllis Katz put too much of her life into this garden to allow it in any way to be lost to Jane Street residents. And Phyllis Katz was only one of many committed to this garden. And besides, this garden, as with many others, was a relatively direct relative of a garden that once grew in the St. Vincent's Triangle. And aside from all that, the cause of the Jane Street Garden was a just cause, and we have been known in the past to make the just cause of others our cause. We expect to work closely with Jane Street residents in cleaning and replanting the garden.

A great city is that which has the greatest
and women,
If it be but a few ragged huts it is still the
greatest city in the whole world."
--Walt Whitman, Song of the Broad-Axe.

BOOK SALE PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Our annual autumn Book and White Elephant Sale is presently planned for Sunday, Sept. 28, with a rain date of Sun., Oct. 5. Call the phone numbers on the Newsletter if you have things to donate. NEVER, never leave contributions outside the West Village Committee door without letting us know. We don't care if it is 11 o'clock at night; someone will meet you there and take in your donation; otherwise, they are stolen or littered in the street. We are anxious for this sale to succeed because we have committed ourselves to many projects in neighborhood improvement which will require extra funds. Contributions to the West Village Committee are deductible.

A MCKENZIE CALLERY PEAR WILL BE REPLACED

In the late Spring a speeding car coming up Greenwich Street veered and hit the sidewalk just above 11th Street to avoid a collision in the intersection. The car severed a Callery Pear tree at ground level and stopped when it impacted with a second Callery Pear, but not without also injuring a local gentleman strolling with his wife. The woman driving the car got out and walked away. The injured gentleman has recovered, but the severed Callery Pear has not. This tree was a mature tree, one of many planted many years ago by the late Lyda McKenzie with money earned by the efforts of Village Recyclers. The pit of the severed tree is at the boundary line of 754-56 Greenwich Street. The West Village Committee will replant a pear tree in this pit in memory of Lyda McKenzie.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF
THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

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 - Third Vice President - Treasurer - Secretary - Corresponding 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.

Immediately 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 office 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

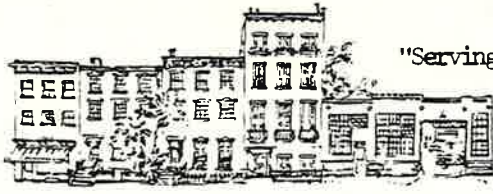
No member shall be required to pay dues. Contributing and Sustaining Members may pay dues in accordance with a schedule set by the Executive Board. Contributing and Sustaining Members shall be entitled to receive newsletters and other publications of the Association.

Article VIII - The Annual West Village Party

The association shall hold a party on Feb 21 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.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

August 1986

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

Recently a number of unpleasant accusations from specific individuals have reached us through friends and neighbors, charging that we have not done our duty to fend off the rash of high rises ("as of right") being built or planned in and out of the Greenwich Village Historic Landmark District.

Well, at least, none of us has ever taken a free meal at the Coach House or even a free cup of coffee at a corner counter shop from a developer. Instead, in 1981 and '82 we fought the proposed changes in zoning at every level and we warned specifically that "as of right" and contextual zoning would lead to high rises. The enclosed clippings from THE VILLAGER and our press release are a matter of record. We did not have to give away our waterfront.

Where were you when the lights went out?

THE VILLAGER August 20, 1981

West Village Meeting Explores City Zoning Changes That Pose New High-Rise Threat

Over 75 residents of the West Village gathered Aug. 12 at a meeting sponsored by the West Village Committee to express outrage at the city's zoning map change of the Village waterfront along West St. and to organize against possible construction of high rise buildings in the West Village.

The city rezoning plan, enacted April 9, changed what had been legally designated a manufacturing district between Christopher St. and Westbeth at West St. to a commercial district which permits residential use and buildings up to nine stories in height.

At the meeting, residents said they were totally surprised by the map change, and

complained they were never informed until the change was already in effect. One resident speculated that the new license to build higher buildings on the waterfront was transparently related to Westway.

Paul Bartlett from the City Planning Commission explained that the upzoning of West St. was the city's way of "averting pressure away from the manufacturing districts. We had to give something to everybody," Bartlett said.

Evidently, West St. was the developer's piece of the pie, charged some of the West Village Committee organizers. "But can it be reversed?" asked one resident.

"Yes, it is possible to change back, but

only with a lot of people behind the effort," said Community Board 2 Zoning Committee head Doris Diether, who was at the meeting to explain how these zoning regulations affect residents of the West Village. "The map change of West St. slipped by because everybody was concentrating on the Meat Market," she explained.

While the residents won the battle against the rezoning of the Meat Market area, just north of the West Village, a month ago, the real war against high-rise development is not over. According to Diether, developers bought up land in the West Village with the hopes that the area would be rezoned from

(Continued on Page 3)

Editorial

THE VILLAGER August 20, 1981

No High Rise Future, Please

The low-rise intimate character of the West Village has still, remarkably, been retained despite many, many new buildings which tower over this piece of the Village. Now, with the combined Westway threat, the city's own zoning changes and successive variances that have chipped away at the scale of the area, the threat for the future has escalated.

We hope that CB2, working together with the West Village Committee and block associations in this area will be able to convince city agencies and developers to look elsewhere for "opportunities" for new construction. The West Village contains example after example of highly-creative re-use of older buildings which destroy the neighborhood's character as well as scale.

New Proposal for West Village Rezoning Gets Same Reaction as Last Time--No Thanks

BY ELIZABETH WEINER

West Villagers made it perfectly clear to Rockrose Development Corporation last week that they oppose the rezoning of a portion of their neighborhood south of the Meat Market area from manufacturing to commercial use.

At a meeting of the West Village Committee Feb. 17, over 40 residents turned out to question the plans of Tom and Jeffrey Elghanayan, principals of Rockrose, for development in the area, expressing fear that a change in zoning would alter the "cozy" local character to one of high-rises. "We don't want to be the Upper East Side," was a common refrain.

In a second request to the City Planning Commission for a zoning change, Rockrose, which owns the newly-converted West Coast Apartments and other properties nearby has submitted a plan that would permit higher-density residences where now only manufacturing buildings are allowed. The

intent of the current zoning is to protect the adjacent meat market from real estate pressures and conversions. Rockrose's first proposal for a map change, made last summer, was withdrawn after opposition from West Village residents.

ARMED WITH SLIDES, MAPS

This time around, both sides seem well-prepared to meet their adversaries. On one side, the Elghanayan brothers came to the community group armed with slides of their proposals, maps of the area and an attorney and an architect to explain them. The visual aids illuminated clearly the outline of the zoning plan, which extends from West 12th Street to just below Gansevoort Street about 125 feet east and west along Washington Street, widening at Jane Street on the west to include the rest of the width of the area to West Street up to Gansevoort Street. Within that boundary, Rockrose owns property throughout the west

Continued

manufacturing to residential. Now, she explains, the community should be particularly wary of the same developers seeking individual variances to change the neighborhood building by building, block by block.

Ironically, Diether says, it is to the community's advantage that much of the West Village is still zoned strictly for manufacturing use because developers must come to the community board with their applications. This insures, first of all, that the community is informed of any changes in the area, and second, that they have a say in those changes.

"At least we know what's happening, and developers know they have to face up to the community," said Diether. "It also means that, most of the time, they come in with negotiating attitude."

Residents at the meeting acknowledged that the key to their fight against high-rise development in the West Village was knowledge of zoning regulations and tight organization.

"There once was an active voice in the Village, but now it is diluted by single-issue groups," said Jim Shaw, president of the West Village Committee. "This is what we've got to get back together."

side, but only one building--at the corner of Jane and Washington Streets--in the eastern portion.

On the Committee's side, many long-time residents consider themselves veterans (and victors) of wars over local urban renewal projects and have developed expertise in zoning matters and in organizing. Highly protective of what one resident said was the lowest-density community in Manhattan, they are suspicious of developers and of plans that encompass major revisions of the status quo.

"We fought to live here out of a desire to live in a human scale," said Rochelle Wall, a twenty-year resident of the West Village. "We're not saying you can't build on your

Continued on Page 3

New West Village Rezone Proposal Gets Cold Shoulder from Residents

Continued from Page 1

property, but we made this area attractive... What we see coming into our area is a new kind of urban renewal. We say, live with us, but exist with us."

WHY THE WHOLE AREA?

Compounding the general distrust of Rockrose, which won a variance to convert the former Manhattan Refrigeration Building into the luxurious West Coast Apartments despite the community's vigorous objections, were questions about specific aspects of the plan. Some residents wanted to know why Rockrose was seeking to rezone beyond its property holdings, rather than seek individual variances for each one.

Particularly distressing to some was the 125-foot area east of Washington Street, from 12th Street to halfway between Horatio and Gansevoort Streets, where only one holding didn't seem enough to justify the need for change there.

Bernard Rothzeld, the architect, responded. "It's good planning to use the zoning vehicle to develop one contiguous area in which like uses face each other," he said.

After some in the audience protested and further discussion ensued, Royce Rowe, a



Rockrose owns a single building at the corner of Washington and Jane. (Stelle Photo)

Jane Street resident, joined Rothzeld in the front of the room and pointed to the maps.

"The desire is to have the area rezoned prior to sale so that the property values go up. It's like the tail wagging the dog, and we're the dog," Rowe said.

His words were greeted with a round of applause, and he went on. "I think they're

asking for more than they need," he said of the developers. "They don't need (the whole area) and it will hurt us. They should limit their demands to where they have property."

• NO OTHER INTEREST

In their defense, Rockrose lawyer Solomon Sheer said the company had no interest in

any of the property, other than the Jane Street building. Besides, he added, all actions taken would first have to come before various city agencies and be "approved to death." That comment touched a sore spot for some and impelled one woman to object outloud. "I think you're requesting a map change to avoid community input," she said. "We're willing to face it, we must live with it," replied Sheer.

One new member of the community, however, had a different perspective than most present at the meeting. A resident of the West Coast Apartments, Ted Laurensen said he'd like to see the "surrounding residential uses be enhanced" and that he had no quarrel with much of the development. In case the confusion that followed Laurensen's remarks, Royce Rowe welcomed the new member and said: "I think you'll start to talk a little bit. You're here because we've preserved this."

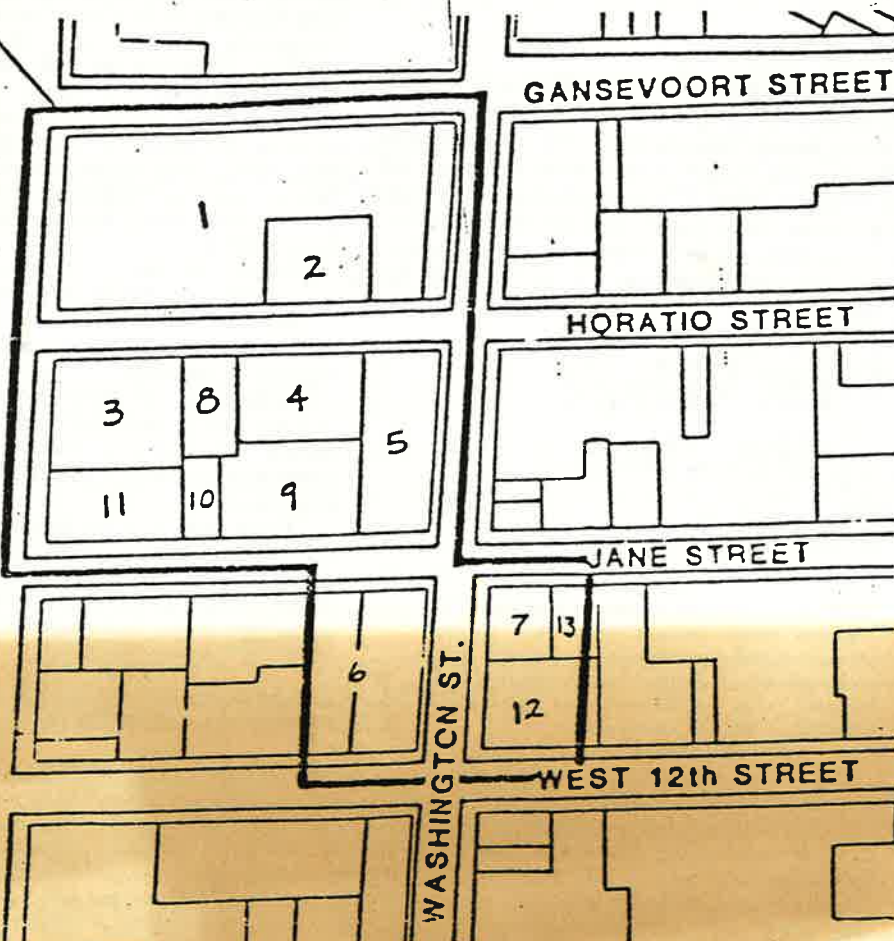
The request for a zoning change now awaits certification by the City Planning Commission. From there, the matter will come before the Zoning Committee of Community Board 2, from which public hearings will assuredly emanate.

NOTICE

PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE

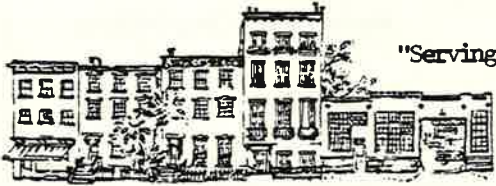
The area shown below has been proposed to be rezoned from an M1-5/C8-4 manufacturing/commercial zone to a new C6-2A commercial zone.

PROJECT LOCATION



All persons interested in the change will be notified of the date scheduled by the City Planning Commission for a public hearing on the matter, provided a written request for such notice is filed with the Secretary of the City Planning Commission at 2 Lafayette Street, 15th Floor, New York, New York.

James E. Shaw, President



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

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

Wednesday, September 3, 1986

Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard
The Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: The Cooper Committee Report

Dear Mr. Deputy Mayor:

The New York City Landmarks Law is one of the most exemplary in the country. In fact, our Landmarks Law is successful to the degree that other cities and states have closely copied their laws after the New York City Landmarks Law. It has repeatedly been upheld in the courts. And however well-intentioned our Mayor was in setting up a Committee to study the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Landmarks Law it administers, and however well-intentioned the distinguished panel of citizens were in accepting appointment, some of the conclusions and recommendations voiced by the Committee tread upon dangerous ground. In addition, the report offered by the Cooper Committee makes a serious omission by ignoring the value of input of the active citizenry in a community.

We see no proof that \$20,000,000 over a five-year period is anywhere near to the actual sum which may be required to conduct a building-by-building survey of the nearly 900,000 building in the five boroughs to determine if they have value as landmarks. Such a procedure suggests to us that this might in fact be a method of putting the LPC out of business once this ridiculous survey is completed. There is no suggestion that the staff of the LPC be increased, and yet the present staff of LPC is one of the most over-worked among city agencies. Their present problem is a continuing heavy workload, and the lack of adequate funds to enforce the Landmarks Law properly against violators. If the recommendations of the Cooper Committee are followed, it is doubtful that new historic districts could ever be created or existing ones expanded.

One of the great riches of the present operation of the LPC and the Landmarks Law is the fund of intelligent information frequently given as testimony by the public. Another present element of rewarding value is the present exchange from commissioner to commissioner and between chairman and commissioners. It has frequently been intellectually stimulating to witness intelligent minds changing sides as a result of these exchanges.

The public should always be a key factor in the landmarking process, and as the Landmarks Law is currently administered, the public is a key factor. A community which does not want to be landmarked probably should not have landmarking forced upon it; its landmarks will fare badly. But the public now frequently offers intelligent research to the LPC, and the practice should be encouraged. Too much authority is wished upon the LPC Chairman by the Cooper Committee. Reducing authority to one person for a "Protected Buildings List," however wise the LPC chairman may be, is unwise; it is too much work and too much responsibility on one set of shoulders, and the result may well be akin to some of the "minor work" staff decisions presently handed down at the LPC.

Basically what the Cooper Committee is suggesting is the Great Master Plan. Landmarking should be a gradual process, a careful process. Some things may be lost in that process. But the planners of gigantic cure-all schemes have destroyed far more in a year than most preservationists could imagine in a lifetime.

And why is the blame for mistakes put on LPC and not on the Buildings Department? There are more cruel and mean jokes told about inspectors from the Buildings Department than most other agencies in the city combined. If the LPC and Buildings Department computers are not compatible, the remedy seems simple. There is no ban on the purchase and sale of computers.

In the Greenwich Village Historic District we have preserved history, day by day, and bit by bit, and we are a richer community because of it. The best friend our community has among City agencies is the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Some of the "positive" recommendations of the Cooper Committee, such as pay for commissioners and establishing the LPC as a separate City agency apart from its present placement within the Department of Parks and Recreation-- we would not object to pay for the commissioners, and LPC probably should be an agency unto itself. However, we point out that LPC has acted often quite independently under the Department of Parks and has at times disagreed with and criticized the mother agency.

As for the Cooper Committee claim that it has created its report behind closed doors, without input from outside influences, we can only say that we doubt it. The language of the Real Estate Board of New York's Op Ed page ad in the New York Times (attached) from September 1985 contains some of the same language as the Cooper Committee Report. Do we mark this down to coincidence?

New York City is a richer, more rewarding municipality because of the existence of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Landmarks Law. We strongly denounce the Cooper Committee Report which unnecessarily defames the Landmarks Preservation Commission and attempts to cripple it.

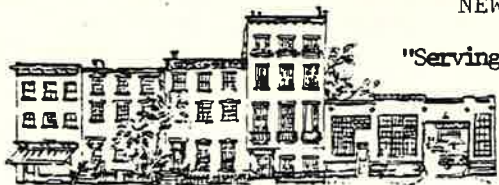
Respectfully submitted,

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE



William Bowser
Vice President

Attachment



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

September 1986

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 23 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: The Jane Street Garden; (2) Abingdon Square Park; (3) Cooper Committee Report, etc.

THE BOOK SALE

Our Fall book sale will take place on Sunday, September 28. We will need strong bodies to help move books in and out of the WVC headquarters. And let it not always be just Bob Waleski who has been Steadfast Helper for years. For a service group without a membership fee, the winters are the hardest to get through to meet financial obligations until the Spring book sale. For the most part we have lived by our books. But, of course, voluntary, tax deductible contributions have also helped to keep us in the black. At the moment we are about to commit our treasury and our energies to several thousand dollars to restoring Abingdon Square Park without altering traditional use of the park, and we hope to turn the Jane Street Garden into a site for locals to be proud of. If you have books or white elephants to donate, call us. We'll be glad to arrange a pick-up. If you've just won the Lottery and your checkbook feels generous, we'll accept the generosity. And on book sale day, come out and visit even if you don't buy a book. We'll keep the coffee urn warm just in case you do come by.

THE DISGRACE OF THE CITY'S RECYCLING EFFORT

About a year ago we heard rumors that the City of New York was about to enter into a program of recycling. Rumor had it that this was to be a full-bodied effort with the creation of markets for recycled materials as well as actual curbside pickups. Early in the year we invited members of the Sanitation Department's recycling section to meet with us, and thereafter we repeatedly gave one publicity push after another to the promised effort. The first pickup was planned for May and then changed to June and then to midsummer. We doubt that any group had done more than the West Village Committee with enclosures of special flyers and distribution of notices, many printed at our expense. The appointed day came and nobody from the City called to say that the City was having a dispute with the Sanitation Union over whether there should be one or two men on the pickup truck, and that therefore the City was delaying recycling until October or November. We read it in the newspapers the next day. It indicated to us where the Department of Sanitation, following our long history of cooperation, ranked us on a scale from Zero to 10.

We do not interfere in labor disputes. We have marched in too many picket lines to simply ignore any difference the Union may have with the City. The efforts of the Village Green Recycling Team have often been heroic, but our original mentor in recycling was Lyda McKenzie who died convinced that the city should do the job of recycling and do it properly, and not as a cubby-hole operation in a tiny public park on Sixth Avenue. We're not even convinced at this point that the City did buy six special recycling trucks. If they did, and when they roll, we hope they have two men on them; otherwise, one man on a truck will take forever and clog our narrow Village streets.

Yes, we still oppose the construction of 10 incinerators in the City proposed in the very midst of heavily populated areas. When we had the old Gansevoort Incinerator we also had one of the highest cancer rates nationwide. A lot of blarney is being bandied about over the efficiency of the proposed incinerators, and a former Sanitation Commissioner and a former Lieutenant Governor have created a company to construct them. A neighbor has said that the Village ought to accept an incinerator "because we're liberal and always accept things other people won't." But our neighbor is wrong. We should be mad as hell, and tear up the pea patch.

"When we are planning for posterity, we ought to remember that virtue is not heredity."

Thomas Paine, Common Sense (1776).

THE NEW CABARET LAW

In June of this year the old Cabaret Law which limited the types of instruments which could be played in a cabaret or restaurant, and also limited by zoning where cabarets could be established, was killed, and replaced by a new law. The new law does not discriminate against types of instruments, but still limits them to three. But a more damaging effect, according to a zoning expert is that "zoning would be eliminated and, in fact, cabarets would be able to locate in any areas of the City zoned commercial," which could include a very great portion of Greenwich Village. Our expert continues "This Local Law would alter the present zoning by removing the protection presently offered by the two categories of eating and drinking places." This new law was pushed heavily by Councilmembers Messinger and Friedlander, and their battle cry was always that the old Cabaret Law was discriminatory.

We are anxious to hear from any of our members as to whether they are hearing loud, live music in spots never heard from before. The city has promised new action in enforcing a Noise Code, one of the most ignored areas of Environmental Protection. We will be happy to compile any reports of increased noise havoc. The excuse for passing the new law has been that a law suit was pending charging the City with discrimination. But there is another side to this issue which the courts could also hear.

THE COOPER COMMITTEE REPORT

About a year ago, under pressure from Big Real Estate Interests, the City created the Cooper Committee to study the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Landmarks Law. This summer the Committee turned in its report, which if followed by the letter would create an impossible work load for an already overworked agency, gutting both the Commission and the Law administered by it.

The City has asked that citizens react to the Cooper Committee Report, and they have set a cut-off date of September 30 of this year to receive comments. We urge you to react. Please write to Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, New York, New York 10007. We have copies of the Cooper Report available in quantity and will have them at the meeting on Tuesday, September 23. The Commission needs more money to operate to enforce the law; it does not need the Landmarks Law gutted and shredded.

Help us, help yourself. Save our beloved Historic District.

ANNE SLATIN AT DYCKMAN HOUSE

On Sunday, September 14, Anne Pratt Slatin, a member of our Executive Committee, represented us at the Country Fair held by the Metropolitan Historic Structures Association, with some baked goods. WVC is a member of the Association, which has turned out to be one of our better efforts to reach out to responsible leadership in other civic groups within the city. The fair is held every year in Dyckman House in Upper Manhattan, and this is our second year for participation. Mrs. Slatin is also a member of the Board of Metropolitan Historic Structures.

CRAB FEST TIME FOR VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS

Village Visiting Neighbors, Inc., has announced its 9th Annual New Orleans Crab and Beer Fest for Friday, Septembber 26, 6-9 P.M. in Our Lady of Pompeii Church Hall, 6th Ave. and Bleecker Street (corner of Carmine St.) The event is a fundraiser for this worthy group which visits and aids the ill and elderly in our community, and which was founded many years ago by Ernest Mayer with initial help from the West Village Committee. The dinner is \$20 per person, \$15 for Senior Citizens, and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Call 929-5869 for information and reservations. This is a worthy group serving our community. Contributions are tax deductible. Contributions may be sent to Village Visiting Neighbors, Inc., 371 Sixth Avenue 10014.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

October 1986

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Progress report on plans for replacement highway along the West Side/
Hudson River Corridor and development plans for that corridor;
Progress report on rescuing the Jane Street Garden and the need for
fund-raising to support this and other projects;
Discussion of the end-of-the-year party to celebrate the survival of
the West Village community;
The award of funds to repair Abingdon Square Park.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN

We are just as anxious as some of our neighbors to proceed with a renewal of the Jane Street Garden. At the end of July we won a 25-year lease of the lot with a high bid, and were told at the time that the "very earliest" we could get into the garden would be September of this year. Since then, several stumbling blocks have been placed in our way, the latest being a requirement for \$1 million in insurance coverage to protect the City. This is not unusual, as we have been required to obtain similar insurance coverage on previous garden projects. In any case, we have now paid the premium on such a policy, although we have not had formal acknowledgment of such payment, and so it yet remains for the insurer to convince the City that we have paid the fee. We are not complaining--just explaining. We have been down this road before on other projects. So we ask your patience.

There is a massive clean-up job to be done in the garden lot. Trash has been tossed over the fence in quantity, and the place is a jungle of ailanthus and other weed plants. We would like to point out, however, that a basic design still exists in the garden as originally laid out by landscape architect Dan Stewart. This may not be apparent through the jungle of weeds, but we will attempt to restore and adhere to Dan's layout. It will continue to be a locked open space. Our lock is now on the gate. We would eventually like to see the present chain fence replaced by a permanent ironwork fence, and we will push for it to officially become an open space. All of this will take some fund-raising and some team-work.

GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET TO RUN UNTIL NOVEMBER 22

The Gansevoort Greenmarket, the local farmers' market held on Saturdays in season, will remain open until Saturday, November 22 this year, according to manager Barbara Fisher. All of the markets in the Greenmarket program are sponsored by the Council on the Environment. The West Village Committee serves as the local sponsor of the Gansevoort Greenmarket.

VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS LOSING OFFICE SPACE

Village Visiting Neighbors, Inc., a service group which emerged many years ago out of the West Village Committee through the efforts of the late Ernest Mayer, and with small sums of money from Mr. Mayer and WVC, is in trouble. It is losing its office space in St. Joseph's Church in Sixth Avenue. Village Visiting Neighbors serves and visits the ill and elderly in our community -- everything from fixing food to shopping or accompanying an elderly person to visit a physician. Hundreds of people are served in the Greenwich Village area. A person who is presently active with VVN explains that the room needed will not have a lot of traffic from clients in it, but it is essential that it be large enough to hold staff members to answer phones. Does anybody out there have space to help this worthy group? Do not permit this service to our ill and elderly be interrupted if you can help. They can afford a small rental fee. In the meantime, tax deductible contributions may still be sent to Village Visiting Neighbors, 371 Sixth Avenue 10014.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

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

"We pass for what we are. Character teaches above our wills. ...A man passes for what he is worth. What he is engraves itself upon his face in letters of light."--Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841.

RENT INCREASE FOR WESTBETH TENANTS

The long-expected rent increase for Westbeth tenants will go into effect November 1, 1986. New York HUD has approved a Mortgage Foreclosure Agreement which will enable Westbeth to resolve its interest arrears, pay 100% of the interest and amortization of the mortgage, increase reserves, and at the end of a 3-year period eliminate the mortgage default and become current.

This will be accomplished by rent increases of approximately 15% for residents and a minimum 25% for commercial tenants. The current base Westbeth rents range from approximately \$300 per month for efficiency apartments to approximately \$560 for 3-bedroom apartments.

It is hoped that this plan, if vigorously pursued, will eliminate the past fears of foreclosure.

LETTERS TO ARTHUR LEVITT JR., PLEASE

Previously, we had asked members to write to Foster Beach, Regional Director of State Transportation, asking that streets within the Landmark District be disconnected from the West Side Highway Replacement road. The three streets presently connected are Christopher, West 11th and West 12th. We now urgently ask that you write similar letters to Arthur Levitt, Jr., Chair, West Side Highway Task Force, 11 West 19th Street, 10th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011. Rumor has it that the foot of Gansevoort Street may once again become the site of the only incinerator planned for all of Manhattan, and there certainly should be objections to that! And there is growing sentiment that the piers should be saved for recreation. We urge you to write to Mr. Levitt on these issues. We will help to clarify some of these issues at our meeting, but there is very little time left to pressure. We expect a final decision on the highway and waterfront development by the end of November.

GREENWICH VILLAGE: UP THE RIVER OR DOWN THE TUBE?

We are equally distressed as are some of our friends by the construction of high-rise buildings around the periphery of the Historic District. But we must realize that we are a low-rise community which has long stood in the way of what many city planners have visualized for this area. We are a stumbling block to them. The first major error was probably made back in the early part of this century when Seventh Avenue was cut through to connect with Varick Street. And in the past 25 years the assaults of city planners have been endless: urban renewal west of Hudson, the Lower Manhattan Expressway, the extension of Fifth Avenue through Washington Square Park, etc., etc. And then 15 years of Westway. It is difficult to be in continual battles fending off harmful projects. In giving daily attention to those battles, the tawdry and ugly have settled into certain areas of our community. The homeless we have sometimes fed and had great sympathy for their state; but the mental patients loosened upon this City by the State of New York is a lasting disgrace to behold. But there was a time when we would have known how to prevent Sixth Avenue from looking like the depths of West 42nd Street, and the schlock from there has spread to the side streets, to Greenwich Avenue, to Hudson Street. There was a time when the armies of peddlars were successfully and legally swept from our streets, and a time when we would not have tolerated the hard drugs and prostitution thriving at the foot of Christopher Street or in the environs of Washington Square and Sixth Avenue. Many of us allowed unseemly things because we were occupied with greater threats. But we fought the high rises in 1981 and '82 by warning against "as of right" and other zoning changes, and were dismissed by those pushing the changes. We have survived before, we may survive yet again.

THE COOPER COMMITTEE REPORT

We repeat our appeal to members and friends to respond to the Cooper Committee Report which would alter the existing Landmark Law and cripple the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and might possibly prevent further landmarking designations. The Committee was named by the Mayor due to pressures from the Real Estate Board of New York and other real estate interests. Because of public response to the Cooper Report, the response cut-off date has now been extended to Nov. 30. We urge you to react. Please write to Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, New York, N.Y. 10007. The Commission needs more money to enforce the law; it does not need a gutted and shredded Landmarks Law. Defend the Landmarks Commission and the Law it administers, and you will also have defended the survival of your Greenwich Village community. We have a limited number of copies of the Cooper Report available and will bring them to the next meeting.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 25 at 7:30 P.M. 1987 1986

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Progress report on the West Side Replacement Highway and the campaign to disconnect Greenwich Village Historic District streets from the roadway;
Planning for the end-of-the-year-party to celebrate the survival of the West Village community;
The need for end-of-the-year fund-raising, etc.

THE REPLACEMENT HIGHWAY

We beg you not to be over-confident about the good intentions of our political overlords in putting forward a choice of highway as published in the Times on Monday, Nov. 17. They have not told us anything yet about land use on either side of the replacement road for the Miller Highway. They remain absolutely mute on our request that they disconnect streets in the Historic District from the roadway. At the public hearing on Nov. 5th, on a rainy night, we got over 400 people out to testify on our side to have the streets cut off from the highway. They are not listening. We do not need more children killed in our residential neighborhood from heavy traffic. We do not need further damage to our historic houses. Stop the destruction of Christopher, 11th and 12th Streets by demanding that they disconnect them from the roadway. We urge you to write today to Arthur Levitt, Jr., Chairman, West Side Highway Task Force, 2 World Trade Center, Room 6325, NY NY 10047. We enclose our testimony at that hearing on which you may glean some comments in writing. It is said that a final decision will be made by December 2, so you must act at once, and get your friends to write also. We agree to the need for open space on the waterfront, and we would like to see more open space elsewhere in the Village; in fact, we are doing something about it. But if our community is destroyed by traffic and overbuilding, it perhaps may not matter what is thrust upon our waterfront. Write to Mr. Levitt. Speak up. Let our voices be heard.

LAST CALL TO OBJECT TO THE COOPER COMMITTEE REPORT

Letters objecting to the recommendations of the Cooper Committee Report will be accepted only until Nov. 30. The Cooper Committee was created by the Mayor following pressure from the Real Estate Board of New York to criticize the Landmarks Commission and the Landmarks Law. We again urge you for this last time to write to Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard, Office of the Mayor, City Hall, NY NY 10007, and object to the Cooper report which would eventually destroy the Commission, the Law, and landmark districts.

REDESIGN PLANS FOR 7TH AVENUE, WEST 11TH AND GREENWICH AVENUE

The City Department of Transportation is planning a redesign of this major crossing. Intentions are unclear at this time, but we have reason to think that it will change all existing street corners and the curblines as far back as Bank Street on Greenwich, as far as Waverly on 11th, and as far south and east as Perry on Seventh and Greenwich.

GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET CLOSES FOR SEASON NOVEMBER 22

The local farmers' market, the Gansevoort Greenmarket closes for the season on Saturday, Nov. 22, but will return next spring. As with all Greenmarkets in the city, Barry Benepe has been the creative force behind them, working with the Council on the Environment. The West Village Committee has acted as the local sponsor through the entire existence of Gansevoort Greenmarket. Our thanks to Barbara Fisher for taking over the management again this past year.

TOO MANY MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE CITY

Current statistics show that 1985 saw the sharpest increase in motor vehicles in the City since 1968, a year when the increase was described as "astronomical." Such figures are interesting because the City is under a Federal directive to comply with Federal Clean Air Standards by December 1987 in order to avoid Federal sanctions which could seriously curtail developments due to hard-core hot spots; sanctions could halt aid to all transportation and highway projects in the City. Other metropolitan areas in the states have had such Federal action taken against them.

We also urge you to watch what happens if the City carries out plans to prevent trucks and cars from glutting midtown streets. This will not necessarily keep these vehicles out of the City, but they will back up into surrounding residential neighborhoods and use our waterfront for parking. Beware, beware!

THE CITY BEGINS RECYCLING AT LAST

The City Sanitation Department began its first pick-up of newspapers separated from garbage on Thursday, November 13. Newspapers must be tied in neat bundles and placed at curb edge early every Thursday morning; they do not want untied newspapers stashed into plastic shopping bags. We urge all of our members to cooperate with this effort, an effort which has been a long time coming to fruition. The City often does something right eventually, sometimes.

SAVE THE GREENWICH VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Officers for the West Village Committee will be elected at our April meeting.

FUNDS NEEDED FOR SOCIETY'S STUDY TOWARD LANDMARKING WATERFRONT AREA

Richard Barnett, a former President of The West Village Committee, and now President of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, has approached us to make a funding gesture toward publication costs of the completed study by Regina Kellerman of the West Village beyond the present border of the existing Greenwich Village Historic Landmark District. Whether it were to become a part of the existing District, or more likely, a separate landmarked waterfront district, is unimportant. Historically this area incorporates the oldest part of Greenwich Village and desperately needs protection from greedy developers. There is an estimate that it might require as much as \$12,000 to put the study into print so that it can be made available to all of us, and so that we can intelligently request landmark status for the area. The Society is a valuable sister organization, and we will be happy to receive funds toward the publication of this invaluable architectural study. All contributions are tax deductible.

CHRIST STROLIGO - 1899-1988

The January issue of the Newsletter noted with regret the death of Mr. Christ Stroligo on December 21, four days before Christmas. From the formation of The West Village Committee as the Committee to Save the Village nearly 30 years ago, the Stroligo family has been supportive of our goals. But we also were aware that Mr. Stroligo had a very interesting background, and so we are very pleased to relate some of that history here.

Christ Stroligo was born on December 24, Christmas Eve 1899 in the Province of Istria, which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the age of 16 he was drafted into World War I service, was wounded at 17, and at war's end was critically ill with malaria.

After the war, hearing about the opportunities in the United States, he joined the crew of a ship destined for the U.S. and decided to remain in this country.

He found his "golden opportunity" on a tugboat shoveling coal - twelve hours a day, seven days a week.

At age 24 he married Maria Gitz. In 1926 Mr. Stroligo managed the down-payment on a brownstone located at 318 West 11th Street. At that time, there was an outhouse in the backyard, one water tap in the cellar, and a working blacksmith next door on Greenwich Street.

Christ and Maria Stroligo raised four children on 11th Street. Their children and three of their grandchildren were educated in the West Village and inherited their love and appreciation of this unique community.

The Stroligo family has lost a beloved parent, the West Village Committee has lost a friend.

HB PLAYWRIGHTS: "A BACKWARD GLANCE OF EDITH WHARTON"

The HB Playwrights Foundation, 124 Bank Street, is announcing their latest stage production with "A Backward Glance of Edith Wharton," beginning with 8 P.M. curtains on March 22 thru April 3. The exception is No Performance on March 26. We have many enthusiasts of these productions among our membership. Admission is free, but reservations must be made Monday thru Friday from 11 A.M. until 5 P.M. by calling 989-6540. Telephone reservations are automatically confirmed, but to be sure of a seat you must arrive and claim your seat 15 minutes before curtain at 8 P.M. The theater is located on the south side of Bank Street between Greenwich and Washington Streets.

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

Do you have a boiler and heating pipes in the basement wrapped in asbestos? Does it worry you? Would you like to have it removed from the premise? Many small, older homes have an existing asbestos conditions, and in some instances the asbestos wrappings surround the pipes into the upper floors. The best advice is not to do the removal yourself, because you will still have a problem of disposing legally of this dangerous material - you can be fined for putting it out for City Garbage Pickup. It is often only a one-day job for a licensed remover, more for apartment houses, and for very small jobs the bill may be in the high hundreds, but for average brownstone basements it can run as high as \$2,000-\$3,000. If you would like a list of licensed removal contractors we suggest that you write to

Department of Environmental Protection
Asbestos Control Program
295 Lafayette Street
New York, New York 10012

and enclose a check for \$6 made out to "NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection." They, in turn, will send you a fairly complete list of all contractors licensed to do this dangerous work so that you can obtain cost estimates. If your neighbors have similar existing asbestos problems, you should inquire of the contractor as to whether he would take on cleaning out several houses in the same area at a reduced group rate.

I wish to contribute to the following West Village Committee projects: Postage/Printing
 Jane Street Garden Jefferson Market Rock Garden Iron gates & plantings in Abington Square Park
 Art work in IND 14th/8th Ave. subway station Support of publication of the Kellerman architectural study toward landmarking the West Village to the Hudson River.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
Return to The West Village Committee, PO Box 30301, NY NY 10011. Contributions are tax deductible.

"The chameleon, who is said to feed upon nothing but air, has of all animals the nimblest tongue."
--Jonathan Swift, 1714.

THE DEPARTURE OF A FRIEND

~~1987~~ 1986

After nearly thirty years as our neighbor and a community activist, James Edward Shaw (Jimmy) is saying "good-bye" to his friends. He will be moving back to his home state, California, in December. We would like to thank him for his many years of service to the community and wish him the best of years in his new life.

Jim's efforts were not in the political or financially remunerative areas, and therefore may have gone unnoticed by many of his neighbors. It may be fitting as our "farewell" to Jimmy to recall some of the major contributions he made.

Perhaps most important was his participation as a founder together with Jane Jacobs and Rachele Wall and many others of the West Village Committee, and his participation in the early fight to save the West Village from the City and the big real estate interests who were ready with their bulldozers, and their plans for enormous high-rise buildings which would have destroyed a large part of the West Village community. There is no telling how many people would have been uprooted and displaced directly or indirectly as a result of this rape, and our cherished neighborhood would have been irreparably damaged. Instead, thanks to the West Village Committee, the West Village Houses were built on open land, maintaining the scale, character and livability of the West Village. We wonder how many people enjoying life in the West Village Houses now realize the enormous eleven year effort it took to get this first community-sponsored project built. Days, and often nights until the early morning hours were given unselfishly to this project. (As it turns out, every single permit was signed by Jim Shaw as President of the West Village Committee.)

However, as you all know, the work of the West Village Committee did not stop with the West Village Houses. It went on to many other community-oriented efforts, such as the creation of the popular Bleecker Street Playground, one of the first community gardens across from St. Vincent's Hospital (since replaced with construction), tree planting, and tireless attendance at meetings of City and other agencies on matters affecting the neighborhood. During the last 10 years, a large part of the West Village Committee effort, and of Jim's time, was spent in fighting Westway, this still threatening real estate boondoggle. For many years, Jim presided at the meetings of the West Village Committee, and helped arrange book sales and other fund-raisers.

Jim soon also became a member of Community Board #2, and worked for years on many of its committees, such as landmarks and traffic. He was also on the board of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

Much of his time lately was spent on helping to stabilize the precarious financial situation of the Westbeth Artists Housing complex. Jim is chairman of the Board of Directors of Westbeth Artists Housing Corp., and as such as affected by opposing efforts of two tenants groups -- one trying to co-op and the other opposing such efforts, while the board was trying to stabilize the financial situation by getting government approvals for a sounder financial structure involving rent increases. Feelings often ran high and Jimmy was in the eye of the storm until the matter was recently resolved.

Outside the community, Jimmy was chairman of the credit committee of the New York AFTRA credit union, and many late hours were spent on understanding and proper handling of the loans made by this credit union.

In this catalog of Jimmy's achievements, the person itself is in danger of being lost. His friends may be interested to know that he was born in 1919 in Arkansas, but his family moved to Pasadena, California, early in his life and Jimmy went to school in California. He chose to become an actor and singer, and as such appeared on stage and in many movies, both in California and New York. His voice can be heard in the background of just about every Judy Garland film (he was under contract to MGM) and for years he was also a member of the Golden Gate Quartet. His work took him all over the United States, Canada and Japan. His friends know him as a very cheerful, quiet and unassuming person, with a strong belief in people and in the call to be useful to people. Besides that, he is fun-loving and has a reputation as an excellent cook.

SAVE THE GREENWICH VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

THE ANNUAL PARTY TO CELEBRATE SURVIVAL OF THE WEST VILLAGE COMMUNITY

The By-Laws of the West Village Committee specify that an annual party be held each year around February 21 to celebrate the community's release from the threat of Urban Renewal. This date of celebration has gradually worked its way back to December during past years and has evolved into a full "community" dinner. The party this year is set for Tuesday, December 9 in St. John's Parish Hall at 7:30 P.M., with a contribution of \$10 per person. Please let us know by Saturday, Dec. 6 if you are attending so that we can prepare sufficient food. We will also have for sale as usual Christmas wreaths with red bow at \$8 each. Contributions are tax deductible.

Please return this coupon on or before December 6 by mail or dropped through our mail slot with appropriate check.

I will attend the West Village Annual Party on December 9th and need _____ reservations.

I wish to reserve _____ wreaths, and will need them by this date _____.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

January 1987

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: A consideration of the role of the West Village Committee in our community, where we excel and where we need a sharper image. From the beginning our purpose has been to preserve our historic community and to educate our neighbors about the history of Greenwich Village; our purpose really cannot leave that path which was charted long ago, and charted by persons wiser than the hands which type this newsletter. But every organization deserves from time-to-time some self-criticism on its own performance. We have lost a long-time President, because Jimmy Shaw saw fit to move to San Francisco, and it seems quite appropriate to ask ourselves, Where do we go from here? Should we have a new beginning, or continue in well-worn tracks?

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE WEST SIDE TASK FORCE

We have looked hard and long the at Final Report issued by the West Side Task Force in recommending a highway solution along the West Side's Hudson River Waterfront. The price of the highway is enormously expensive, considering that it is to a very large extent an "at grade" highway replacing an existing "at grade" highway, leaving only a smattering, if any, of Federal funds from the Westway monies to be used in making improvements in our existing mass transit system. The report has high praise for existing Financial Area waterside development projects such as South Street Seaport, Battery Park City, etc., and advises that additional development along the Hudson River waterfront be "restrained." We are not admirers of the South Street Seaport Project, a development which destroyed more than it preserved and continues to have the aura of a tacky tourist trap. As for Battery Park City, it obliterates the view of the magnificent New York Bay open space for the upland area, and makes the view an exclusive property of those who live or work there, or who walk on the existing esplanade paths during lunch-hour.

For those of you who do not understand why the Task Force did not take a stand for or against development on added landfill or platforms in the Hudson River, we urge you to look at the membership of the Task Force, where both the Public Development Corporation and the Battery Park City Authority (a godchild of the Port Authority) were represented by top executives. The PDC has at present plans for 13 projects in the East River and the Hudson, all planned for either landfill or platforms. There never was anybody on the West Side Task Force who could pass as a genuine public advocate for the Village or for the Village waterfront.

The cities most admired by the Task Force for their waterfront usage are Baltimore, Toronto and Boston; and all of these cities have developed high buildings on or near the waterfront which block out the open space of water from the upland area view. On one level, the final report says nothing, is inconclusive, leaving the answer to nearly all questions to a future Task Force yet to be chosen. It makes the entire approach to the problem dangerously piecemeal, if Peter is left to decide this, and Paul to decide that. There is no interrelating of the meaning of the project to the entire city. And then we see figures that the Task Force has come up with that we simply do not believe. They apparently feel that most of the traffic on the highway will be local traffic heading to and from the Central Business District; and they then applaud the City's plan to keep most automotive traffic out of Midtown. How local is the "local traffic" from over the George Washington Bridge, from out of the Brooklyn and Hudson River tunnels, and from down the Henry Hudson Parkway? There is no serious environmental approach in the entire study, and a bike path and walkway along the entire length of the project does not make it environmentally sound. Where do you think the traffic kept out of Midtown is going to end up? Which may be why they have left Village streets connected to the highway.

If ever a project needed an independent engineering study, the Highway Replacement Study is it. The Task Force has not allayed our fears in this very serious matter. Once again this is government carried out over our heads and then shoved down our throats.

PLEASE COOPERATE WITH CITY RECYCLING

It seems to us absolutely essential that we all cooperate with the City Sanitation Department's recycling program which began on November 13, 1986. There are some knotty problems to be ironed out by the City--one problem being no weekly pick-up when a holiday such as Thanksgiving or Christmas falls on Thursday. The arrangement should be that the pick-up is immediately shifted to Friday as was done after the New Year. The truck is also missing many stacks of newspapers at the curb if the amount appears too small to stop for; such slights to willing recyclers does not encourage the effort.

Newspapers should be tied in neat bundles with strong cord, with bundles not exceeding a foot in height, and placed at the curb every Wednesday night for Thursday morning pick-up, rain or shine. Do not simply place an untied stack of newspapers in a paper bag, and do not place them in a plastic bag. If it rains or snows, the paper bag will disintegrate and your neighbors will have good cause to hate you for creating a mess in the block, and when the newspapers are thrown into a vat in preparation for reconstituting, a lot of plastic bags in the mixture will not do. So follow the rules, and work toward creating a cleaner city.

Another don't: don't tie glossy magazines, cardboard, flattened egg cartons or other foreign and unacceptable material into your stack of newspapers. According to reports the response of the Village community to the City's recycling program has been far above what had been expected. Which says something about our community when we read recent statistics that indicate that only 15% of the population feels it has any duty to improve our environment.

SAVE THE GREENWICH VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE ELECTION SET FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Aside from the loss of Jim Shaw as our President, we would have been holding the regular election of a full slate of officers anyway in February. Those offices are President, one who presides at Committee meetings and names sub-committees of the organization; First, Second and Third Vice Presidents, who fill in in the absence of the President, and who hopefully represent different areas of the West Village to give balance to Executive Meetings; Recording Secretary, who shall record the determinations of Committee meetings; Corresponding Secretary, who shall put in order the minutes taken by the Recording Secretary and process other important correspondence of the Committee as requested, and the Treasurer, who shall keep an exact account of income and expenditures and file such papers as may be necessary to keep us in good standing with governmental agencies. No officer is paid for his or her services.

The Nominating Committee has come come up with the following slate for the various offices to be advertized in this newsletter and voted on at the February meeting; additional nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the February meeting:

President - Bill Bowser	Recording Secretary - Anna Pratt Slatin
First Vice President - Richard Spiegel	Corresponding Secretary - Judy McCusker
Second Vice President - Barbara Steinberg	Treasurer - Barbara Fisher
Third Vice President - Richard Crosland	

The Chairs of all active subcommittees also serve on the Executive Committee with the elected officers.

Copies of the final report of the West Side Highway Replacement Study Task Force are available at the storefront headquarters of the West Village Committee. Usually a staff person is there on Saturday afternoons.

As a final word, a sincere thanks to all those who lent a hand at the end-of-the-year party, and to all who have made voluntary donations during the past year. The West Village Committee is incorporated and is tax exempt. All services performed by our group are voluntary and unpaid.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

February 1987

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169
Ms. Slatin 255-7066

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 24 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Election of officers,
and other community items as time allows.

FOR RECYCLING, NOT INCINERATION

It must have been about two years ago that the spectre of a new Sanitation Department incinerator at the foot of Gansevoort Street raised its ugly head. Lt. Gov. Del Bello had already resigned his state post to get into the business of constructing incinerators. His company built a new incinerator high on a mountain in Peekskill, and every green living thing on the mountain has since died from the outflow of the incinerator's smokestacks. Because the City is running out of garbage dumping space, it was purposed that two new incinerators be built in each borough. And then Sanitation Commissioner Norman Steisel resigned and joined a company which was in the business of building incinerators. But just prior to that we began appearing before State Legislative committees and the City's Board of Estimate to denounce incinerators as killers and demand that recycling be substituted as a positive alternative.

You see, back in the old days when we had a working Gansevoort Incinerator, we had also one of the highest cancer incidence rates in the country. A great many bits of publicity are given to the heavy pollution Staten Island suffers from industrial New Jersey, but fewer people mention that Lower Manhattan also gets much of that same industrial pollution. Our winds generally come from the West, and the last thing we need in our community is an updated repeat version of the disgraceful Gansevoort Incinerator. Eva Ettisch, who was then Environmental Committee chair of the Community Board should be given a lot of credit for alerting citizens and getting them out to the long line of hearings. When we were at the Board of Estimate we heard several "experts" testify that modern incinerators were so perfect that no harm could come them; nearly all said that because the stacks were built so high, there was almost no chance of harm in the immediate vicinity except perhaps on overcast days; some admitted that harmful emissions could descend from a quarter to a half to a whole mile or more away. They never addressed the probability that cancer-causing PCBs are thought to be produced by burning modern plastics and newsprint together.

We started our campaign for recycling and against incineration from rock bottom, together with a roomful of other people with common interests from Brooklyn and Queens and Manhattan. This past month the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a report recommending a plan to recycle 50% of solid waste over the next 10 years. Nevertheless they still plan to build 38 incinerators across New York State. There are flaws in the plan other than the incinerators, such as the lack of a budget to implement it and no plan to mandate that recycling must begin immediately on all local levels.

On Wednesday, February 25, 2-4 P.M. and 7-9 P.M., DEC will hold public hearings on the plan at 2 World Trade Center, 58th Floor, Room 5890. It is very important that you appear to testify to the need for more muscle and effort to be put into recycling. For those of you who cannot attend, we urge that you send written comments immediately to Mr. Norman Nosenchuck, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste, Room 208, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the many people, with large or small checks, who have begun the New Year by sending checks to keep us afloat after postage and printing costs. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. The West Village Committee is a tax exempt organization.

THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE CITY'S NEWSPAPER RECYCLING PROGRAM

The major problem we have encountered with the City Sanitation Department's recycling program is the inconsistent manner in which newspapers are or are not picked up when a holiday falls on a Thursday. For example, Christmas Day 1986 was on a Thursday and there was no pick-up on the Friday following; but New Year's Day 1987, the week following Christmas, also fell on Thursday, and there was a newspaper pick-up on the Friday following. Is it not possible for there to be regular pick-ups on the Friday following a Thursday holiday? More recently there was no garbage pick-up on Lincoln's Birthday which fell on a Thursday. Now despite the fact that the Sanitation Department had done a mailing of a long letter to Village residents on recycling, and despite the fact that the small print of that letter listed Lincoln's Birthday as a date when no pick-ups would occur, Village streets were lined with tied-up newspapers and many of us are still picking loose-blown newspapers out of our front yards. The late word is that when a holiday occurs on Thursday, there will never be a recycling pick-up until the following week. We would like that rule to be consistent. In any case, the next time we get a Thursday holiday, we suggest that you call Recycling boss Laura Denman (212) 334-8590, and especially if there are two Thursday holidays in a row again as with Christmas and New Year's. Recycling should be designed to clean the streets, not make them a filthy mess.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

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

HELP FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The rapidly growing field of visual impairment and the elderly is now serviced by a new member of the Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York, Inc. (CIDNY). INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR OLDER VISUALLY IMPAIRED, a project begun in December 1986, offers four main services:

- Advocacy. Staff will assist clients with identifying resources and following up on service requests; help people improve their own effectiveness in identifying resources and expressing their needs; organize and supervise peer counseling groups, including training people interested in conducting such groups.
- Training. Through the use of peer counseling groups, home visits and collaboration with other service providers, staff will attempt to improve the quality of life by improving functional skills of clients. Staff will link clients' already existing knowledge and experience as adults to methods of coping with reduced vision in the areas of ADL (Aids to Daily Living), information seeking, problem assessment, transportation, socializing and in any other areas where independence might be threatened.
- Outreach. During 1987, staff will be setting up a cross-referenced database of services and service providers.
- Referrals. Staff will do in-depth needs assessments, taking into account any work-ups which have already been done by other service providers, making any appropriate referrals. Referrals might include helping a person find a reliable ophthalmologist, solving housing problems, etc.

Jim Thoune, Project Director, described the overall perspective of the OVR-administered program. He said, "We recognize that the clientele we intend to serve are, for the most part, people who have been functioning as adults and who are now experiencing a loss of independence due to a loss of vision. Our approach will be to build on their already existing knowledge and experience. "We aim," Thoune continued, "to restore independence and prevent or interrupt institutionalization. We will utilize any tool, from aids, techniques and resources to promoting confidence-building and social contact. We place major emphasis on open communication between ourselves and other service providers. We do not want to re-invent the wheel or duplicate services." If you are edging toward visual impairment, or if you know of somebody whose vision is seriously impaired as to prevent normal contact with others, we suggest that you seek further info on this project by telephoning Mr. Thoune, or his assistant, Mr. Samberg, at (212) 674-2300.

CONGRESSMAN TED WEISS TO HOLD COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Congressman Ted Weiss has announced plans to hold a Community Conference on Sunday, March 29, 12:30-4:00 P.M., Columbia University, Ferris Booth Hall. The announced subject for discussion is "The Constitution in American Life" -- discussions on the Presidency, war and peace, separation of Church and State, individual rights, separation of powers, and economic justice. Admission is free.

CONSTANCE MCMILLAN PAINTINGS IN MERCER STREET

Ann McMillan's sister, Constance, is having a showing of her paintings in the Atlantic Gallery, 164 Mercer Street, from February 17 through March 8, 12-6 P.M. Tuesday through Sunday. 219-3183.

LEE STOLIAR'S WORK TO BE EXHIBITED

Lee Stoliar has a new showing of her art work coming to the Avenue B Gallery, 167 Avenue B, to run from March 5 through the 29th. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday. 12 Noon-6 P.M. 473-4600.

CHARLOTTE WINTER

For our several members in distant places, we regret to report the death in January of Charlotte Winter, a gutsy lady of great charm and caring -- a true Villager and one who loved her community. Mrs. Winter and her late husband were long-time residents in Horatio Street, and were among the earliest and most faithful supporters of the initial battle of the West Village Committee against urban renewal of the area. Peace to them both.

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE OPPOSES TAX ABATEMENT FOR 114 HORATIO STREET

The following statement was submitted to the Community Board with regard to 421-A tax abatement proposed for the Rockrose project at 114 Horatio Street:

Any granting of tax abatement for 114 Horatio Street under 421-A will be yet another example of flaunting tax-free luxury housing for the rich by the rich in the face of the tax-paying common flock. We object to this continued abuse of power by a few people to benefit another special few. The time is long overdue for specific and strong legislation to be created and enforced requiring all luxury housing units enjoying tax abatement to contribute substantial quotas of monies to the rehabilitation of housing in the city to accommodate the homeless.

There are no slums to be cleared in Greenwich Village, and there haven't been any in many years. We have allowed luxury complex after luxury complex to be created and the population to be increased without any creation of public open spaces. Any social structure which rewards the creation of luxury housing in the face of a growing homeless problem is a disgrace in the eyes of all people of good conscience. We ask the Community Board to take a position against the granting of tax abatement for 114 Horatio Street. (Dated: February 9, 1987.)

NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

March 1987

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Arthur Kell, guest speaker.

Mr. Kell has been the NYC Campaign Coordinator of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) effort to make recycling the major means of disposal of solid waste throughout New York State. Although many groups including WVC have long experience with recycling, NYPIRG has been the essential glue which has held the campaign against incineration together. Mr. Kell will be with us to explain what more we can do to push for methods of waste disposal which regenerate and renew life, which feed the earth and do not destroy it and the people living on it.

ONE MORE WORD ON INCINERATION

If you cannot attend our March meeting, there are other things you can do to push recycling as a method of waste disposal. At one time the West Village had an astonishingly high cancer-incidence rate, and the old Gansevoort Incinerator was long suspect as one of the causes. Nor do they need one in Inwood or the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Incinerators, built for enormous profits, once constructed, will stand and burn like misplaced Shorehams. Let the consciences of public officials hurt enough to stop killing people casually, legally. The proposals before New York State which would carry out a plan to recycle 50% of our solid waste by the end of a 10 year period is more than most areas have proposed, except perhaps some counties in New Jersey. But the New York plan only tries to persuade people that recycling is a good thing. It should be made mandatory that wastes be recycled. Recycling is still being treated as a thing to be hoped for. We urge that you write to Governor Cuomo and request that he provide funds in his budget to get recycling going, and in addition make it a regular department of his state government.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CLEAN-UP OF WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

The police clean-up of drug-selling in Washington Square Park is to be applauded and is long overdue -- the first such clean-up since it was made into an "international scene" for almost any event or happening about a quarter century ago. And we are glad to see that the solution for the problem in Washington Square is a police action, and not a restaurant as has been proposed for the rear of the Public Library and Bryant Park. We worked on 42nd Street across from Bryant Park 30 years ago, and fed the pigeons from the park on our windowsill; there was a drug problem in Bryant Park then, but the obvious solution is police action, not destruction of this irreplaceable open space in midtown with a restaurant! But back to the police action in Washington Square -- the only thing to be feared here is the backing off into the side streets of the drug dealers. In the past weeks the most obvious example we have seen of this was at dusk when a very aggressive crack dealer was pushing his wares at Charles and West 4th.

GREENWICH VILLAGE ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

New York University is sponsoring a symposium and luncheon on Greenwich Village Archaeology, Saturday, April 11, 9:30 a.m. at La Maison Francaise, 16 Washington Mews. There is a \$20 fee. For more information, call Professor Annette Weiner at 598-3257.

HB PLAYWRIGHTS PRODUCTION

The HB Playwrights Foundation is offering a new play, DISTANCE FROM THE STARS by Christina Kukucka, set to run from March 21 through April 1, curtain at 8 p.m. The play is directed by Herbert Berghof, and admission is free except that you must call ahead between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to confirm available seat reservations. Telephone 989-6540, and most of you regulars know, HB Studio is at 124 Bank Street between Greenwich Street and Washington Street.

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

Please cooperate with City Recycling for our area: newspapers tied in bundles no more than 12" deep and placed at sidewalk edge every Wednesday night for Thursday morning pickup.

INTERESTING NIGHTS AT HUDSON PARK LIBRARY

A lot of us are used to seeing old movies at the Hudson Park Branch Library, 66 Leroy Street, the library where Marianne Moore worked for many years. We often post their interesting notices on child care, etc. along with our own in our window. This past winter Hudson Park began an interesting program "Village Writers Meet Their Neighbors" on Thursday nights, 6:30-8:00 p.m. We recommend this interesting program. If you missed it so far, you missed Catharine Stimpson in February and Colette Rossant in March, but soon to come are Lewis Carroll authority, Morton Cohen, on April 9, and humorist Calvin Trillin on April 23, followed by Emily Hahn and translator Richard Howard in May. We like you Hudson Park Library for so enriching our lives.

IF YOU HAVE DONE SO, PLEASE DON'T

We must please beg you again, do not leave contributions of books or other things outside our headquarters when the door is locked and no attendant is present. We are a volunteer group committed to community improvement and preservation, but if we do not know your gift has been left, it is nearly always stolen, or knocked apart to litter the street. If you have contributions, please leave a message at 243-0762 or 929-3169, both phones with answering machines to take a message if we are not home. We will be happy to arrange to pick up your contributions, or meet you at our headquarters at any reasonable hour, and you need not feel that you are infringing on our time. We delight in generous checks sent to the Committee, but a very large part of our operating income derives from books.

THE WEST SIDE CELEBRATES THE CONSTITUTION BICENTENNIAL

Across the country various symposia are being held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution this year. Congressman Ted Weiss is sponsoring one on Sunday, March 29 in Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University, 115th St. and Broadway, 12:30-4:00 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Professor Richard B. Morris, Columbia; panelists will include Rickie Seidman, Legal Director, People for the American Way; Howard Jordan, Director, Latinos United for Political Action; Arthur Kinoy, Center for Constitutional Rights; Marsha Levick, NOW Legal Defense, and others. Admission to the symposium is free.

SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOND ACT NOW THAT IT HAS PASSED

Now that the Environmental Quality Bond Act (EQBA) has passed, it is essential that adequate operating budget at last be given to the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to allow proper implementation of the Act. The nearly \$93 million in the budget is more generous than any past allocation, representing a \$7.8 million increase. But with the inflation factor, it still leaves much of the programming across New York State on the thin edge of desperation. The increase should have been \$10 million to avoid the constant crisis status under which this State group long has operated. We urge that you write to elected officials asking that the increase in funds be raised to \$10 million so that SPRHP may help fund municipal and not-for-profit preservation projects. We urge you to write to Governor Mario Cuomo at the State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224, or to your own Assemblyman at the NY State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248, or to your State Senator, NY State Senate, Albany, NY 12247.

CLEAN-UP CREW FOR JANE STREET GARDEN NEEDED

The Jane Street Garden is being redesigned by Pamela Berdan. Sonya Staff, Arthur Stoliar, Joyce Healy and others have been asked to form a Fund Raising Committee, and we will meet with them shortly to plan funding and paying the rent. We need volunteers to help keep the garden site clean, and to expand our cleaning energies to historic Abingdon Square. We must learn to keep our own house. Volunteers please call 243-0762 or 929-3169 and leave message. The Jane Street Garden will eventually be recognized as an asset to the entire West Village, not a gift to Jane Street.

Leaving town forever? Please notify us so we may remove you from our growing mailing list.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

April 1987

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

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Mrs. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 28, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Planning for the May book sale; report of fund-raising plans for the Jane Street Garden, and a report from the Historic Plaque Committee.

DEMONSTRATE WITH YOUR INWOOD NEIGHBORS ON SATURDAY, MAY 2

On Saturday, May 2, environmentalists from throughout the city will gather at 204th Street and 10th Avenue to protest plans to build a mammoth incinerator in the Washington Heights-Inwood area. We fully believe that both the State and City should be seeking a better answer to waste disposal through recycling. In fact they should be creating and building an entire industry involving waste recycling. In the days when Greenwich Village had an incinerator at the foot of Gansevoort Street, we also had the highest cancer-incidence rate in the country, and we have the statistics on it. Governor Kean in New Jersey has just signed into state law a bill which requires householders to separate glass, metals, and paper from raw garbage and to recycle. We should at least try to keep up with our neighbor state. If a gigantic incinerator with its production of vile dioxins into the air is not good for our precious Greenwich Village community, then it is not suitable for Washington Heights-Inwood or the Brooklyn Navy Yard. From past experience we have learned many times that if we stand up for the little guy who is being attacked, we also save ourselves. We hope to see many of you on May 2nd at the Inwood rally! For further information call Arthur Kell at 349-6460 (NYPIRG).

"I left her at an incredible address...on Twelfth Street, almost at the docks--one of two or three red-brick houses among warehouses and sordid saloons. We parted, she quite tired and pale...quickly closing the door, she seemed to disappear in a flash... I walked home through a little open square--Abingdon Square, I saw with surprise: I had never heard of it before, though it lay almost around the corner from where I lived... Now the Village was at last revealed to me; it had that day come alive about me, and I felt myself part of its life..."

--Edmund Wilson, from I THOUGHT OF DAISY (1929), the novel
in which he recalls his infatuation with Millay.

GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET WILL OPEN SATURDAY, JUNE 6

The local farmer's market, the Gansevoort Greenmarket, will reopen for the 1987 season on June 6. The produce is always thin at the beginning of the season, but you should expect to find lettuce, strawberries, asparagus and other unsprayed edibles in our "organic" market. We'll give you a further run-down in the May newsletter.

WE HAVE SIGNED THE LEASE WITH THE CITY

We have duly signed the lease with the city on a rental basis for the lot on 8th Avenue known as the "Jane Street" garden, with an agreement to refurbish and redesign it as a garden open space. The lease expires in 2012 A.D. Contributions for the redesign and upkeep of this garden are urgently needed, as well as money to pay the monthly rent.

UP AND COMING

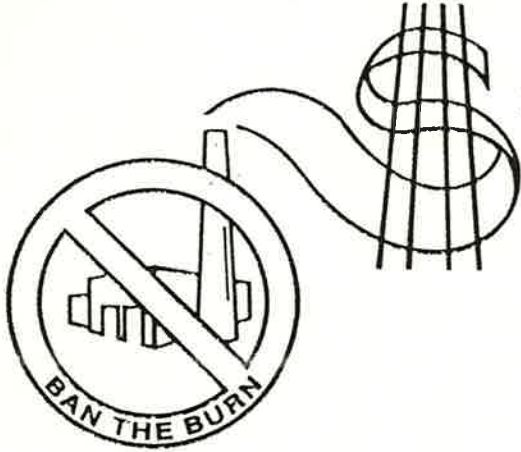
We hope shortly to begin the fence repair on historic Abingdon Square, with probably sufficient funds set aside to see the job through. Our Historic Plaque Committee will eventually have a great need to raise considerable funding; but we will be glad to hear any suggestions you may have for raising funds. See you at the meeting!

The West Village Committee is a tax exempt corporation.

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

Villagers, please recycle! Newspaper tied in 12" deep bundles, should be placed at curb edge Wednesday night for early Thursday pick-up.

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM INCINERATION!



RALLY!

SUPPORT A FIVE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON NEW
INCINERATOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

SATURDAY, MAY 2 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.
204 ST. & 10 AVE., MANHATTAN

IN CASE OF RAIN: ST. JUDE'S CHURCH, 431 W.204 ST.

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:
STATE ASSEMBLYMAN BRIAN MURTAUGH AND
CITY COUNCILMAN STANLEY MICHELS

STOP INCINERATION/DEMAND RECYCLING

At least five incinerators have been approved for New York City including one in the Inwood section of Manhattan, (Sherman Creek). These incinerators are expected to cost at least \$1.5 billion and release thousands of toxic chemicals, including dioxin--one of the deadliest toxins known to science. Former Department of Sanitation Commissioner Norman Steisel stated that the incinerators will only extend our landfill life seven years because they create millions of tons of toxic ash. Incinerators would create an unparalleled health hazard and a financial boondoggle.

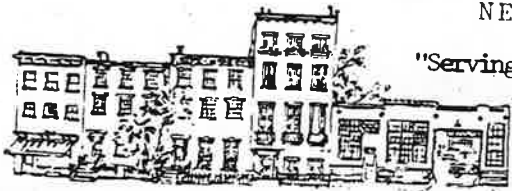
Recycling is cheaper, cleaner, and provides more jobs. It is working successfully in urban settings all over the world. Support the formation of a **Statewide Waste Recycling Authority** which can adequately fund mandatory recycling programs.

Recycling and incineration are not compatible. They compete for the same resources. Recycling reuses our resources. Incineration turns resources into pollution. Recycling must be an absolute priority. Come join hundreds of your neighbors and let public officials around the state know how you feel.

SPONSORED BY: WASHINGTON HEIGHTS-INWOOD PEOPLE OPPOSED TO GARBAGE INCINERATORS,
AND THE NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP.

PLEASE POST!

For more information, contact: Arthur Kell at (212) 349-6460



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

May 1987

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 100:

Mr. Bowser 243-C
Mr. Spiegel 929-3
Ms. Steinberg 242-6
Mr. Crosland 929-0
Ms. Slatin 255-7
Ms. McCusker 929-5
Ms. Fisher 929-3

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Report on suggested routes for the Village Halloween Parade; wrap-up on plans for the Spring Book Sale; discussion on new nominees to the Landmarks Preservation Commission; late word from the Historic Plaque Committee.

SPRING BOOK SALE

Our Spring Book Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 30 in the block of West 11th between Greenwich and Hudson Sts., 11 A.M. till dusk. The rain date is Saturday, June 6. As you know, we have no membership fee; from the creation by the WVC by Jane Jacobs nearly 30 years ago, we have sold books and white elephants to support our programs. Since we are registered a volunteer not-for-profit group and have tax deductible status, we also receive straight contributions. However, the major part of our income is still from the sale of contributed books.

If it is a nice day, drop around and say Hello even if you don't buy a book. We will have some white elephants too. But no food. And hopefully we will get some of our regular helpers in getting the books and elephants into the street and back again. Bob Waleski and Jim Brennan we need you at this hour!

THANKS TO BILL CRAWFORD AND BOB BOYAR

A special word of thanks is due both Bill Crawford and Bob Boyar for so skillfully putting together a new garden shed in the Jane Street Garden. It will shortly be painted gray to match the color of the mortar on the walls behind. We also wish to thank Carol of Manley's Liquor Store on 8th Avenue for the gift of four roses. Three of them are in the Jane Street Garden and the fourth, a yellow climber, is in the rock garden area behind the Jefferson Market Library. And thanks to Jimmy Kelly of Hines & Hines for a Bradford Pear Tree which is also now planted behind the rock garden row by Jefferson Market. WVC planted and designed this area directly behind the Library about eight or nine years ago.

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Our industrious treasurer, Barbara Fisher, recently did some averaging of WVC's monthly expenses and came up with a base monthly total of \$313. This does not include the heavy amounts we are currently putting into redesigning the Jane Street Garden. But it is interesting to see that of that average base amount, nearly half goes to postage and newsletter production. Although there is no membership fee, the By-Laws clearly state that members who wish to receive the newsletter shall pay for the cost of it. With printing costs running a minimum of \$45 or often double that, we may have to adhere to the By-Laws and cut our mailing list severely. It would not be the first time we have been forced to take such an action. Inasmuch as there is the threat of another sharp postage increase in the near future, we feel almost consumed by postage costs even though we purposely hand-deliver many newsletters. If you would like us to drop you from the mailing list, please advise us. Each name less can save us five or six dollars a year.

PLEASE DO NOT POST ON LAMPPOSTS

The City is threatening to gather the names and addresses of persons who post flyers on lampposts and other public properties, and to fine the responsible person or organization. This is a welcome move so far as we are concerned, because what is fastened to lampposts usually ends up in the street. The benefit will be cleaner streets. When we have posted in the past we have also removed the flyers; but even responsible posting and removal may encourage and seemingly give the okay to less responsible persons. We ask you please not to post any of our flyers re our Spring Book Sale or the opening of Gansevoort Greenmarket on lampposts or federal mailboxes. They still may be placed in public library bulletin board areas and some shopkeepers may want to place flyers in their windows on a short-term basis. There are also a handful of public bulletin boards in the West Village. This is a move in the right direction for making a cleaner city. We also observe that it is about time the City attempted some enforcement of the dog scoop law. Ninety-five per cent of our dog owners are obeying the scoop law; the other five per cent continue to make a mess of our tree pits, our sidewalks and our streets. An unleashed dog is not an animal in the total control of a person.

THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET IS HERE

The local farmers' market, the Gansevoort Greenmarket, will reopen on Saturday, June 6 -- and as you know, neighborhood people have turned Gansevoort into an early morning market. Sandra, the fish lady from Montauk, will be back at Gansevoort again this year, and you city folks should not expect to find fresh corn on opening day -- lettuce, asparagus, strawberries and a few other unsprayed vegetables and fruit -- for Barry Benepe has designed for the West Village an organic market of unsprayed produce. Barbara Fisher is once again managing Gansevoort, and the West Village Committee is co-sponsor with Council on the Environment.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

304 WEST 11TH STREET NEW YORK N.Y. 10014

LILLIAN SHAPIRO, FRIEND AND ACTIVIST

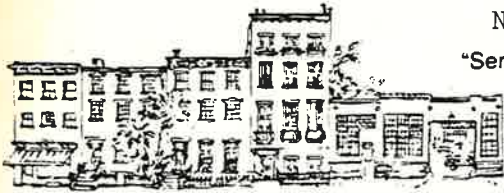
By and large, most people would never have guessed that Lillian Shapiro was born in Czarist Siberia, or that her first language was Russian. Her father was the first family emigre to America, where once he had established himself in business, sent for his wife, three-year-old Lillian and a younger baby. The family settled briefly in the Lower East Side, then made a move upstate, and shortly thereafter a more permanent move to Haverhill, Massachusetts; here he established a successful body shop business. By this time Lillian's younger sisters, Rosa and Bertha had been born. Lillian's first job as she was growing up was to act as bookkeeper for her father's business, a career she was to follow later in life culminating in a position as Comptroller of a large corporation, but only after a patriotic stint in the Army. By all reports Lillian Shapiro was a very tough sergeant; what is not generally known is that she received the rank of captain before leaving service. We cannot remember when we first came to know Lillian -- certainly more than 20 years ago. She was politically active and we were not, but still our paths crossed. When we had created the community garden by St. Vincent's she used to come to gather herbs and flowers to take home to her elderly mother -- known affectionately to countless friends as "Ma." Ma seemed to many as more genteel than her sometimes tough-talking eldest, but in fact Ma had a character of steel behind the gentle exterior. Lillian was actually a pushover for anybody who was broke, hungry or in trouble. As with many Jewish emigres who escaped Czarist Russia, she seems to have grown up in America with a better-developed conscience for social reform than many of us have. Lillian Shapiro was a tireless and faithful supporter of Bella Abzug. Lillian and Bella shared some of the same characteristics -- they could both be abrasive, for instance; but we have always thought that in a world dominated by men, often of no particular talents, that women of such superior brain power have every right to be abrasive. There is no question that Lillian was a bossy lady. She was nearly everybody's Jewish mother. But one thing about Lillian was that you could disagree with her on issues, and while she would not back down from her stand, you could often detect her searching out a common ground of agreement in another area. And she never avoided you because of disagreement. We had several links to Lillian Shapiro. One came on the day she bluntly asked if we were not friends with a particular great star of the silent screen; we admitted that we were, and she explained that her interest lay in the fact that the star's young daughter had served in her Army unit. That daughter told us recently that she considered herself lucky to have had Lillian to boss her around, adding that she had prevented her from making "many youthful mistakes." Lillian Shapiro was a mother to many people. And then there is our happy Himalayan cat named Vladimir after a Moscow friend. Lillian loved to punch him gently, caress him, hug the endlessly purring mass, and call him familiarly, Volodya, rolling the vowels as we never can. And we shared her Russian love of wild mushrooms. Nearly four years ago there was a surprise 75th birthday party in our backyard; Bella and Martin Abzug and a great many others of those active in the Village political scene came to honor Lillian Shapiro. Lillian was happy. She announced that she would be back in our garden to celebrate her 85th. Before this past Christmas she suffered a major stroke, and although her good friend Evelyn Cahn summoned medical help immediately, Lillian lingered conscious and in coma through January, February, March, and as I was mailing the April newsletter in the next to last week of April, word came that Lillian Shapiro had set out on a journey far beyond earthly gardens and celebrations. Her friends are being asked to send donations to the Village Nursing Home in her memory.

THE NEWSPAPER RUSTLER HAS COME TO TOWN

This week before our meeting on the 26th will mark the fifth week that Villagers will have put their bundled newspapers out on Wednesday night for Thursday morning recycling pick-up, and they will have been taken quietly in the middle of the night by a private van owned by a trash dealer. This middle-of-the-night sweep has cut deeply into the amount collected by the City -- the tonnage is down sharply. On one level this is good. It proves that a market for trash newspaper exists beyond that found by the City. But on the other hand, it gives the City, which entered upon the recycling scene with great reluctance, an excuse to abandon all efforts in recycling on the ground that tonnage is down and citizens are not cooperating.

As a matter of fact, Villagers are cooperating vigorously, and at least one high rise house in the West Village is offering astonishing cooperation. This is 61 Jane Street which produces an absolute mountain of newspaper on Wednesday nights. Other large apartment houses are urged to look at 61 Jane Street's success and follow suit. But we must report that last week the Great Newspaper Rustler got that mountainous stash too -- not in one trip, but in several. The Rustler does one other thing which the City is not into yet -- he picks up bundles of slick magazines and telephone directories -- which means he has established some rather sophisticated contacts in his business -- very like Lyda McKenzie's Village Recyclers in their heyday. The Rustler comes through 11th, Bank, 12th, Jane, etc. in the vicinity of 3 or 4 A.M. We are asking that any person who sees the Rustler's van to report the license number back to us. It is absolutely essential that the City not use this rustling of newspaper as an excuse to abandon recycling. Please cooperate. Get us the license number of the Rustler's van.

We not only would like to see the City's minimal recycling efforts continued but expanded. And the sensible way of expanding, other than increasing the types of recycled materials, would logically be expansion into surrounding communities from communities such as the Village where recycling is in fact taking place. A next logical move would be expansion into SoHo, Tribeca or Chelsea, because many people in these communities have already participated in several Village efforts in recycling. This is a far better plan than jumping from one site to another within the City's borders, and then announcing that nobody is cooperating.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice
 "Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
 for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
 Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
 Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
 Mr. Crosland 929-0070
 Ms. Slatin 255-7066
 Ms. McCusker 929-5228
 Ms. Fisher 929-3169

June 1987

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

A HARD PUSH TO STOP THE INCINERATORS

During the month of June important legislation is being considered in Albany which would push recycling as a method of waste disposal and halt the building of incinerators. Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey is pushing for higher deposits on bottles and cans to give the purchaser even more reason to return his empties to the store; it is said that even the 5¢ deposit has cut back on solid waste garbage across the State as much as 8%. Manhattan Assemblyman Sheldon Silver has introduced legislation which would forbid the construction of any incineration plant "if there is a reasonable probability that it will throw off" dioxins into the air. We urge you to call the Governor's office, your State Senator's office, and your Assemblyman's office urging them to support such legislation. Ask them to make recycling mandatory under New York State law. We enclose a flyer prepared by NYPIRG listing legislators, telephones and street addresses. If you're too shy to phone, write a letter and get your friends to write. Make a campaign of it. And it must be done now because the legislature in Albany will close shop by the end of June.

Villagers have a tremendous stake in this matter. At one time the City considered a new giant incinerator at Gansevoort Street, then moved their plans up to Inwood. They have strong opposition in Inwood, and if that site is withdrawn, you may rest assured that they will come back to Greenwich Village. We do not only say, Not in Our Backyard, we say Not in Anybody's Backyard in heavily populated urban areas.

We do not have all the answers for disposing of solid waste, but an entire industry should be built around looking for better answers. What we do know is that by burning all solid waste together we create deadly toxins which would not otherwise exist. And what does not go off into the air is left as deadly ash requiring disposal. If you look to New Jersey, you will see that many counties there are far ahead of New York in waste disposal--many counties have made mandatory the recycling of newspaper, metal cans and glass. We have, however, in this State the leadership to do better than we have done.

During the years when we had a Gansevoort Incinerator, Lower Manhattan (including Greenwich Village) had the highest cancer-incidence rate in the country by far. Because of heavy auto traffic and pollution drifting from industrial New Jersey, we still have the highest rate although it is much reduced from incinerator days. But we don't need another one and we don't need Molinari's traffic diverted from Staten Island to Lower Manhattan. Write to Governor Cuomo and tell him so.

DID THE NEWSPAPER RUSTLER DIE -- OR READ OUR NEWSLETTER?

The waste truck which was stealing newspapers put out Wednesday nights for Sanitation Department recycling seems to have lessened his effort or even disappeared. It is illegal for anybody to remove anything put out for collection by the City and he could be prosecuted. If he appears again in the middle of the night stealing newspapers, please get his license number. We are fully in contact with the City on this matter.

JUNE IS THE LAST MEETING FOR THE SUMMER

We do not meet in July or August, although a Newsletter is mailed to cover both months. Meetings are resumed in September. We urge you to let us know in the near future whether you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, especially if we have not heard from you in several years. We will be revising and cutting our enormous mailing list over the summer.

Please discontinue mailing the Newsletter to me. NAME _____

Please continue mailing the Newsletter to me. ADDRESS _____

Return to West Village Committee, 304 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014

FORUM ON THE GENEVA ARMS TALKS

Congressman Ted Weiss has announced a forum discussion of the Geneva Arms Talks to be held in P.S. 41 Auditorium, 116 West 11th Street, on Monday June 22 beginning at 6:30 P.M. The forum is titled "The Geneva Arms Talks: Implications for the Future," and panelists will be Robert Einhorn, U.S. Department of State staff, and Dr. Morton H. Halperin, director of the Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union and author of "Nuclear Fallacy--Dispelling the Myth of Nuclear Strategy." Admission is free.

NEW PRODUCTION AT HB STUDIO

A new play by William Cobb, "A Place of Springs," is a new production scheduled by June 27 thru July 9 by the HB Playwrights Foundation, curtain at 8 P.M. For HB Studio regulars you know that admission is free but you must make reservations by calling 989-8540 between 11 and 5 P.M. and be in the auditorium 15 minutes before curtain. HB Studio is at 124 Bank Street.

If you feel generous from time to time, pick one of those times to make a contribution to the redesign of the Jane Street Garden or the repair of the fence around Abingdon Square. As you know, Abingdon Square is one of the oldest parks in the city and its fence one of the very oldest iron-work fences around. As for the Garden, it remains for now an open space in the upland area where we need open spaces, and open space on the waterfront is very much to be hoped for but the reality of it is somewhat dubious. The West Village Committee is registered as a volunteer corporation involved in community improvement and preservation so that all contributions are fully tax deductible. And your generosity will be deeply appreciated.

Name _____ Address _____

Contribution for

Jane Street Garden

Abingdon Square fence

STOPPING OVER-BUILDING ON THE WATERFRONT

The push is on in the City Council and in the Board of Estimate to use massive State funds to accomplish what the defeated Westway project could not -- massive landfill and platforms in the Hudson River, with rows of high rises for the rich while the homeless of the City remain ignored. We urge you to write immediately to City Council President Andrew Stein, at City Hall, telephone 669-7200; Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin, Municipal Building, telephone 566-0290; and Manhattan Boro President David Dinkins, Municipal Building, telephone 669-8300; PO zone number is 10007 for all. And write to your city council person too. Ask them to limit use of funds for this over-building of Manhattan. The Hudson River, as we have often said before, is a priceless open space; once the view of it is obliterated from our viewing, you will see a city constructed without taste or reason.

A NEW SERVICE FOR DUPLICATING IN THE AREA

We like to commend those who deserve it. We have been very pleased with the services of the new duplicating shop at 322 W. 11th Street, just west of Greenwich Street and downstairs. It is called DUPEPRINT COPY CENTER, and they do offset, xerox and typesetting. They have given us excellent service, and we are happy to welcome them to the neighborhood. If you're a little jaded with your current copy service with the boys playing hop-scotch in the back room while you cool your heels, try our new neighbor, DUPEPRINT.

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 23, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Incinerators; and plans for fund-raising drive for additional funds for repairing the Abingdon Square fence and for the Jane Street Garden; report on receipts from the Book Sale.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

July-August 1987

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

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McOusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE PARKS COUNCIL'S WEST SIDE WATERFRONT ESPLANADE DESIGN STUDY ON JULY 7TH

By invitation we attended a presentation of the West Side Waterfront Esplanade Design Study via the auspices of the Parks Council. The study was financed by the National Endowment in the Arts as well as from funds provided by the New York State Legislature. The presentation was made by the Parks Council's consultant, Steve Carr, of Carr-Lynch Associates in Boston.

Although Steve Carr asserted at the very beginning that the plan shown was not a design, it nevertheless had a lot of details for anything that was not a design. In this plan all historic streets are to be connected to the new highway so that there would be a crosswalk at each street to the river esplanade, which we have objected to elsewhere, and on which we have not given up the fight. The simple fact is that if all of our historic streets are connected, the burden of massive traffic will still fall on three streets -- Christopher, 11th and 12th Streets.

We are being told on one hand that we are getting a waterfront parkland not unlike Riverside, but in many respects it is very unlike the basically passive nature of Riverside. It is a little premature perhaps to be suggesting amphitheaters, bandshells, skating rinks, gardens, hills and dales, to say nothing of primeval forests on the Greenwich Village waterfront. Some of the most hideous plantings we have ever witnessed have allegedly been primeval, but more evil than prime.

An individual who has a business in Chelsea, but who lives in the Upper West Side insisted that interesting things should be placed in this parkland "to draw people to it." One wonders if he has ever witnessed the Village waterfront in high usage, and one wonders what he thinks draws people to his own Riverside Park. There certainly should be a lot of discussion before we get into the placement of amphitheaters or sports arenas on our waterfront at the behest of outsiders. Our greatest fear is perhaps a playland of ferris wheels or a real dodo of development like South Street Seaport.

One of the really objectionable elements of this non-design was floating swimming pools and docks, or structures on platforms. This is exactly what the City's Public Development Corporation would like to achieve -- only they want high-rise hotels and other massive structures. An esplanade with floating pools or platformed structures could only encourage the city to proceed with its own plan to environmentally damage the aquatic life of the Hudson.

Finally, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried spoke up and spoke sensibly. He said he thought the important thing was not this plan or any detailed plan, but that the Parks Council should be pushing for a designation of this waterfront land as public parkland. Tom Fox of Open Spaces heartily agreed. Only after that designation has been achieved do we spend public monies freely on designing this parkland by working closely with each Community Board involved. Right on!

We are prepared to seek help at the Federal level if the plan continues to connect streets in historic districts to the new highway. We urge you to write your objections to Governor Mario Cuomo at Albany, New York 12224, as well as use of any landfill, platforms or floating structure along the Hudson River. We have allowed enough destruction to our community. Fight back!

BLAME CONSUMER AFFAIRS -- AND COMPLAIN TO CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Department of Consumer Affairs recently granted a license to the Z-Deli at 581 Hudson Street to install a game of chance machine on the sidewalk, which is a disgusting and unnecessary piece of street furniture and should be removed at once. This is the same department that allowed the deli at No. 1 Abingdon Square to consume massive amounts of the sidewalk so that there is not now enough room for pedestrians, deli customers, baby carriages and wheelchairs to fit onto what little is left of the sidewalk (not to mention waiting bus riders when two busses park here). Consumer Affairs is trashing our neighborhood without any consultation with our Community Board. Write to Consumer Affairs at 80 Lafayette Street, NYC 10013. And send a copy to John LoCicero, City Hall, NYC 10007. Demand that Consumer Affairs stop the trashing now.

FUND-RAISING AND ALL THAT

We have not been exactly overwhelmed by funds pouring in to reclaim the Jane Street Garden and therefore we are tentatively scheduling a book sale fundraiser by the garden on Sunday, Sept. 20. Our regular book sale on 11th Street will be held in October on a date yet unspecified. But in addition to recovering the Jane Street Garden (which may be due for a name change), we are about to sign with an ironworker to replace the missing finials on the historic fence around Abingdon Square Park, undoubtedly one of the oldest cast iron fences extant in Manhattan. It will be a major undertaking, but since Abingdon Square is the heart of our community, that which Phelps Stokes calls "the last vestige of the original Greenwich Village" is worth preserving. We are awaiting approval to go ahead from Landmarks and the Art Commission. Jessie McNab and Eva Ettisch both came up with the idea that individuals might like to pay for one finial replacement in memory of a loved one. Forty-eight finials, with labor, will run us approximately \$136 each.

HISTORIC PLAQUE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Historic Plaque Committee is now scheduled to meet on the last Tuesday of this month at a time and place not fully decided at this time. Call Committee Richard Spiegel at 929-3169 if you wish to work with this committee.

We again urge you to recycle your newspapers tied in bundles not more than 12" high and placed a curb edge every Wednesday evening for Thursday pickup, rain or shine.

ENOUGH DOG MESS

Many of us were delighted years ago when State Senator Franz Leichter pushed through a bill in Albany requiring owners to clean up their pets' droppings. But many dog owners have gotten very casual again about their responsibility to the public as a whole, and some are even quite arrogant about it. At the same time, enforcement by the City has slackened. As the situation grows worse each day, the number of summonses issued each year are dramatically fewer. We have even had dog owners tell us that they deliberately guide their animals to street plantings and tree pits "because people are less likely to step there." That is not at all the point of the "Pooper-Scooper" law, the purpose of which was to protect human and canine health, as well as protecting plants from the exceedingly acid nature of canine waste. Good laws are useless unless they are enforced, and New York City is not enforcing the Pooper-Scooper Law. We see Sanitation Inspectors issuing summonses for dented garbage cans, cans with lids not closed quite tightly or for unbagged cardboard boxes and any other number of offenses. But no human child ever got roundworm eggs from a cardboard box. The scooper law is a good law. Enforce it!

GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET ALIVE AND WELL

The Gansevoort Greenmarket, managed by Barbara Fisher and co-sponsored by the West Village Committee with Council on the Environment, is open and well with fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh Montauk fish and baked goods every Saturday morning into November. If you want to keep this market going in the West Village, support it. Gansevoort is an organic market. The meat sold in this market is from organically grown animals. But the market needs your support if we are going to continue the effort of keeping it returning year-after-year. We are grateful to the police in the Sixth Precinct for looking into the market from time-to-time to discourage some of the prostitute druggie types from disrupting the market.

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to report belatedly the deaths of two prominent members.

Clifford V. M. Sutcliffe, Morton Street, passed away on October 29 of last year. A man of great dignity, curiosity and firm opinion, he was long concerned with the cultural life of Greenwich Village, and the preservation of our low-rise community and such features as the public parks which embellish our community. A man of learning and keen intelligence, Clifford Sutcliffe was well acquainted with the long history of Greenwich Village; his death is a distinct loss to the community.

Eugenia ("Genie") de Wilde, widow of Fritz and mother of Brandon, died at the beginning of Summer. A good neighbor and a constant fighter for her community, she ran a constant battle with the commercial entities in her block when they appropriated her garbage cans and filled them with trash. Her battle against the heavy traffic shunted unfairly by the City into historic West 11th Street was endless. She treasured the English boxwoods transplanted from her mother's house in Virginia and she gave us rooted cuttings from an extraordinary weeping variety of angel-wing begonia that had also been her mother's; and we in turn gave her a handsome dark-leafed begonia that we had from Ross Finney. These are the things we recall of this courageous woman: a neighborly sharing whether it was plants or pecan pie or blueberry muffins.

NEWSPAPER RUSTLER APPREHENDED

A person was arrested in June for stealing newspapers placed on the sidewalk to be recycled by the Sanitation Department. He will be tried under the provision of the law which forbids anyone removing any part of garbage put out for pick-up by Sanitation. We believe, however, that this man is not the only person involved, since we have had several calls from members reporting entire streets being swept clean of bundled newspapers prior to Sanitation pick-up. We have followed up these calls, either reporting to the Sanitation Department or notifying the police. Both Sanitation police and the Sixth Precinct have been asked to watch for poachers of bundled newspapers.

TRANVESTITE PROSTITUTION, DRUGS AND ROBBERY

The infestation of prostitution and hard drugs which has been part of our waterfront scene for two decades, and which has caused the city to officially list the waterfront at the foot of Christopher Street as a major drug-selling scene, has moved upland. We are now hearing a host of stories about transvestite prostitutes operating freely to the north at 11th and Washington, and as far east as Greenwich Street, but hitting all of the northern streets -- 11th, Bank, Bethune, 12th, Jane, Horatio, Gansevoort. The difference is that in proposing to sell "crack" to street customers, they are actually robbing them of everything they have. The victims, knowing they were part of what they thought was an unlawful drug purchase, out of fear, never file complaints. The reports of such incidences are mounting. If you have been such a victim, or if you have a friend who has been robbed, we beg you to file a complaint with the Sixth Precinct police. They are aware of a growing problem in this area, but they are also powerless to help unless you drop your fears and file proper complaints. Otherwise we are going to become a No-Man's Land with the human trash coming into our neighborhood pretending to sell drugs but actually to rob and maim, making it unsafe for almost anybody to be abroad at any hour of the day. If these "crack" dealer/prostitutes are using your stoop, vestibule or entry to waylay people, it is suggested that you scream loudly at them and call the police. They also prefer not to work under bright lights. Increase the wattage on the front of your house, and see that all of the bulbs are burning.



September 1987

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
 Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
 Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
 Mr. Crosland 929-0070
 Ms. Slatin 255-7066
 Ms. McCusker 929-5228
 Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 22, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Plans for a strategy to have streets in the Historic District disconnected from new West Side highway plan; the need for more bodies to become active in Committee projects; city agencies which do not answer their mail.

THE REPLACEMENT HIGHWAY APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE MAYOR

The replacement highway proposed by the West Side Task Force and recently approved by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Koch, brought words of approval from many elected officials in the City. It was particularly praised because it is a plan which includes a waterside esplanade, which we hope in the long run will become passive park space much like Riverside Park. It is true that it is time for a solution to be found. But we have not greeted the Cuomo approval with the same enthusiasm expressed by our elected officials quite simply because that plan connects all of the streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District to the new highway. The Task Force liked to say they were planning a street, whereas the old Westway plan had been eight lanes of moving traffic; the "city street" they planned is fed by the Brooklyn-Battery, Holland and Lincoln tunnels and what remains of the elevated West Side Highway. The traffic from midtown using 12th, 11th and 9th-Christopher Streets as shortcuts to and from a major highway is very damaging already to the Historic District. We want our streets cut off from access to the new highway, and we will need people to man tables, to get their neighbors to write letters, folks to set the battle in motion. And we want support from our elected officials. We want Greenwich Village to survive. We will be delighted to work with other Village groups toward this end.

LANDMARK HEARING ON 14TH STREET BANKS

A hearing has been scheduled by the Landmarks Preservation Commission to consider designation of Manufacturers Hanover Bank, 79 8th Ave. and the old New York Bank for Savings, 81 8th Av., as landmarks. The hearing is set for Room 610, 51 Chambers St., 9:30 A.M. on Tues. Sept. 15. The magnificent interior of 81 8th will be considered for landmarking also. Letters in support of landmarking may be mailed to the Commission at 20 Vesey St., NYC 10007. But a good turn-out of neighbors would be helpful. The only place the Greenwich Village Historic District touches 14th Street is the southeast corner of 8th Ave.

JANE STREET GARDEN BENEFIT

On Sunday, Sept. 20, the West Village Committee will hold a Book/White Elephant sale beside the Jane Street Garden, Jane and 8th Ave., 11 A.M. till dusk. We will need physical help to set up and to sell. We have a 25-year lease/rental with the city for this property to create an open space and re-establish a garden. Donations to the West Village Committee are fully deductible.

THE SIDEWALK GAME MACHINES AND NO. 1 ABINGDON SQUARE

One sidewalk game machine is gone from Hudson Street, but they have reproduced elsewhere in great numbers adding to ugly commercial sidewalk clutter. Consumer Affairs has not seen fit to reply to our complaint, so we don't know if they have an opinion of the legitimacy of this street trash. Stephen Temmer points out that No. 1 Abingdon Square has a violation against it from Landmarks for moving a door location without permission. And he also points out that Consumer Affairs has laid several violations on No. 1 Abingdon, but even if they were to correct the violations, they have created an allowable mess on historic Abingdon Square. Our advice is that if a shop offends, don't patronize it.

VILLAGE WRITERS PROGRAM AT HUDSON PARK LIBRARY

The Hudson Park Library is continuing its highly successful "Village Writers Meet Their Neighbors" program, 66 Leroy Street off 7th Avenue South on the following Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30 P.M.: Sept. 24, Tony Buttitta, "F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Birthday Memoir"; Oct. 8, Grace Paley, "The Short Story According to Paley"; Oct. 22, Kathleen Rockwell Lawrence, "Getting the First Novel Published"; November 12, Centennial of Marianne Moore, A Celebration; December 10, Pauline Glen Winslow, "Writing Mystery Novels." In addition, the library's current Saturday afternoon (2 P.M.) film program is devoted to Murder and Mayhem, with the following schedule: Sept. 12, M, the Fritz Lang classic starring Peter Lorre; Sept. 19, another Fritz Lang starring Gary Cooper and Lilli Palmer, Cloak and Dagger, and Sept. 26, Hitchcock's The Man Who Knew Too Much. Both lecture and film programs are free.

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE BOOK SALE SET FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

The regular West Village Committee autumn book sale, by which we pay our bills and make community improvements, is set for Sunday, October 18 with a rain date of Sunday, October 29. If you have books or white elephants to donate, let us know. Please do not leave boxes of books or white elephants outside our headquarters door on 11th Street as they will only be stolen or used to litter the street. Call Bill Bowser or Richard Spiegel if you have books to donate.

operate with... recycling effort. Tie in stacks no more than 12" high and place at curb every Wednesday night. Newsprint and plastics incinerated together release dioxins into the air.

CRIME FROM THE WATERFRONT

For those of us who attended the Rally Against Crime from the Waterfront on August 29 in Bleecker Playground, the wonder is only that it has taken the people so long to rally against the human trash and plain criminal elements which have to a very large degree taken over our entry-ways, our stoops and our streets. The drug dealers at the foot of Christopher Street and elsewhere on our historic waterfront should be dealt with as severely as the law allows; they are menace to any community where they elect to do business. And the same may be said for the increasing transvestite weapon-carrying prostitute population who are now invading the side streets to rob and maim. There is yet another element mixed in all of this, the jobless homeless who are innocents in a harsh world and frequently victims of prey themselves; and then the mentally disturbed, who were turned out of State hospitals years ago by cold-faced officialdom, to migrate to metropolitan areas to fend for themselves. Barbara Fisher attended the rally officially for WVC, and spoke of doing positive things such as placing brighter lights on the front of houses and joining in programs like Project Identification; the latter involves using an electric stencil to engrave an identifying number on your valued possessions such as stereos, TVs, etc. You can also place a sticker on your apartment door indicating that your possessions are registered with Project Identification. Any member who would like to join in this program should call Barbara Fisher; she will explain it to you in more detail, and you may arrange to borrow the electric Dremel engraver. What we have on the waterfront today is the result of 30 years of limbo, our reward for fighting off Zeckendorf and then Westway. We need more than simply more police; we probably need a special task force to drive the transient criminal elements out of the West Village. And homes and job programs for the homeless, not sleeping cots in institutions. And hospital care for the mentally ill who cannot care for themselves.

THE FUTURE OF THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET

The Gansevoort Greenmarket, open on Saturday mornings into November, has lost a measureable number of its patrons, and we have received continuing complaints over the lack of variety offered in fruits and vegetables. At the height of the corn season, for instance, there was only one farmer with corn and that of regrettable quality, although we are now at the end the corn season, other sources of corn have appeared. And there is one apple man. We are asked every market Saturday by patrons, What is happening to our West Village market? If you want this market in Gansevoort Street to continue, we suggest that you put your complaints in writing to Barry Benepe, Greenmarket, 130 East 16th Street, New York, NY 10003. We sponsored this market out of an effort to serve the community, and from inception it has placed additional heavy tasks upon our members. In the early years, these extra duties fell upon Eva Ettisch and in late years upon Barbara Fisher. Still the Gansevoort Market has many plus factors. It is an organic market from the vegetables down to the meat truck, and organic farmers are not easily come by. The criticism of the corn supply is justified, but there actually is a great variety offered in vegetables including some exotics in addition to fish, meat, fruit, and live and cut flowers. But if you are one of the many people who have complained to us verbally, consider that we have been told. If you want Gansevoort to continue and to be improved, we urge you to let Greenmarket Headquarters know of your complaints -- in writing.

NEWSPAPER RUSTLER'S LICENSE NUMBER REPORTED TO SANITATION DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday evening, August 26, a call came from a prominent resident in Westbeth reporting that a person with his station-wagon stashed full of bundled newspapers, was taking the newspapers put out at Westbeth for Sanitation recycling pick-up. She requested that he stop and the man threatened to sue her if she interfered further with his thievery. She called to report his New York State license number, which we in turn reported to Sanitation/Recycling. It is very important at this point in the City's recycling efforts that waste dealers not be allowed to steal the bundled newspapers placed at the sidewalk edge Wednesday nights for Sanitation pick-up. Any unauthorized person stealing these newspapers, is in violation of the Sanitation Code #S12, Subdivision 755(2)7.0(7)B, described as Unauthorized Removal of Refuse, and carrying a penalty of \$250. One person has already been taken to court under violation of this section of the code. We congratulate the alertness of our members on this issue, and we look forward to continuing cooperation.

THE EXPANSION OF RECYCLING

The expansion of the City's recycling effort from its pilot project in Greenwich Village will begin on October 22 when the effort will reach down as far as Broome Street in SoHo; in November, Chelsea will be added to the newspaper recycling effort. Newspaper recycling will also begin in a section of the Bronx. In our October newsletter we will detail precisely where in SoHo and Chelsea those communities will be served, in time to reach our members in these areas. At present newspapers are the only material being collected. Please do not include glossy magazines or telephone directories with your stacks of newspapers. We thank Jessie McNab, Royce Rowe and Anthony Gattullo and others for keeping a sharp eye on newspaper poachers. But we would like to remind the City that Enforcement must follow up on auto license tips we turn in.

"UNCLE EZRA" GREENBERG

Ezra Greenberg, 299 West 12th Street, "Uncle Ezra" to hundreds, and a genuine character of the West Village neighborhood, suffered a heart attack and died quietly in St. Vincent's, at the ripe age of 94.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community for More Than a Quarter Century"

October 1987

- Mr. Bowser 243-0762
- Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
- Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
- Mr. Crosland 929-0070
- Ms. Slatin 255-7066
- Ms. McCusker 929-5228
- Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: The campaign to have streets within the Greenwich Village Historic District cut off from access to the newly planned West Side Highway.

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE BOOK SALE SET FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Our regular autumn Book Sale on 11th Street between Hudson and Greenwich Streets is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 11 A.M. until dusk. We depend upon the revenue of this autumn sale to cover our long period of costs through winter into summer when we have a June book sale. The revenue covers rent, postage, printing and community improvements, and is absolutely vital to a community service organization without a membership fee. If you have books or white elephants to donate to this sale, please call Bill Bowser or Richard Spiegel. Please do not leave boxes of books or white elephants ever outside our headquarters on 11th Street as they will be stolen or used to litter the street. The sale is also a time for voluntary contributions if you feel generous, and voluntary physical help in conducting the sale will be greatly appreciated.

THE PROCESS TOWARDS DISCONNECTING HISTORIC STREETS HAS BEGUN

On a separate sheet we have reproduced our protests to various Federal and State agencies over the plan to connect all streets in the Historic District to the new West Side Highway. We need your help. Originally the mouths of these streets were opened "temporarily" to accommodate delivery of building materials for the interim highway. They quickly became fast detours to and from midtown. Obviously a complete regional Mass Transit System is the answer to most of our traffic problems, but we are at the moment required to deal with a highway that threatens not only Christopher, 11th and 12th Streets, but the community itself. You cannot destroy these streets without taking neighboring streets with them. We herewith reproduce a letter from the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an immediate reaction to our letters of protest. The process has begun. We need letters from groups, elected officials and from individuals to the agencies indicated on the enclosed sheet. It has taken centuries to build this historic community. It can be destroyed in a matter of weeks and months with heavy traffic and it will never be recovered. Please help.

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation SEP 28 1987

The Old Post Office Building 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #809 Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Victor E. Taylor Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building Ninth Floor Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Taylor:

We have received a letter (copy enclosed) from the West Village Committee, who is concerned that the Federal Highway Administration's plans to connect streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District to the new West Side Highway may have an adverse effect on the historic district, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. As you know, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations (36 CFR 800) require the Federal agency in charge of a project to take into account the effects of their undertakings on significant historic properties.

Increased traffic flow could result in an adverse effect to an historic district by altering the property's character and diminishing the integrity of the historic district, or through the introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements out of character with the district's setting.

Could you please provide us with information on the status of any plans to connect local Greenwich Village streets to the new highway, including copies of any correspondence with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer regarding this matter?

We look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please call Tom McCulloch at (FTS) 786-0505.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Don L. Klima Chief, Eastern Division of Project Review

Enclosure

SAVE THE

GREENWICH VILLAGE

HISTORIC DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY DEMONSTRATION AGAINST COLISEUM TOWER

The Municipal Art Society will hold a demonstration on Sunday, October 18 to protest the proposed Coliseum Tower. Demonstrators are asked to be at the Bandshell in Central Park at 12 Noon sharp equipped with black umbrellas. The plan is to line the demonstrators along the shadow path of the proposed tower with open black umbrellas. We will be busy with our Book Sale fund-raiser, but we urge those of you who are free to join in the Society's protest on this obviously inappropriate structure. Not only is it a prime example of overbuilding, but such hideous mistakes as this proposed tower in Columbus Circle are proof positive that all real planning of the city as a molded whole is a lost art. It is unfortunate that we have a conflicting event, because we are convinced that we must support each other on such issues. So please go to this demonstration and buy a book on your way home!

CITY RECYCLING PROGRAM EXPANDS INTO SOUTH VILLAGE/SOHO

We announced in our September Newsletter that City Recycling would expand into South Village/SoHo areas of Greenwich Village in October. We are pleased to reproduce herewith the Sanitation Department's map showing precisely which streets will have the benefit of curbside recycling beginning Thursday, October 22. We do this to accommodate our members in the expansion area. Those people working on the City's recycling program have generally moved intelligently with their efforts. New recycling areas have been created. But even more important perhaps has been the expansion from neighborhoods like the West Village where the late Lyda McKenzie proved 20 years ago that recycling could succeed in New York City. Unfortunately she died thinking that the City had not gotten her message.

On a personal note we wish to thank Patricia Feldsteel, Jane Street, for promptly reporting a newspaper rustler at work on 299 West 12th Street's curbside newspaper deposit.

In November there is a plan for expanding recycling into Chelsea, our good neighbor to the North, and we expect to reprint that expansion map in our November Newsletter. In the meantime, if you are not now recycling your newspapers, please join in the City effort. The burning of newsprint and plastics together is a major producer of dioxins, and is one of the waste monsters of our age.

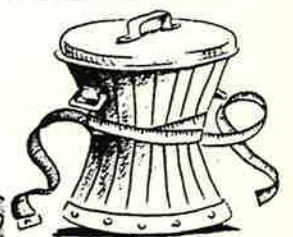
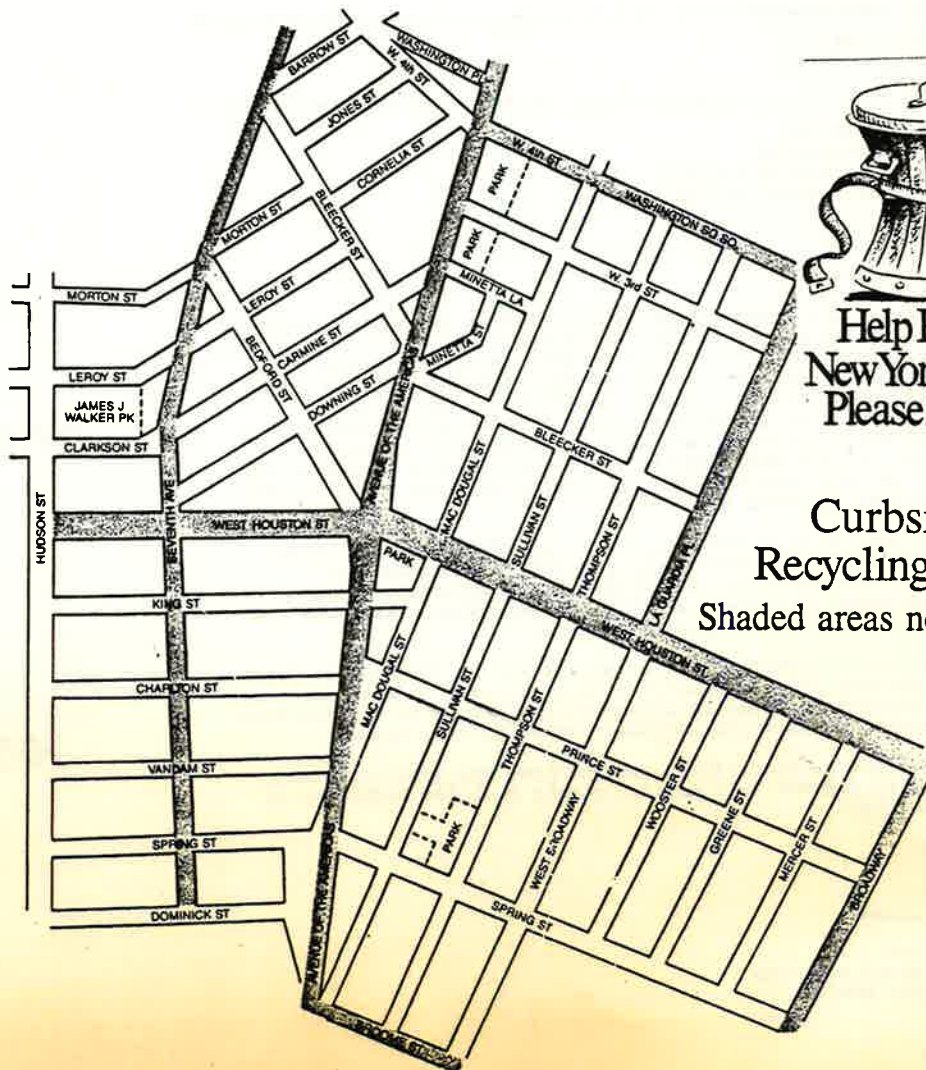
On Thursday, October 22, recycling starts in your neighborhood.

If you live within the area of this map, you're going to be part of the Curbside Recycling Program starting October 22. (The program does not cover commercial establishments, just residential buildings.)

Starting that day, do not throw out newspapers with your regular trash. They will be picked up on a separate day by special recycling trucks. (As a matter of fact you can start saving newspapers ahead of time for your first pickup day.)

Your neighborhood Recycling Pickup Day will be every Thursday, rain or shine.

On any holiday or snow-emergency day that there is no regular garbage pick-up by the Sanitation Department, there will be no pick-up of newspapers for recycling. In that case, your bundled papers for recycling will be picked up on Thursday of the following week.

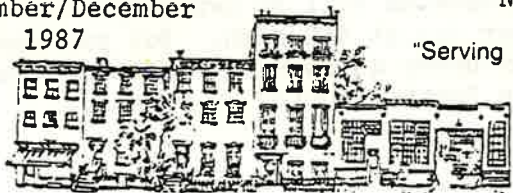


Help Reduce
New York's Waste.
Please Recycle.

Curbside
Recycling Area
Shaded areas not included.

November/December
1987

NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tues., Nov. 24

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: St. John's, 224 Waverly Pl.

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

WHEN ANCIENT BUILDINGS COLLAPSE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE

The tragic collapse of 177 Sullivan Street, perhaps as a result of dubious renovation practice, resulting in death, injury and destruction of a handsome structure across the street from the landmarked Sullivan Gardens enclave, should make many of us reflect once again upon the wisdom of allowing the City to drive major traffic flows down our fragile side streets. Many of us recall how years ago houses on Greenwich Street crumbled into the street from what was then attributed to traffic vibrations. The vacant lot still stands. Those who own or reside in many West Village houses can attest to the fact that heavy traffic has cracked interior ceilings or basement walls or facades. The houses actually tremble as the rumble of traffic passes on Christopher, 11th, 12th, Bank, Bethune, Jane, Horatio, etc. And yet the State and City persist in their intent to connect all side streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District to the newly planned West Side "waterfront boulevard."

Community Board 2's performance in this regard is quite good inasmuch as they have recognized the fragility of our predominant early 19th Century buildings -- probably the largest extant collection of any community in the country. Two resolutions from the Environment Committee in 1984 vouch for this recognition. And still the bad judgment of ill-trained work crews continues to destroy our historic community. And still our small side streets, already greatly damaged by heavy traffic, are planned to be adjuncts to the new West Side Highway, a last chance to exit into the West Side Corridor before getting into the mad world of Canal Street and Holland Tunnel traffic. And now evidently narrow residential Greenwich Street is to be added to the use of heavy traffic flowing from the Holland Tunnel.

There is no answer to our problems here except for a regional mass transit system, and we can scarcely expect a state government which has cast its mentally ill into the streets and which cannot seem to deal with the massive homeless population to do anything reasonable in this matter. So long as as many cars want to come into the City are welcomed in the City, you will have destruction of neighborhoods and no decent mass transit system because finding room for private cars will have to be the greater priority.

WE AGREE WITH MAYOR KOCH ON THE MENTALLY ILL

We agree with Mayor Koch in his campaign to have the mentally ill removed from the streets and cared for in hospitals. During Governor Carey's administration, the State turned out thousands of patients from mental institutions on the theory that they could maintain themselves with medication. They nearly all migrated to the big cities because you can't get far begging in the open countryside. It was a false premise that these mental patients would voluntarily go to locally set up clinics to obtain therapy and medication. And New York State was not the only state to abandon its mentally ill. But the results of the casting out have been a disgrace.

There is a young woman in the West Village for example who has gained some fame because of her habit of arriving on your stoop in the bright daylight hours, stripping herself starkers and relieving all of her bodily functions upon your stoop in quantity and then performing a sort of naked ballet in the street, mumbling self-deprecating comments, and suddenly dressing quicker than a flash when the police cruiser enters the block. She is known in Jane, Bank, 14th and perhaps other streets. The police are incredibly kind to this poor ill homeless creature. The mentally ill have most often been held against their own will, and it has most often been for their own well-being.

Of course the mentally ill are only part of the homeless population; some have quite simply lost jobs and their apartments. With a little help, many of these can take care of themselves. We have known a number of jobless, homeless living in our parks who have not had a problem with alcohol or drugs, and who have since gotten jobs and new homes. These are the ones who do deserve help from the City with affordable housing, or perhaps even a major effort should be made to reclaim the South Bronx as decent housing along with some Work Equity and some companies induced to set up factories there to provide work. It should also help to recover that blighted area.

CHRISTMAS TREES TO BE SOLD BY THE JANE STREET GARDEN

We have made an arrangement with a Christmas tree merchant to have his merchandise sold outside the Jane Street Garden starting early in December, and for this he has promised a substantial contribution to the garden. We would be very grateful if you would buy your tree from him as he has been very considerate in his negotiations with us.

ED HUBERT

We regret to report the sudden death of Ed Hubert at the end of Summer. Ed had lived with his wife, Lee, for many years in Westbeth. He had had a long career with the Board of Education, leaves many friends in the community and was a good friend of the West Village Committee.

THE ABINGDON SQUARE FENCE

We have heard nothing from the Parks Department since July when we made a concrete proposal to pay for the repair of the historic fence around Abingdon Square Park. Keep the faith!

Christmas wreaths will be available this year by December 8th at \$12 each. But you should place your order as soon as possible. There will be no further notice on wreaths.

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING COMES TO CHELSEA EVERY TUESDAY

As we indicated in the October Newsletter, Chelsea, our good neighbor to the North, was set to be serviced by City Recycling in November. The first pick-ups of newspapers in Chelsea came on Tuesday, November 17. Over the years we have seen our Chelsea friends bringing their newspapers to recycling depots in the Village, and we are delighted to see that healthy community at last being served by the city in this respect. We understand that at this point no more neighborhoods are to be added to the recycling program this year, but next year will not only see additional communities added, but those already being served will begin recycling other materials -- metals and glass. The main difference now between the Chelsea and Village newspaper recycling programs is that pick-ups in Chelsea as indicated on the diagram below will be on Tuesdays; the Village will continue to have pick-ups on Thursdays. It is vital that every citizen join in this effort to cut back on incinerated waste.

In the past year of successful recycling by the City in the Village, one of the continuing problems we have dealt with has been the theft of newspapers by waste dealers. One particular newspaper rustler has been reported to us repeatedly. The Sanitation Police say they must catch him in the act. So hereafter if you see a waste dealer stealing newspapers, we urge you to call this number for a radio dispatch of police -- 212-566-4544.

**Manhattan
Chelsea
Curbside
Recycling Area**

Shaded areas not included.

If you live within the area of this map, you're going to be part of the Curbside Recycling Program starting November 17. (The program does not cover commercial establishments, just residential buildings.)

Your neighborhood Recycling Pickup Day will be every Tuesday, rain or shine.

On any holiday or snow-emergency day that there is no regular garbage pick-up by the Sanitation Department, there will be no pick-up of newspapers for recycling. In that case, your bundled papers for recycling will be picked up on Tuesday of the following week.



This diagram reproduced for the benefit of our members in Chelsea. Citizens living on the North/South avenues will not be served with City Recycling pick-ups. But you may carry your papers a short distance around to the side streets for curbside pick-up on Tuesdays.

ANNUAL PARTY ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

Our By-Laws require that an annual party be held each year to celebrate the survival of the West Village community from the threat of Urban Renewal. It is a way of recalling and paying tribute to Jane Jacobs who founded us and a host of other activists who joined her efforts. The party this year is set for 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 8 in St. John's Church Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Place. It will be a full course dinner and the charge will be \$10 per person. Sweet cider will be provided for the children; if you want wine, we suggest that you provide your own favorite and share it with a neighbor. We must have notification by December 1 that you plan to attend so that we know how many birds to roast and hams to bake.

If you plan to attend the annual West Village Committee dinner party on December 8 at \$10 per person, please indicate how many will be in your party and enclose appropriate check:

Number of persons _____ Name _____ Telephone _____

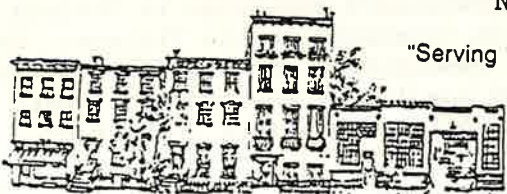
If you wish to buy West Village Committee Christmas wreaths at \$12 each, please indicate how many, your name and telephone number so that we may tell you where they may be picked up.

Number of wreaths _____ Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Return to West Village Committee, 304 w. 11th Street, New York, N.Y. 10014

Give thanks for Thanksgiving, have a happy Chanukah, a merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

January 1988

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

Meeting Date: Tues., January 26, 1988 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Update on the NYS Solid Waste Management Plan;

The proposed Legal Action against the Port Authority's Morton Street tower buildings planned as PATH tunnel escape hatch on the waterfront;
The continuing campaign for disconnecting streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District from the newly planned highway.

WVC RECEIVING FUNDS IN PREPARATION FOR A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE PORT AUTHORITY

The Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront is considering a suit against the Port Authority for planning to build a twin-tower escape hatch five stories high on the waterfront at the foot of Morton Street. The Federation is engaging the same law firm which most recently won a court decision against the Columbus Circle Coliseum Tower. In the case of the waterfront at the foot of Morton Street, several issues are involved: the ignoring of coastal management concerns, environmental issues, and zoning. The PA has contended all along that placing the escape hatch entirely underground would cost vastly more money than bringing it five stories above ground. Perhaps their concern about not being spendthrifts was part of the reason they allowed Pier 40 to fall into rot and ruin. But the issue here is preservation of the Village Waterfront for construction of a waterside esplanade promised by both City and State officials. It is a lasting regret that when the Greenwich Village Historic District was created it did not include everything west to the Hudson River. This is the area where the original "Greenwich" was located, and this community has forever been linked to its waterfront; in the heyday of great ocean liners, Greenwich Village was the famous "Deep Port" of the City. Incidentally, during the period when an historic district was being considered, our founder Jane Jacobs wrote several letters to the Landmarks Commission insisting that the District should extend to the Hudson River; these letters still exist in the files of the LPC. Because such a suit is concerned with preservation, and because West Village enjoys a good tax deductible status, the Federation requested that we receive funds in anticipation of such a suit on their behalf. We have agreed to act in that capacity. Checks in support of this lawsuit should be made to The West Village Committee Inc., and marked in the corner for "Federation" or "Waterfront."

Winning this issue at the foot of Morton Street is very important in the minds of many people who fear that if such construction can be placed directly on the waterfront at the foot of Morton, that it will open the entire Village waterfront to a wall of construction. After all, these gigantic interstate agencies such as the Port Authority with dictatorial powers often seem to feed and encourage some in-state agencies with dictatorial powers such as the Urban Development Corporation. Most of all, don't treat this issue as a Not In My Back Yard event; that waterfront is your front yard, and while you may live on a different street than Morton, given time and the powers-that-be, you may end up with a monster at the end of your street which will dwarf the Morton Street towers. The test is now. The time to act is now.

PUBLIC MEETING ON REVISED DEC PLAN FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

There will be a public meeting on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7 P.M. in 2 World Trade Center. Room 5890, to hear public opinion on the revised New York State Department of Environmental Conservation dealing with waste management throughout New York State. We will discuss this at our meeting, but urge as many people as possible to attend. Basic objections to the plan are: there is still no mandating of recycling, no proper budget allocations, supports dozens of incinerators to be constructed across the State, and declines to regard ash as hazardous waste. Please attend.

WE AGREE WITH MAYOR KOCH ON MCDONALDS AND STYROFOAM

We have sometimes disagreed with Mayor Koch on issues, but feel he is absolutely right in objecting to the styrofoam throw-away packaging used by the McDonalds food chain. Styrofoam may well be one of the man-made products helping to destroy the ozone layer around the outer atmosphere of the Earth. It is certainly one of the most common substances littering our streets. We hope the Mayor's objection and McDonalds negative response will lead to a banning of styrofoam from the City. We would not be unhappy if they also banned McDonalds.

HAVE YOU FAILED TO WRITE THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL?

If you have not yet written to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to demand that all streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District be disconnected from the new West Side Highway, please do so. If you have lost information on where to write and to whom, please call us.

OUR PRINTER HAS MOVED

Some months ago we mentioned in our Newsletter that Dupeprint Inc. did much of our duplicating, and that we had always been pleased with the courtesy and service offered there, and a number of people called to thank us and to say that they were also pleased. Dupeprint, once at 322 W. 11th St. (just west of Greenwich St.) has moved across the street to 321 W. 11th St.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

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

Recycling of newspapers continues in Chelsea on Tuesdays and on Thursdays in the Village. Residents in both communities are asked to cooperate and place tied bundles of newspapers at curb edge the night before to assure pick-up.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN

For the record, the West Village Committee has spent well over \$2,200 this past year in bringing the southwest corner of 8th Avenue and Jane Street back to a garden state. But the actual total expenditure, including materials and plants donated by workers in the garden may well run the total amount spent to nearly double that. We agreed to "recover" the Jane Street Garden as a positive gesture, even though we were rather rudely received by some Jane Street residents. But there were other surprises also -- a sidewalk around the Garden which could pass for a topographic map of the Rocky Mountains and a constant flow of commercial and private garbage dumping on the sidewalk surrounding the Garden making this strip of 8th Avenue and this block of Jane between 8th Avenue and Hudson Street in the opinion of many people the filthiest strip in all of Greenwich Village. The constant flow of garbage comes from residents and commercial business on 8th Avenue and from residents in this block of Jane Street. No other street is as filthy because no other street would tolerate such a mess, and we are getting more than a little tired of having to bag unbagged garbage and clean the sidewalk and gutter sometimes several times a day. We know who some of the offenders are, and we have turned them in to the Sanitation Department and we will do so again. But it would be nice and helpful if the people who live here could begin to police their own street filth-wise. The usual excuse given is to blame the filth on the winds which sometimes pass this corner. The wind has never created filth. People create filth. We came to create a garden once again, and as a not-for-profit service organization to perform a civic duty in an area in which we are well-versed. But we are not indentured servants. We are tired of discarded mattresses or sofas leaning against the fence, of cartons of empty wine bottles, of unbagged paper plates and napkins from restaurants, napkins and coffee cups from charity, and endless private garbage. To say nothing of a constant deposit of dog waste at the base of the fence around the garden and the arrogance of the woman from this block who daily flings seed across the garden to feed the pigeons -- and the pigeons in turn do tremendous harm to the garden. These are some of the things which give us pause to wonder if our Jane Street Garden Recovery Program has not been a mistake. We will be giving this matter very serious thought in the next few weeks.

GUIDELINES ON CHIMNEY SAFETY

The first frost each season brings out displays of window insulating tape at the hardware stores and great mounds of wood at the grocers or hawked from the back of pick-ups parked at "likely" corners. Greenwich Village, the same militant community that keeps fighting the return of the Department of Sanitation incinerator on the waterfront, abounds with working fireplaces in 19th century brownstones, renovated loft buildings and new constructions. There is true rental value in a working fireplace to landlords, and sales value to developers and homeowners. There is romance in flames leaping upward on frosty nights spent a deux.

There is also danger of fire if chimneys haven't been cleaned or lined appropriately. There is danger of toxics released into the air when paper, wood and the miscellaneous "other" that's been hurled into the grating ignites.

Lenore Norman, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the Department of Buildings, graciously supplied The West Village Committee with that Department's Subchapter 15 "Chimneys and Gas Vents," and researched for us the ruling on the older buildings that isn't written into this code. Buildings constructed before 1918 are not required to line the chimneys. However, if a chimney is leaking smoke, the break should be repaired and if the owner opts to line the chimneys, there are specific guidelines for materials that must be used, for the thickness of the lining and the height of liners and chimneys. Readers who would like a copy of Subchapter 15 can obtain it from The West Village Committee for \$1 (the cost of reproducing) and a stamped self-addressed envelope. The guidelines are clear and include information about chimneys, chimney connectors, responsibilities of a taller building to an older adjoining building, gas vent systems and connectors, allowable materials and equipment not required to be vented.

--Barbara Fisher

A WORD OF THANKS

to Arthur Bond, Anne Slatin, Judy McCusker, Barbara Steinberg, Eliza Bradley, Thomas Slatin, Thomas Perry, Barbara Fisher, Gwen Marx and Richard Spiegel for helping with the annual party in December. Apologies for any names missed, but it is a hectic evening for all of us. To Jimmie Shaw in San Francisco, you missed a good feed, but that's the price you pay for moving!

OUR MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING

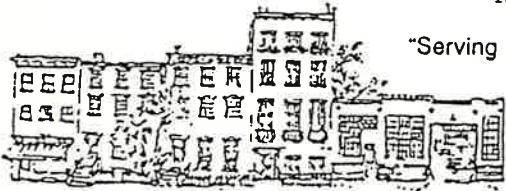
but we have not heard from many of you in a long while, either through complaint, compliment or contribution, we would appreciate hearing from any who would like to be dropped from the mailing list. We feel constant pressure to cut back on postage costs, especially now that there is a hard push within the Post Office to raise first class to 25¢. So if you are about to move to the West Coast or Lisbon or Cairo next week, let us know that you won't be needing a Newsletter and Meeting Notice.

[] Please discontinue mailing the Newsletter to me. NAME _____

[] Please continue mailing the Newsletter to me. ADDRESS _____

Return to The West Village Committee, 304 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014

NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

February 1988

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 23, 1988 at 7:30 P.M.
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Pl.
Agenda: Reports on latest NYS plans on Solid Waste Management
and success in supporting an Upper West Side group
in landmarking five low-rise buildings on Central
Park West;
The latest word on the proposed suit against the pro-
posed PATH towers at the foot of Morton Street;
Sponsoring works of art in Greenwich Village.

This is a greatly abbreviated newsletter because the computer is down, the Smith Corona printer is back at Smith Corona for repairs, the envelopes have been hand-typed, and Ye Olde Editor has Jury Duty.

However, we are still collecting contributions toward a probable lawsuit against the Port Authority for planning to build 5-storey high towers at the foot of Morton Street at the request of the Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront.

In addition, we stand by our resolve to have streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District disconnected from the replacement highway planned along the Hudson. There is no better way to destroy this community than to continue to drive unending masses of traffic through fragile side streets -- Christopher, 11th and 12th Streets -- the answer to developers' dreams. Countless small communities across this country have been divided and destroyed when the interstate drove down Main Street. A splendid waterfront esplanade is nothing if you have only a divided and mutilated community behind it.

We are grateful to those members who have sent generous contributions. We could only hope that more members will continue to do so.

At the March 22nd meeting we will elect new officers for the Committee. Nominations will be allowed at the February meeting so that a ballot may be made up for the March meeting with space for write-ins and privacy in voting.



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

March 1988

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

Meeting Date: Tues., March 22 at 7:30 P.M.
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.
Agenda: The importance of working with other civic groups in the City;
vote on the election of officers.

THE MORTON STREET TOWERS AND OTHER ISSUES

The five-storey twin towers threatened to be built by the Port Authority as escape hatches continue to occupy the time and gobble up the money of a number of dedicated citizens. Just talking to lawyers and engineers in preparation for a lawsuit is said to be consuming around \$500 per week. Until the Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront and Great Port has clearly established a legal tax deductible status, we will continue to act as a deductible pass-through to pay the lawyers. In addition, we have learned that they plan a huge waterfront festival on June 11 to raise big money and public awareness of the need to preserve our historic waterfront. They will need help and cooperation for this event, and we will be in touch with the Federation. As our main sale commodity is thousands of books, it will probably be impossible to move them to and from the waterfront, but we will make every attempt to schedule our book sale, by which we pay a very large part of our expenses, not to interfere with the event on the waterfront. We are extremely grateful to all those members who have sent funds for the lawsuit, and to those who remember that the Committee has continuing expenses as well.

APPEALING THE CITY'S LATEST EVALUATION ON YOUR PROPERTY

We have had many inquiries lately from hard-pressed brownstone owners wanting to know the procedure to follow to object to some of the astonishing increases levied by the City upon their properties. We usually refer all such inquiries to the Association of Village Homeowners, inasmuch as we are not specialists in property ownership, but a mixed bag of tenants and owners. If you have a problem in this area, we suggest you call Miriam Lee of Village Homeowners, who has been dealing with such problems for many years. Mrs. Lee is at 989-0003.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN LIVES ON

But we need some physical help to dig up the back part of it to get the rubble out and get some peat moss dug in. Any strong bodies who would like to volunteer on any clear Saturday at 10 in the morning will be welcomed. Call Jean Crawford at 691-4348 or Bill Bowser at 243-0762 if you wish to volunteer. We will have another fund-raiser by the garden in late Spring or early Summer to gather more on the fund to bring a water supply directly into the garden. And inasmuch as the the \$50 monthly rental of this small space continues forever, all contributions are gratefully received and are fully tax deductible.

REPAIR OF THE ABINGDON SQUARE PARK FENCE

We believe that progress is being made in dealing with the Parks Department in relation to our offer to pay for the repair of the antique cast iron fence around the Village's oldest public park. We have offered at the same time to pay for the trimming and feeding of the plane trees in the park. And we may soon revive our customary cleaning of this park.

WE SPONSOR AN ART WORK IN THE 8TH AVENUE/WEST 14TH SUBWAY STOP

Under the Metropolitan Transit Authority's "Arts in Transit Program," the West Village Committee has agreed to act a sponsor for a 96 foot long painting proposed for the IND/8th Avenue stop at 14th St. The work is by Ross Lewis, a young artist living in the Meat Market. We should know by early Summer whether Mr. Lewis' work has been chosen by the selection committee. We will have a copy of the work planned again at our meeting if you wish to see why Ross Lewis' work was greeted with such enthusiasm.



March 1988

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

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

We are convinced that the City is dragging its feet on the recycling effort. Expansion of the current minimal effort seems to be almost nil.

RALLY FOR CLEANER SIDEWALKS

On Saturday, April 23, Save Our Sidewalks, a group dedicated to reducing illegal vendors and other uglies will rally on the southeast side of Eighth Street just east of Broadway, starting at Noon. We have urged our members to join in this effort, feeling that the City has done little to maintain proper sidewalk usage for pedestrians. For example, thousands of newspaper vending machines cluttering our City sidewalks have nothing to do with freedom of the press. They have a lot to do with making our neighborhoods ugly and are dangerous impediments to the halt and blind. Our streetscape is a vital part of our valuable open space, and we should stop destroying it with knickknacks and doodads which generally testify to mindless poor taste and frequently to human greed. Nothing in the Constitution guarantees any private enterprise the right to make public space a part of that enterprise.

THANKS FOR DEFENDING YOUR HOME TURF

We are extremely grateful to the hundreds of people who turned out for City DOT's presentation on plans to tear up and reconstruct Greenwich Street from building line to building line on April 5. Giving Greenwich Street a harder top surface may well be the City's solution for accommodating Holland Tunnel traffic. That would seem to be the solution for filling an urgent need -- because the City sold Beach Street to Shearson-American Express and so they need another street to service traffic from the tunnel. The City now says the plan for Greenwich Street is to widen the sidewalks and narrow the street bed but with a harder surface to accommodate trucks. It is enough to give you visions of a Parisian boulevard, except that the West Village is not Paris and there is no way Greenwich Street can be turned into a successful boulevard. Some of our CB #1 Manhattan streets have already been butchered in this manner, and it does not work. There no doubt are streets in Manhattan which call for repaving, but Greenwich Street is not one of them. Let scarce money be spent where it is most needed, not used to destroy a charming and narrow residential street which by chance is historically the oldest street within the Greenwich Village Historic District. If you have not done so, we urge that you write your objections re the redoing of Greenwich Street to the NYC Dept. of Transportation Commissioner, Ross Sandler, 40 Worth Street, NYC 10013.

WE MAY LOSE OUR HEADQUARTERS SPACE

We have heard rumors that the building in which our headquarters had been located for many years has been sold, and so we may well be forced to seek other arrangements within a very short time. We may have to find other major means of raising funds other than selling books, because one needs space to store them. This is not a complaint. We must always be grateful to the most generous of landladies, Mrs. Gertrude Sewall, for being constantly kind, considerate and generous. We will try to have additional information by our Tuesday meeting.

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I enclose a check for postage; Abingdon Park cast iron fence repair; Jane Street Garden; Jefferson Market Library Rock Garden area.

Name _____ Address _____

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

THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

54 East 64th Street
New York, New York 10021
(212) 755-2400

They Want It Their Way

While the Mayor's commission, headed by a former developer, quietly studies revamping the City Charter, the powerful Real Estate Board has been working up its own ideas. They are most significant, because they indicate how the influential, cash-laden developers would reshape our government, if they could.

The Real Estate Board is most eager to keep land use decisions in the Board of Estimate, which, led by the Mayor, has been most friendly to large-scale building. The developers would also like to abolish the Landmarks Preservation Commission. In addition, they want to speed the approval of zoning variances, and give community boards and City Council members no more voice in the process than they have now; in other words, they want the new charter to codify the system that has led to the abuses that have prevailed for more than a quarter of a century now.

We need only to look up at the new skyscrapers and slivers, built above the old zoning limits either by variance or "as of right." We need only look down at the homeless, or think of the thousands of small manufacturers and tradespeople already squeezed out by development. We need only look at the classified ads, and compare housing costs with wages offered. We need only remember the landmarks already destroyed.

The Real Estate Board's program would speed this development. It is an excellent guide for the rest of us on which way not to go.

If the developers want to preserve the Board of Estimate's land use and zoning power, concerned residents of New York should consider doing something else. And we should certainly strengthen, not abolish, the Landmarks Preservation Commission and remove the Mayor's power to stack in it favor of development. We should bring community boards into the planning process early, and issue variances slowly and reluctantly.

But we would like, for our part, to thank the Real Estate Board for its guidance and propose a favor in return. We would forbid city officials to solicit or accept campaign contributions from anyone who regularly seeks building permits, variances and tax abatements. This should reduce building costs and safeguard builders from the importunities of politicians.

MARCH 21, 1988

Porcupine Planning

To the Editor:

The 52-story building planned for Duane Street between Church and Broadway is the latest assault upon a low-rise residential community. It is a building totally out of character with the surrounding TriBeCa neighborhood, set in a very narrow street with a plaza area that will only serve the purposes of the developer to distort the neighborhood. But the basic fault here in such instances is not with tasteless developers, but with the Department of City Planning, which no longer plans, but which for years has held out for up-scaled zoning; and where the zoning will not permit neighborhood-damaging skyscrapers they allow developers to play games involving setbacks, creation of useless plazas, buying air rights from other structures, etc.—and whoever figures out the most points wins, and the community loses.

City Planning no longer concerns itself with air currents and sunlight, else they would not consider permitting the structure planned for Duane Street—else they would not have permitted so much of the open space of New York Bay, the East and Hudson Rivers to be blotted out from the upland by a wall of high-rise structures, some of which deserve prizes for ugliness.

As-of-right buildings nearly always get built. Duane Street will probably get its 52-story sliver, just as we in Greenwich Village got Memphis Downtown. City Planning no longer plans because it has lost its way under the yoke of a city granting decades-long tax abatements to the already enormously wealthy and by creating zoning and game rules that permit any developer to build almost anything anywhere he wants to build.

There was a time when our city was constructed with reason with an overall sculptural shape as in a work of art, not like the sickly porcupine in the sunless, windless walled box we are becoming.

Should the Duane Street monstrosity become a reality for TriBeCa, we would hope that it would serve as a catalyst for separate groups in the Upper West Side, from the Village, from TriBeCa, and from the Upper East Side and Stuyvesant Town as well as downtown Brooklyn to get together as a coalition to demand that City Planning once more begin to down-zone, to begin once more to plan, and to stop once and for all the gimmickry and tricks of the trade now allowed and encouraged to destroy our communities. Let Duane Street be a catalyst for this. We must raise such a cry of outrage that it will be heard in the deepest recesses of City Hall, in the least corner of City Planning.

The West Village Committee
William P. Bowser, President
Manhattan



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

April 1988

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: A discussion of ways of pressuring for a passive waterfront park along the Village Hudson River waterfront;

A discussion of future fund-raising efforts if we must give up the sale of contributed books as the major source of funding the West Village Committee's programs.

THE NEED FOR A PASSIVE WATERFRONT ESPLANADE

The best thing that could happen to the Greenwich Village waterfront would be a passive park in the character of Riverside Park; it would have the added advantage of being directly at the water's edge. We have indicated before in a quiet way that we are convinced that the plans put forward by The Parks Council are overdone and not in character with what we have visualized for our own waterfront. We do not need amphitheaters, platforms for public dance recitals, ball fields, more restaurants in a community overrun with restaurants and night life, etc. In expressing our disagreement with what has been put forward so far by The Parks Council, we were shocked to have engendered the screaming telephoned wrath from a gentleman employed by that organization. We can only say that we take no responsibility for the bad manners of others, and we retain the right to speak on behalf of our West Village community. We retain that right because we live here, and we do not need any development on the waterfront which would encourage droves of people traversing our streets in the small hours of the morning. We don't want Coney Island on our waterfront nor another ill-conceived South Street Seaport. Even the plantings are overdone in the plans we have seen so far. We need an esplanade to walk on, benches to sit on and a path for bikers. We do not want "Rouseville on Hudson," and since it is our understanding that Manfred Ohrenstein has secured public funding to support the waterside park planning we have seen thus far, we would also hope that communities would have the right to speak up without again engendering pure rage.

We urge all of those who agree with the need for a passive waterfront park to write to the Traffic, Transportation and Waterfront Committee, Community Board 2, 3 Washington Square Village, NYC 10012, and express your views.

ABINGDON SQUARE PARK TREES TRIMMED

The West Village Committee recently paid for the trimming of the London plane trees in historic Abingdon Square Park, as the result of a substantial donation from an anonymous donor, who having been born in the London borough of Greenwich, has long been intrigued with the history of Abingdon Square Park. It is the third oldest park in Manhattan and the oldest park within Greenwich Village. It was dedicated in 1831 as sacred to the memory of the Sir Peter Warren family, and is named after Sir Peter's most highly placed son-in-law, Willoughby, Lord Abingdon, who had pamphleteered and spoken out in the House of Lords against starting a war with the American colonies. Mr. Pat Gilmore, who cares for a number of groves of trees in Central Park and elsewhere, carried out the two-day trimming job. We are now collecting funds for the the cost of replacing finials and uprights missing from the fence enclosing the Park. The cast iron fence dates from 1836. The West Village Committee is a volunteer group, and all contributions are fully deductible.

GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET SCHEDULED TO OPEN SATURDAY, JUNE 4

The local farmers' market, the Gansevoort Greenmarket, is set to reopen on Saturday morning, June 4, a program of the Council on the Environment, and co-sponsored from the beginning by the West Village Committee. Gansevoort is a market for organic food, and we hope its size will not continue to shrink as it has for a couple of years. It needs your support.



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

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May 1988

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THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301, Port Authority Station, 15th Street and 9th Avenue, New York, New York 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 24 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

AGENDA: A presentation by Leslie Lowe, Horatio Street, on plans to place art works on the waterfront at six locations following the Waterfront Festival. Some people have reservations about such a project not only with regard to the aesthetic quality, but with questions about how it will be maintained. We will vote on this issue during the evening in order to take a position at the upcoming Community Board Public Hearing on this item. CB 2's Public Hearing on art works being placed on the waterfront will be part of the Transportation, Traffic and Waterfront Committee agenda on Tues., June 7, 6:30 P.M., Greenwich House, Barrow Street east of 7th Avenue South.

WE WIN ONE ON THE "RECONSTRUCTION" OF GREENWICH STREET

Thanks to a very intelligent membership responding to our special mailing on the recent public hearing on "reconstructing" Greenwich Street, and because of hundreds of members who wrote letters to City DOT, from the Segals in Vermont to a couple of members vacationing in Florida to a lot of locals who never leave home, the City has backed off indicating that it will go expend funds where they are more sorely needed. Thanks to everyone who came to the aid of our community. And we will keep a sharp eye on Greenwich Street.

A PRISON FACILITY ON PIER 40?

The City is formally proposing that a prison ship be docked beside the big parking pier near Houston Street, Pier 40, and that the pier itself be turned into a prison support facility. A public hearing on the issue has been set for June 14, but the hour and place of the hearing are still indefinite, so that we will again do a special mailing when we have that information just as we did on Greenwich Street. Prison barges are becoming very real in this City, although they suggest some vile human idea suitable for the most degraded humanity in Dickens or a relic of the American Civil War; it is a sort of reaching back to a medieval past, and not something we will be proud of in future.

WE LOSE OUR OFFICE SPACE ON WEST 11TH STREET

We are losing our office and storage space at 304 W. 11th Street because the building has been sold to the White Horse Tavern, and we have been asked to vacate by the end of June. We felt that the Committee should not be identified with any single person even briefly, we have chosen to take a post office box number until and if a new headquarters can ever be located. In the meantime we, who have always depended upon resale of books for fund-raising, may need to think of other means. We will listen to any suggestions members may have regarding space for a new headquarters.

THE BOOK SALE

We will hold a final book sale out of our headquarters on May 28, and will participate in the Greenwich Village Waterfront Festival on June 11 to support our various programs. We have given to those directly planning the Festival a rough outline of the history of our waterfront so that others may write on this history. We are losing our headquarters, not abandoning ship. We began as the Committee to Save the West Village, became incorporated as The West Village Committee, but at no time have we altered our original purpose.

ABINGDON SQUARE FENCE REPAIRS TO BEGIN

Substantial repairs to the antique cast iron fence around Abingdon Square Park are to begin this month. The fence dates from 1836 and encloses a park which the noted historian, Phelps Stokes, describes as the "last remaining vestige" of the original Greenwich. We are expecting to pay well into five figures for this important repair, to salvage the past.

Please observe our new address below.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

**"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"**

June 1988

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE Box 30301 Port Authority Sta., New York, N.Y. 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 28 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

AGENDA: 1) The prison facility and prison barge planned for Pier 40; 2) the Day of Remembrance Demonstration at the old Penn Station site to protest the City Administration's proposed gutting of the existing Landmark Law.

THE TRUE MEANING OF THE PRISON BARGE

It is no longer just a plan to place a prison barge with work-release prisoners at Pier 40 near the foot of Houston Street. City Planning has approved this barge placement and the turning of Pier 40 into a prison support facility; it is no longer described as a temporary facility, but a permanent one.

Consider several things. Over on the East River, the plans for enormous high rises blotting out the open space of water to Manhattanites has pushed northward into the 20's with the dreadful Riverwalk Project. But they are testing the Hudson waterfront with 1) the 6-storey high proposed escape hatch towers for PATH at the foot of Morton Street, 2) the prison barge at Pier 40, and even talk of resurrecting the incinerator below 14th Street, to say nothing of claims of a completed plan by the State for a mixed sports complex for what will be left of the Village's historic waterfront. (Perhaps the State thinks we don't have enough tourists in the neighborhood!) And then the Public Development Corporation announces the need for additional landfilling above Chambers Street. It all means, we're next on the agenda!

The City claims it finds Pier 40 the perfect spot for locating work-release prisoners on a barge. They claim that only prisoners with minor offenses will be kept there, which does not reassure us in a City famous for plea-bargaining. And considering how many prisoners are held on drug-related charges, it seems entirely irresponsible to place work-release prisoners where they must walk through a gauntlet of drug dealers and prostitutes daily. Many of us worked for years to be rid of that other disgrace, the Women's House of Detention, and recall the words of Mayor Walker on the day that prison was dedicated, "We have built the wrong building in the wrong place." We urge you to write to Mayor Koch at City Hall and tell him that he is putting the wrong barge on the wrong waterfront. In addition, we urge you to write letters similar to the letter on the reverse side asking that no funds be allocated for waterfront development except for repairing existing piers; send similar letters to Goldin, Dinkins and Stein as indicated. Now.

THE WRONG PROPOSALS FOR PROTECTING LANDMARKS: ATTEND THE PROTEST RALLY

The Mayor is putting forward several suggestions for changing the existing Landmark Law and Commission, much of it harking back to the disgraceful Esnard Report. The claim is that it will "strengthen" the landmarks process. It actually weakens that process and turns the unprotected City over to the developers. The proposed law would create a moratorium, freezing the Commission out of key areas for up to 10 years; in a study area, the Commission would have 90 days in which to designate buildings as landmarks, or they could be demolished; any buildings calendared by the Commission would have to be designated within 150 days or they could be demolished, and no new funding is suggested for the Commission to meet these new demands, making it almost impossible for new landmarked districts to be created; and it removes much of the enforcement arm of the Landmark Law from the Commission and passes it on to the honest Buildings Department, and it would require owners to pay for permits they need to restore their own property. We are asking that members join in the Day of Remembrance Demonstration on Wednesday, June 29 to picket Penn Station (33rd St. & 7th Avenue) to protest the Mayor's proposals. It is hoped that many of the original leaders present at a demonstration 25 years ago attempting to save the old Penn Station will be present to give special meaning to the day. The demonstration will form at Noon. On the following day, June 30, the Administration will allow the public to speak on these proposals, at the CUNY Graduate Center, 33 W. 42nd Street, 6:30 P.M. Persons wishing to speak at this hearing should register beforehand with Lillian Ayela at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 553-1113.

Book Sale

AND WHITE ELEPHANTS TOO!

Saturday, May 28, 11 A.M. until Dusk

on West 11th Street between Hudson and Greenwich

1988

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community for More Than a Quarter Century"

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE



Box 30301, Port Authority Station, 15th Street and 9th Avenue, New York, New York 10011



Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE Box 30301 Port Authority Station, New York, N.Y. 10011

Monday 13 June 1988

Councilman Carol Greitzer
The City Council
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Carol:

We are deeply concerned over any plans to include in this year's budget any funds for pursuing further massive waterfront development -- especially development requiring platforms, landfill and other floating structures in the water. Funds should be made available only for repairing existing piers in adjacent rivers to provide passive recreational space, and the law should be specific in this regard.

This city is fast becoming an uncontrolled mess in its overall sculptural shape, due largely to the massive water-side and in-the-water building carried out by such public agencies as the Public Development Corporation. PDC is probably not to be blamed so much as those members of the Board of Estimate who approved that agency's enormous powers. Zoning has become a sick joke and the result is an aesthetic mess.

It would be nice if some leader in the City expressed the same concern over the death of major bridges, poor schools, the homeless, corruption in government, drug enforcement, etc., to equal the constant push for tax abatement for the already enormously wealthy and the continued thrust to make the Manhattan waterfront belong to a very private few. The Riverwalk project on the East Side is typically disgusting in pursuing this present priority.

Our membership would greatly appreciate hearing your views on what justification is behind the continued abuse in removing views of our waterfront in Manhattan from the people.

Sincerely yours,

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE INC.

William P. Bowser

William P. Bowser
President

Similar letter sent also to:

Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin, Municipal Building, NYC 10007
Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, Municipal Bldg., NYC 10007
City Council President Andrew Stein, City Hall, NYC 10007



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice
 "Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
 for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
 Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
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 Mr. Crosland 929-0070
 Ms. Slatin 255-7066
 Ms. McCusker 929-5228
 Ms. Fisher 929-3169

McLean

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date: Tues., Sept., 27 1988
 at 7:30 P.M.
 Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-
 the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.**

Box 30301 · Port Authority Station · 15th Street and 9th Avenue · New York, New York 10011

Agenda: Where we stand with disconnecting streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District from the planned West Side Highway replacement, the status of PATH's proposed ventilation/escape towers at the foot of Morton Street, how to fight the prison barge at Pier 40 even if the City Planning Commission approves it.

HISTORIC DISTRICT STREETS AND THE NEW HIGHWAY

Although appropriate State agencies promised to keep us informed of plans for the West Side Highway replacement road, we have heard nothing in at least a year. We initiated a series of letters to Federal and State agencies protesting connecting our streets to a highway built with Federal funds, but have held off on some key letter-writing until the planners show their real intentions. The latest rumor, from what we consider an excellent source, says that all of the streets in the Historic District are connected. At our meeting, we will have an additional listing of persons and organizations to be written to.

PASSANNANTE PROPOSES WIDER NETWORKING OF AID FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Back in June, Assemblyman Bill Passannante called a meeting in the Village Nursing Home to discuss and plan for wider social and medical services for ailing and disabled senior citizens. All of the Village service groups -- the Nursing Home, St. Vincent's Hospital, Greenwich House, the Caring Community and Village Visiting Neighbors -- were represented at the meeting, as well as a large number churches, temples and block associations. It was said that there is a great need to do a complete survey of the Village to determine who is 60 or over and ailing or disabled. Assemblyman Passannante suggested that Legislative funding might be made available if we can show that our community has a growing number of disabled elderly. What we need are names, addresses, ages and disabilities. Sometimes the problem may be emotional -- for instance the death of a loved one can send a survivor into deep depression afraid to go to public places. Or there may be a need for shopping or to be accompanied to a doctor's office. Do not impoverish yourself through illness and related costs, when there are service groups willing to lend a hand. Or let us know about a neighbor who may need help but who is too proud to ask. We will be glad to pass such information on to the appropriate service group, but such information will otherwise be held to be confidential. Or you could call Village Visiting Neighbors directly -- 260-6200.

STOP LANDFILL, PLATFORMS, HIGH RISE BUILDINGS & FLOATING STRUCTURES IN THE HUDSON

If you want to stop the glut of overbuilding planned along the historic Greenwich Village waterfront and out into the Hudson River (including the Prison Barge), we urge you to contact friends and relatives upstate to contact their legislators to support a bill presently in the State Legislature which would prohibit trashing the Hudson from Battery Park City to 42nd Street. In the State Senate it is a Johnson-Ohrenstein sponsorship, S.6992, and in the Assembly, Gottfried-Passannante sponsorship, A.8980. We don't need any more World Trade Centers or other high-rise monstrosities blocking our view of the magnificent Hudson or flushing into it. Please help.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE REPAIR OF THE ABINGDON SQUARE FENCE

On Saturday, October 1 we are asking neighbors and members to gather in historic Abingdon Square Park to celebrate the repair of the ironwork fence, one of the oldest cast iron fences in the City. That's at one o'clock in the afternoon, and the rain date is Sunday, October 2, same place, same hour. We are asking Parks Department personnel to join us along with CB 2 members.

OUR NEW LOCATION ON GREENWICH STREET

As you probably know, we lost our old headquarters in June after many years because the building was sold and the situation was not a matter of paying more rent since the bar next door indicated the need for expanding into the space. In future we will hold "garage sales" of books in the private garage on the northwest corner of Greenwich and 10th Streets, but we will keep our new address in the Port Authority Building Post Office branch. There is no mail drop in the garage, and donations should never be left outside. We are still sorting, marking and placing books in categories, but we expect to be in order to have our usual October sale.

SUBWAY ART INSTALLATION DELAYED BY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Transit Authority has informed us that they are delaying until next April the installation of the 96-foot panel of art to be placed on the dark Western wall of the 14th St./8th Ave. subway station. In our goal of \$7,000 for installation we have somewhere between one-third and one-half of the funds in hand. Any person donating \$100 or more to this project may have his name listed on a plaque of donors beside the art work.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE INC. ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Persons registered to vote by October 15 are eligible to vote in the November election.



A SIDEWALK SOUK ON JANE STREET, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Jane Street Neighbors will hold a Sidewalk Souk (flea market) on Saturday, September 24 with a rain date of Sunday, September 25 for the purpose of raising money to pay for street tree trimming, etc. We will have a table out that day to raise funds to benefit the Jane Street Garden -- books and house plants will probably dominate our table. We are hoping eventually to raise sufficient funds to introduce a watering system inside the garden, and had a promise of funding for this up to \$2,600 -- last year's quote from a plumber -- somewhat under the current quote of \$4,000 to open the street and reconnect with the main.

Special thanks to Dan Gabel for a Saturday spent in helping to repair the grand garden bench donated by Hoen Meir. We would deeply appreciate the cooperation of neighbors in not throwing food for the birds into the garden; the pigeons eat not only the food but the plants as well. And leftover food encourages rats. When we took over the garden it was over-ridden with rats, and now with a constant throwing of food into the garden, they are making a reappearance. There is an abundance of seeds in any garden created by nature attractive to birds but not to rats, and we do not appreciate those who deliberately set out to destroy what others have created.

UNSTOCKED, UNUSED NEWSPAPER VENDING BOXES . . . AND POSTERED WALLS

From the New York POST box by 259 West 10th Street all the way up to Jane Street, there are six unstocked, unused POST vending boxes attracting stickers, posters, graffiti, soda bottles, cups, and other rubbish. They have not been stocked with newspapers for at least three months since it was determined that there was no demand for the POST along this stretch of Greenwich Street. The boxes are rusted, untended, decrepit. We have written to the publisher asking that they remove these boxes and improve the streetscape.

For many years now we have carried out programs of massive poster removal in the neighborhood from public places. In some instances when building walls have been cleared of layers of posters, they have remained clean. And in our experience, when posters and graffiti are not promptly removed, it is an open invitation for more of the same. One of the worst examples of posters on a building wall at present may be seen on the Con Ed substation at Greenwich Avenue and 13th Street. We have written to the president of Con Ed and asked that this ugly wall be cleaned, and have asked that the 13th Street Block Association support our request.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION RE THE PRISON BARGE

The City Correction Department's proposed plan for placing a prison barge on the historic Greenwich Village waterfront as it has evolved is a study in why citizens have come to distrust their government. From an original plan which would not allow any citizen parking on Pier 40, to a plan which would require only 30 or 40 parking spaces for prison staff, to a plan which would not require any staff parking spaces, we have come not to believe anybody, not to trust anyone.

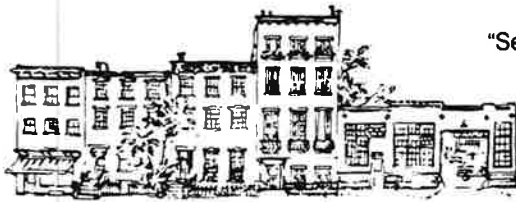
The City's first mistake was in buying the barge. The second was placing it on the Lower East Side. The third mistake is the attempt by our government to force this prison barge, the ultimate ghetto, upon an upper middleclass residential community. It is the last straw in a long line of social service institutions thrust upon Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side. This prison ship, the ultimate ghetto, is some vile idea which the politicians are trying to disguise with respectable attire, although it is more suited as the pride of a depraved villain in a Dickens novel; or perhaps as some relic of the American Civil War.

What is proposed here is not a structure housing 8 or 10 work release prisoners, but hundreds of prisoners with visitation rights from friends, also adding to hundreds each week. We have been told that convicts with only minor offense records, with no history of violence, will be held here, but this does not reassure us in a City famous for plea bargaining. Drug addicts and drug sellers are among those considered to be without a history of violence.

We are a community that has lived with prisons before, the Women's House of Detention and the Federal Prison, the latter with its high escape rate in a low security community. The former left inmates unreformed and with no dignity, and visitors to the Women's House downgraded the neighborhood by their rowdy behavior and by taking over stoops and areaways in surrounding streets until all hours of the morning; and the same can be said of visitors to the Federal Prison, and if the police were seen scaling your back fence, you could assume that they were in pursuit of somebody, often enough another escaped prisoner.

We understand that a pier was to have been built on Rikers Island to accommodate this prison barge and that the purchase of the prison barge was approved by the Board of Estimate with the understanding that it would be berthed on Rikers Island. That is precisely where this ultimate ghetto belongs, not thrust into the midst of a middleclass community with long and unhappy memories of prisons in its midst. This is not planning at all unless there is some hidden agenda or motive as yet unrevealed. The magnificent Hudson and the historic Greenwich Village waterfront deserve something better than a prison ship, the ultimate ghetto. We do not think it will pass muster with Coastal Zone Management and the Corps of Engineers; we would hope that New York State would strike down any approval by the City to use Pier 40 for this purpose.

This proposal reminds us of Mayor Walker speaking many years ago at the dedication ceremony for the just-completed Women's House of Detention where he said, "Well, we have built the wrong building in the wrong place." And so they had. And so is the City now plotting a major mistake in placing a prison barge at Pier 40 in the Hudson River.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

Meeting Date: Tues., October 25,
1988 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-
the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 • Port Authority Station • 15th Street and 9th Avenue • New York, New York 10011

Agenda: *We will vote on the issue of the City's plan to place the prison barge, the Bibby Venture, on the south side of Pier 40 at Houston Street;

*We will form a committee to raise additional funds for other improvements in Abingdon Square Park;

*Consideration of a request that we revive our Christmas caroling tradition this year, and

*Consideration of a request to place a Christmas tree in the Jane Street Garden this year.

THE PRISON BARGE

Several events have thus far prevented us from officially taking a position on the proposed Prison Barge set to be berthed at the parking pier, Pier 40 near Houston Street. In the meantime, the Board of Estimate approved the purchase of another Prison Barge, again to accommodate just under 400 beds. They also approved a contract with an engineering firm to select other sites where barges may be placed. And by the time we meet it is expected that they will have approved a contract to design and build an 800 bed Prison Barge. Placing the Prison Barge at Pier 40 will be voted on by the Board of Estimate Thursday, October 27, probably sometime after 2 P.M. We urge you to attend that hearing and state your position. But in the meantime, come to our meeting and vote your conscience, so that we may present the organization's position to the Board of Estimate. On the 27th before the Board of Estimate it will be the last chance for any of us to speak out on this issue.

I wish to contribute to the following West Village Committee projects:

Jane Street Garden Jefferson Market Library Rock Garden Area

Further improvements in Abingdon Square Park including iron gates

Installation of a work of art in the long Western corridor of the 14th St./8th Avenue subway stop, which should result in better lighting in that now darkened corridor

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Return to The West Village Committee Inc., PO Box 30301, New York, New York 10011

Contributions to the West Village Committee Inc. are tax deductible.

Support our democracy! Vote in the November General Election.



RHETT BROWN

We deeply regret to report the death of Rhett Brown, W. 13th Street, artist, community activist, neighbor and good friend of the West Village Committee. Her workshops in art crafts were not confined to her home, but were conducted throughout a wide portion of this country and into Canada. Her reputation as an artist reached far beyond her workshops, as did her ability to relate to her neighbors constructively and to be boldly outspoken on community issues. A memorial service was held on Tues., October 18 in the Village Temple, E. 12th Street. The death of Rhett Brown is certainly a very great loss to this community and to her 13th Street neighbors.

MRS. J. G. PHELPS STOKES

The recent death of Mrs. J. G. Phelps Stokes rather marks the end of an era of socially prominent folks who devoted themselves to charitable works without desire for reward or publicity. Somebody has said of her that she was born at a time when ladies only had their names appear in the newspapers when they were born, when they married and when they died. Mrs. Stokes was born Lettice Sands, and she grew up in Buffalo where her father had moved his business. One of the stories she told about her own upbringing was about her first job in Buffalo at \$4 per week. She dutifully turned over half of her salary to her mother for board even as her salary increased over a ten-year period at which time she married and moved to Grove Street. The end of this story is that 30 or 35 years later a friend in Buffalo spotted a bank advertisement in a local paper seeking the whereabouts of "Lettice Sands," the name on an unclaimed account. Her mother had never used her money, but had placed it in an account to benefit the daughter without telling her, so that she not only received the principal but 35 years of interest. Her passing came in her nineties after a few years of decline following a stroke. Her service and devotion to Greenwich House in earlier years were legend, and she was equally committed to her beloved Grace Church. Until recent years she walked from Grove Street to Grace Church; taxis were for the spoiled and idle. She was always a gracious hostess, glowing with her love for the house she lived in -- filled as it was with art and objects of historical value. She was an avid and justly proud gardener. One doubts that she ever offended anybody. Perhaps her housekeeper/maid, Patsy, unconsciously paid her the highest compliment in this regard. A few days before the memorial service for Mrs. Stokes in Grace Church, an out-of-town member of the family asked us to go on an errand to the house in Grove Street. Patsy answered the door, and as I was leaving she said, referring to Mrs. Stokes, "I just want you to know that we had such fun together!"

OUR NEW LOCATION

We had hoped to open for a garage book sale in October, but it looks more like November now -- we still need to build additional book shelves, sort and price. Anybody with carpenter skills to build shelves, come forward; the garage at 10th and Greenwich Sts. will be largely off-street sales. Please observe our new mailing address, PO Box 30301, New York, New York 10011.

THE COST OF THE NEWSLETTER

The By-Laws of the West Village Committee specify that only those persons who pay for the cost of the Newsletter shall be placed on the mailing list. Inasmuch as we figure the minimum cost to be in excess of \$5 per person, we do not feel that that is an excessive amount to request annually for those who wish to continue on the mailing list.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY DECMEBER 5

Christmas wreaths with broad red ribbon, as usual, will be available again this year at \$12 each. For those who may wish to pick up their wreaths, we will set hours in the November Newsletter when they will be available in the Jane Street Garden or from 23 Bank Street. Incidentally, we have again this year invited the same friendly Christmas tree salesmen from last year to sell their wares along the 8th Avenue side of the Jane Street Garden.

DATE FOR ANNUAL PARTY IS SET

Our By-Laws specify that we shall hold a party each year to celebrate the survival of the West Village at which gathering no business may be conducted. We have set the date for this year's party, a sit-down buffet dinner in St. John's Parish Hall, 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 13. More details as to cost, etc., in the November Newsletter.

Gansevoort Greenmarket will close for winter Nov.

18. A new fish stand has been added to Gansevoort recently.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community for More Than a Quarter Century"

Please observe our change of address.

Volume XXIX, No. 10

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE 702 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10014 (212) 243-0762

Meeting Date: Tuesday 24 October at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE

We achieved on the weekend of September 30 one of the most successful book sales we have held in years. Many people deserve credit for this huge success. First we need to thank Ruth Dunn and Adelaide Richter for allowing us to hold the sale in their private garage; but they are already known in the community for their generosity. But there were definite reasons for the success of the sale besides. Literally weeks were spent in categorizing and alphabetizing by John Johnson and Eileen Bowser. It was not just a mass of unpriced books thrown into a heap; an event, not just a muddle. And we have raised prices. There are no more 5 and 10 cent books. Although one dealer has said to us that our prices are well within the range of what he would be willing to pay with intention of reselling. We would be remiss not to acknowledge other members who turned up to help on the day of the sale - Judy McCusker, JoAnn Fluke, Betty Rinckwitz, Jean Crawford, Eliza Bradley, Peter Craig.

There is still another significant reason why the book sale was successful. We received before the sale an absolutely splendid library from a deceased member, the talented actor Albert Corbin. It provided one of the finest collections in theater, film and the arts generally that we have ever possessed.

THE MORTON STREET PATH TOWERS

We once again urge all of you who see the PATH escape towers being constructed on the waterfront near Morton Street as a future blight on a riverside park, to write to Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, The Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224. Governor Cuomo is the one authority in the State with veto power over Port Authority mistakes. We have evidence that this escape hatch can be built efficiently and at less cost underground. The excavation for the PATH towers is at such a point at this moment so that it is very important that pressure be put on the Governor now. We also urge you to write to Senators Moynihan and D'Amato asking them to press Governor Cuomo on the issue. Write before these high-rise towers are in place beside our stretch of the Hudson. Our Senators may be addressed as follows:

Senator Daniel P. Moynihan
733 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato
370 7th Avenue, Suite 600
New York, NY 10001

WORD FROM SAN FRANCISCO

We know that many of you are constantly curious as to how long-time past president of the West Village Committee, James Edward Shaw, is doing. A recent phone call informed us that they are giving up their splendid apartment and moving into a house so that Martin may garden. Otherwise everything else is reported safe and sound in San Francisco.

PETER FRITSCH IS RECOVERING

Back in the early Spring we elected Terry Fritsch our Treasurer, only to learn that the day before while undergoing an annual physical, her husband, Peter, suffered an aneurysm during the exam. He was rushed off to the hospital for surgery, and has since made remarkable recovery. It has taken a lot of daily and hourly devotion, patience and caring on Terry's part to bring Peter to his greatly improved state. Barbara Fisher, always dependable, agreed to keep the books until Terry has time to devote to the job - even though Barbara has moved to Staten Island.

REMEMBER -- VOTE FOR THE PERSON OF YOUR CHOICE IN NOVEMBER!

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are deductible.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

VOTE 'NO' ON CHARTER REFORM

Our suspicions over the ability of the Charter Reform Commission to perform its appointed task were aroused by simply attending public hearings set by the Commission. It soon became apparent that it didn't matter whether you were the first to sign in to speak for your group that day. You could sign in at 1 P.M. and soon learn that your name would never be called until midnight. In the meantime, the entire day and evening would be taken up by elected officials presenting hours-long testimony, with a lot of colloquy between elected official and members of the Commission, or frequently with the speaker resting elbows on the microphone stand and reminding "Fritz" that they had discussed one point or another with him in private beforehand. After a few sessions as described above, you began to feel that the Commission did not want to hear from the public. It seemed more like a set-up by politicians to serve other politicians.

The present Charter was declared illegal largely because of the imbalance of persons represented on the Board of Estimate from the five boroughs with vast differences in population. The new Charter would create a sort of monarch/mayor with power to control every phase of operation in the city.

Too much power is given to the mayor. He appoints and controls the majority of members of the City Planning Commission and other boards controlling concessions, franchises, contracts and land use. The mayor would not only name people to commissions but remove those who displease him. The mayor would have sole control over contracting and the power to sell or lease city property.

The City Planning Commission would be given the power to review certain decisions by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and veto such decisions. We regard it as the beginning of destruction of the Landmarks Law. The same people who have pushed for prison ships on the waterfront have also pushed for weakening the Landmarks Law. Heretofore disputed decisions have always been heard in court, and the Landmarks Commission has always been upheld.

Much has been made of the proposed new powers of the City Council. For a representative government, this is where the power should have gone; but the talked of power is largely illusion. Under the new Charter the City Council would have only limited jurisdiction over land use. The City Planning Commission, controlled by the mayor, has the principal responsibility for land use approvals.

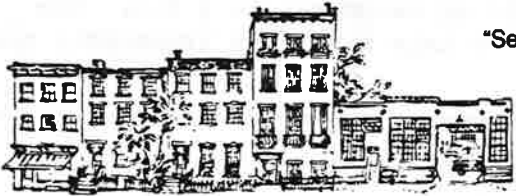
The City Council is given no power to control "off-budget" spending by such super development agencies as the Public Development Corporation - controlled solely by the mayor. This allows the mayor to divert revenues to these quasi-public corporations without even consultation with the City Council.

The "Community Wins" claims by supporters of the proposed Charter are also an illusion. It permits Community Boards to be invited to "scoping" sessions on proposed projects, but makes scoping sessions optional even if an Environmental Impact Statement is required. And it removes such power on new projects from the old Board of Estimate and gives it to the newly all-powerful City Planning Commission.

It does not ensure better representation simply by enlarging the City Council with new token powers. And a lot of people in this town understand the art of gerrymandering to deny power to minorities. Many highly respected black leaders including Percy Sutton have questioned the validity of the proposed Charter. We think that retiring City Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin put the problem of the proposed Charter clearly when he testified before the Commission. He was running for mayor at the time and had no personal power to gain from his quite honest statement. He said:

"The proposals give too much additional power to the Mayor, adding to his or her already vast authority the Board of Estimate's control over contracts and franchises. The non-voting oversight by the Comptroller you propose...could be ignored by the Mayor with impunity... What you are proposing, in effect, is a one-person City government, an all-powerful Mayor, with only advisory checks."

We can do better than what is proposed. Spread the word among your friends. Vote "NO" on the proposed Charter in November.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tues., November 22,
1988 at 7:30 P.M.
Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-
the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 • Port Authority Station • 15th Street and 9th Avenue • New York, New York 10011

- Agenda: Report on the states of the separate legal actions against the Morton Street PATH towers and the permanent mooring of a prison barge at Pier 40;
Report on any progress toward raising additional funds to improve Abingdon Square Park;
A call for volunteers and a leader to revive our Christmas caroling tradition this year; the request comes from Jane Street, but all are welcome;
Volunteers to plan the end of the year party which celebrates the survival of the West Village community in defeating the threat of urban renewal.

THE END OF THE YEAR PARTY

The end-of-the-year party which celebrates the survival of the West Village and is a friendly get-together of neighbors at a buffet dinner will be held this year in St. John's Parish Hall, 224 Waverly Place at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 13, thus avoiding running into Chanukah and Christmas. In the past such parties have honored persons who have given outstanding service to the Greenwich Village community. The last person so-honored was the late Ernest Mayer, the founder of Village Visiting Neighbors. This year we will honor Ruth Wittenberg for her lifetime of service to her beloved Village.

For those of you familiar with the annual party, you know it is a full dinner and the charge is \$10 per person and it is definitely not a fundraiser at that price. There will be fruit juice or a punch for kids, but we no longer supply wine. If you want wine with your meal, bring your favorite and share it with a neighbor.

PATH TOWERS AT THE FOOT OF MORTON STREET

The Port Authority is proceeding with excavations for the escape towers to be built on the waterfront at the foot of Morton Street. Funds are still urgently needed to stop this procedure in court. This is quite a separate issue from the Prison Barge at Pier 40. Funds to fight the Morton Street PATH Towers should be sent to the Federataion to Save the Greenwich Village Waterfront, 81 Barrow Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Contributions against the Prison Barge should go to Ban the Barge Inc., PO Box 1061, Village Station, New York, N.Y. 10014.

CITIBANK CONTRIBUTES TO SUBWAY ART

Citibank is the third local branch bank to promise a substantial contribution to the art work planned for installation in the 14th St. 8th Ave./IND stop in April. The Transit Authority matches up to \$5,000 for the cost of such work and installation; this project has an estimated cost of \$12,000, but we are well on our way to raising our share.

ABINGDON SQUARE PARK

We feel the necessity of making quite clear our intentions when we speak of further improvements needed in historic Abingdon Square Park, described by the historian Phelps Stokes as the "last vestige of the original Greenwich Village." We see the need for additional improvements to the cast iron fence and the need for cast iron gates suitable to this antique fence. Additional plantings and good quality World's Fair-type benches could make this and perhaps a rearrangement of its sitting areas to a degree, could make this a great spot of beauty in the West Village. Having lobbied back in the Sixties for the creation of a separate Bleecker Street Playground, so that Abingdon could survive as a passive park for persons of all ages, we would be very discouraged to see historic Abingdon Square Park turned into a space filled with play equipment. Children can appreciate being in a beautifully landscaped passive park. And efforts should be made to make Seravalli and Walker Playgrounds less barren and ugly.

We recognize that there is a considerable population of very young in our community, but there is an even faster growing population of elderly who need a passive park because they live in tenements and high rises -- not in West Village Houses with the vast back yards we provided there.

YES, WE DID IT

Replying to the several inquiries we have had about the fruiting peach tree in the rock garden strip directly behind Jefferson Market Library on the 6th Avenue side: yes, we cut it down in its prime because it was a continuing temptation to urban yokels to climb the fence and strip the tree of its fruit even before it was ripe and to proceed with other damage once they were in the garden area. It had been planted there as a seedling, and it was not so much that its time had come, but that its removal was the best defense against vandals.

Please note our new address: PO Box 30301, New York, New York 10011

HAPPY CHANUKAH MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE BEST OF NEW YEARS



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

The Jane Street Garden is usually open to the public on Saturdays at 1 P.M. Our notices for this have been repeatedly torn down.

If you wish to attend the annual West Village Committee party on Tuesday, December 13, please send a check for \$10 by Friday, December 9.

If you wish to contribute to any of the following West Village Committee projects, please indicate your choice:

- Jane Street Garden Jefferson Market Library Market Garden
- Further improvements in Abingdon Square Park including World's Fair benches and cast iron gates.
- Installation of art work in the long Western corridor of the 14th St./8th Ave./IND Sta.

WEST VILLAGE NURSERY SCHOOL BENEFIT

A book sale will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, 11 A.M. until 4 P.M. to benefit the West Village Nursery School, 73 Horatio Street. The sale will consist of entirely new books written for young children, eight years of age and under. This should be a splendid opportunity for folks to do some shopping for tiny nephews and nieces with a mind turned toward the approaching December holidays; your participation will also help to support this popular nursery school. Luncheon will be available at the school.

INQUIRY ON AMERICAN COMPOSERS CHARLES IVES AND HENRY COWELL

We are attempting to track down the locations in Greenwich Village where Charles Ives and Henry Cowell, both renowned American composers, lived. We believe that Ives lived in the Village very early in this century; we are less certain of a time when Cowell was a Villager. Are there music experts out there who know the answers to this inquiry?

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE TAKES A POSITION AGAINST PRISON BARGE

At our October meeting the West Village Committee took a position against the mooring of a prison barge, the Bibby Venture, on the south side of Pier 40, and following this gave testimony before the Board of Estimate. As you probably know, the Board of Estimate voted to place the prison barge on the Village waterfront, save for the vote of the Borough President of Manhattan, David Dinkins. A lawsuit is being prepared to halt the mooring on Pier 40, and checks in support of that suit should be sent to Ban the Barge, Inc., P.O. Box 1061, Village Station, New York, N.Y. 10014; Bill Bowser has agreed to Co-Chair Ban the Barge. For further information call 243-0762. Copies of our testimony before the Board of Estimate will be available upon request at our November meeting.

JOE SULLIVAN

We are sorry to report the death of Joseph B. Sullivan in St. Vincent's Hospital during the last week of October. Mr. Sullivan was in his late eighties and had been in declining health for some time. He was a retired teamster, and in recent years had become a neighborly fixture sitting outside his home at 51 Bank Street or on any of the adjoining corners of Bank and West 4th Streets. He was a great source of information on Village history, and his friendly manner made him a trusted and watchful eye for the neighborhood. He is greatly missed. We extend our condolences to his wife, Mary.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AVAILABLE

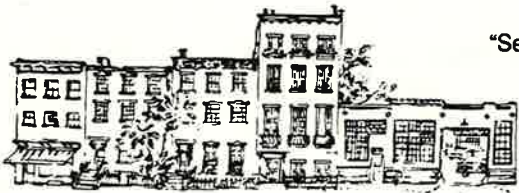
Christmas wreaths will again be available this year by the first weekend in December at \$12 per wreath. We are obtaining our supply from the friendly Christmas tree man who is returning to the 8th Avenue side of the Jane Street Garden sidewalk this year.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN CHRISTMAS TREE

We are hopeful of placing a lighted holiday tree of modest size in the Jane Street Garden to satisfy a request from residents in Jane Street. We had thought to keep the decoration simple by using only the tiny white lights. But essential to all of this planning will be a source for electric power.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

The Village Community School at 10th and Greenwich Streets (272 W. 10th) is planning its 15th Annual Book Fair on Thursday, December 8 and Friday, December 9, 8:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. These books are all new books, and have been picked by VCS librarian Idalee Alderson to suit the needs of babies who need to be read to -- all the way to teen-agers' books. In addition, the fair will offer puzzles, records, tapes, coloring books, calendars, date books and adult best sellers. If you haven't been there before, you will find the Village Community School to be peopled with friendly kids and adults. There is also the promise of the presence of some leading authors of children's books. For more information we suggest that you call Fair Chair Bunny Gabel, Home: 212 243-1022 or School: 212 691-5146.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice
"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

January 1989

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3189
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 • Port Authority Station • 15th Street and 9th Avenue • New York, New York 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 24, 1989 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Update on plans to place prison barges on the Village waterfront and how they can be fended off.

THE ROUTE 9A HIGHWAY

Friday, January 13, was the official cut-off date for the local Route 9A Community Office to receive written comments on plans put forward to date on a West Side replacement highway, bike paths, waterside park, etc. We met that deadline, and although we do not repeat the full text of our statement in this crowded newsletter, we will have the full text of our statement at our monthly meeting. We do not accept that Route 9A is just a "local street." It is a six lane divided highway. We have asked that all streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District not be attached to the highway so that our fragile side streets may no longer be used as short-cuts to uptown and downtown. There are times when 9th/Christopher, West 11th and West 12th look as though they had just been dumped on by the Cross-Bronx Expressway and Queens Boulevard all at once. Such traffic divides communities and destroys them just as the Expressway did in the Bronx, and our rows of predominately 19th Century brownstones are already being damaged by such traffic. The mouths of these streets were widened years ago when an "interim" highway was being built, and the community agreed to a "temporary" widening into the West Street corridor so that equipment and material could be more easily transported.

We also objected strongly to the segmentation and piecemealing of the planning in the 9A corridor as "very unsatisfactory." We do not understand how any highway planning can separate plans above and below 42nd Street, wipe away all maritime shipping without even attempting to cling to something, or plan for bike lanes, a waterside esplanade, etc., without planning hand-in-hand each step of the way with the 9A Highway. And now as a result of many complaints about the piecemealing of the planning, Governor Cuomo has now totally and officially separated highway planning from all other development or changes along the Hudson River Waterfront. It makes the segmented planning an official and unfortunate factor, and we must all recognize that the Governor is the most powerful force in planning the face of the Hudson River waterfront. Letters may still be written by individuals supporting these points if you wish. They should go to the Mr. Robert Ronayne, Director of Project Development and Design, Route 9A Community Office, NY State Dept. of Transportation, 141 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. They've heard from us; we think they should hear from you even if belatedly. Let the people be heard!

BAN THE BARGE MEETING

We urge all of you to attend the Ban the Barge meeting on January 26 at the Community School, 272 W. 10th St., at 7:30 P.M. (at Greenwich Street). The prison barges planned for the Village waterfront are not hospitals, not treatment centers for crack addicts. They are prisons to confine drug addicts and dealers. They are also to be work-release prisoners on our drug-sodden waterfront. We have voted to oppose this method of solving the drug problem, to oppose the placing of prison barges on our waterfront. We urge you to attend this meeting of Ban the Barge and donate as generously to this cause as you are able. Many of you have already contributed, and some of you may want to do so again. Remember, the first barge, the Bibby Venture, is to be berthed on the south side of Pier 40 in March. It is no fun to fight City Hall. And we must raise Big Bucks for a major lawsuit to halt the placement of prison barges on our waterfront. Become part of the battle -- attend the Ban the Barge meeting on the 26th!

REPORTS IN BRIEF

Scott Wiscamb, W. 11th Street, has moved to Houston; author Jean Gould had major surgery in December and missed the WVC party (we took food round to her next day) and she is recovering nicely; we express our sympathies with the family of the senior Christ Stroligo, 11th St., who died suddenly in the Holiday season. Thanks to Kent Dillon, First Class Copy and Stat Shop, 106A Lexington Ave. (btwn 27 & 28) for running our Ban the Barge notice for free.



SUBWAY ART PROJECT WINS MOLLIE PARNIS CONTEST

Ross Lewis' enormous mural planned for the long Western wall of the 14th Street/8th Avenue stop of the IND subway has been awarded a \$300 grant in the 1988 Mollie Parnis Dress Up Your Neighborhood Contest for outstanding neighborhood beautification. The award will actually be presented on January 31 in the usual ceremony at City Hall. It is not our first trip down the aisle of the Blue Room for a Parnis award. The West Village Committee copped one the first year they were offered with the one time garden by St. Vincent's Hospital. Later our good friends in charge of the splendid garden on the Women's House of Detention site won, as did Jean Verrel, Phyllis Katz and others who toiled to make the Jane Street Garden a site of beauty and nature.

The art work was originally intended to have been installed last fall, but the Transit Authority on its own moved the installation date up to April of this year. We believe that this delay has to do partly with plans to make adjustments to the configuration of that subway station and particularly to the now somewhat desolate area where the mural is to be placed. The total estimated cost of creating and mounting the mural is \$12,000, out of which the TA will grant \$5,000 and we will supply the balance. At this date we have in hand or promised \$4,500. Contributors of \$100 or more, individuals and businesses, will have their names inscribed on a plaque beside the mural. For the curious, a small-scale mock-up of the painting is usually available for viewing at West Village Committee meetings.

WE SURVIVE THE ANNUAL PARTY -- ONCE AGAIN

The By-Laws specify that we must hold one meeting each year at which no business is conducted in celebration of the survival of the West Village community, and so we celebrated again at the end of last year. Before the party we had a call from Jim Shaw wishing us well; he is happy and well in San Francisco. (We have heard that recent medical tests have found him cancer-free.) And with the party itself, we were overwhelmed by many more people than had told us were coming, but there were only a handful of free-loaders among them. We're compiling a list. The party paid honor to Ruth Wittenberg who has dedicated her life to this community. This was not meant to diminish the roles played by Jane Jacobs, Ann Lye, Rachele Wall, Arthur Stoliar, and host of others for planning wisely and defending our community. But each life is unique and each contribution is also unique. But Ruth Wittenberg's life is closing in on being able to recall nearly a century of Village history.

On the whole the party was great fun. Vegetables proved much more popular than meats, perhaps indicating a change in eating habits. It is also a challenge to prepare edible vegetables for 85 or 90 people. We particularly want to thank Arthur Bond, 12th Street, for his usual expert carving skills and for taking charge in the kitchen at the party; Arthur is usually the calm eye of the storm. Down the line, thanks to Betty Rinckwitz, Perry Street, for baking a ham although she couldn't attend the party because her husband, Fred, was ill; thanks to Barbara Fisher, Richard Spiegel and Thomas Perry, Greenwich Street, for moving quantities of food from here to there; thanks to Christabel Gough, Christopher Street, for her contribution of sweets; thanks to Eliza Bradley, 8th Street, for running errands and helping to pull it all together; thanks to Barbara Steinberg, Morton Street, and Elaine Schechter, Perry Street, and Michael Halle, 12th Street, for helping to clean up after the party, and finally thanks to Bank Streeters Judy McCusker, Peter Craig, Anne Slatin and Eileen Bowser for kitchen duty. If we've missed anybody, apologies. We met some neighbors we hadn't known before, and they were all very nice people. We're looking forward to doing it all over again next year.

I wish to contribute to the following West Village Committee projects:

- Jane Street Garden Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area Toward gates and plantings in Abington Sq. Pk.
- Installation of art work on the wall of the long Western corridor of the IND 14th St./8th Avenue subway stop between 14th and 15th Streets.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Return to The West Village Committee, PO Box 30301, NY NY 10011. Contributions are tax deductible.

February 1989



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

Meeting Date: **Tues., February 28, 7:30 PM**
Place: **Parish Hall, St. John's, 224 Waverly**
Agenda: **Update on prison barge fight**

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 • Port Authority Station • 15th Street and 9th Avenue • New York, New York 10011

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE FILES SUIT AGAINST SECOND PRISON BARGE

A lawsuit was filed on behalf of the West Village Committee in mid-February challenging New York City's acquisition of a second prison barge, the Bibby Resolution. The action was filed by the respected law firm, Jacob D. Fuchsberg, with James Lane acting as the lead attorney in the pro bono suit. The suit charges violation of both City and State environmental law, and suggests that no valid environmental impact study can be made until a specific site for permanent berthing has been determined. The reason this action was filed in New York Supreme Court at this time was the fact that the Board of Estimate had, in fact, approved funding to purchase a second barge two weeks before they voted to moor the first prison barge, the Bibby Venture, at Pier 40 below Morton Street. The time limitation when a suit could be taken against the second barge was running out. We think this suit will be in court not later than March 9. If we win it could substantially bolster the second suit yet to be filed against a prison barge at Pier 40. We have worked closely with Ban the Barge Inc. in raising to date in excess of \$25,000 -- with a total goal of \$60,000 at this moment. The second suit against mooring a prison barge at Pier 40 will be an entirely separate action from the one we have taken at this time, and although our generous membership has donated - and we hope will continue to donate -- a major portion of these funds, we do not expect to be a plaintiff on the second suit.

WE BEG YOU TO ATTEND THE ARMY CORPS HEARING ON THE BIBBY VENTURE

It is absolutely essential that you attend the Army Corps of Engineers hearing at Police Headquarters, One Police Plaza, on February 23 at 4:00 P.M. Inasmuch as this hearing begins toward the end of the working day, and it will be continued on into the night until every witness is heard from - if you don't want a prison barge at Pier 40, if you would like to stop further cost of litigation, if you would like to see the Hudson River treated as the noble and magnificent body of water that it is, attend this hearing. If you are too shy to speak out, attend anyway and be counted by the media as a body against trashing our front yard -- the noble Hudson, the most incomparable river on the Eastern Seashore. We beg you to attend and roar your opposition. If you have questions about what to say, call 243-0762 or 473-2787.

THE PARKS COUNCIL, AGAIN

We recently learned that The Parks Council employee, Linda Davidoff, had been talking up a trade-off of upland zoning rights in order to achieve a park by the waterfront in the West Village. We had previously disagreed with their proposal for an esplanade filled with theaters and other devices -- a sort of Coney Island with a smudge of culture. The pitiful part of it is that such planning is funded with appropriations provided by the State Legislature, and apparently with no input from the community they are planning to harm. We have written objections to such a trade-off and such a procedure for planning. We suggest that you too might want to drop a note to Ms. Davidoff at The Parks Council, 457 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10022, and tell her that we do not want our upland zoning compromised.

Contributions to The West Village Committee Inc. are tax-deductible. We are incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation and have a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible status.

SUBWAY ART WORK RECEIVES NECESSARY FINAL FUNDING

Our efforts to raise a total goal of \$12,000 for installation of a 96' long mural in the 8th Avenue/14th Street subway has been satisfied with a substantial grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, and is scheduled for installation in April. This mural has been made possible with the support of the MTA Arts for Transit-Creative Stations Program and the West Village Committee, Inc.

THE LOSSES OF WINTER

We learned recently from Anne Tonachel that a long-time member, Gabriel Mayorga, had died in California last year. Gabriel and Hilda Mayorga were long-time home-owners on W. 11th Street, and he was a true Renaissance Man -- accomplished artist, aviator, bibliophile, etc. -- all phases of life and art intrigued his inquisitive mind until a few years ago when a massive stroke confined him to a wheelchair. We extend our deepest sympathies to Hilda Mayorga and to their son.

We also learned recently that Matilda D. Thompson, W. 11th Street, and a Village resident since 1928, suffered a severe stroke last year and that well into the Winter she was still hospitalized. Her relatives have told us that should she survive, she will enter a nursing home and not return to 11th Street. Mrs. Thompson's association with the West Village Committee goes back nearly 30 years to our beginning as a community organization. Ever a genteel, kindly person, Mrs. Thompson has for many years been pretty much confined to her apartment where we have sometimes visited with her or called by phone. Gently, gently they go into the night.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Remember: nobody can place a prison barge in the Hudson River without a permit from the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers. Beat them at the Corps hearing and save court costs.

'PATH' TOWERS BENEFIT

The Federation to Preserve the Greenwich Village Waterfront and Great Port is sponsoring a fundraising benefit on Feb. 27 at 8 P.M. in the Lucille Lortel Theater, Christopher St., to raise funds for the suit against the PATH ventilation towers at the foot of Morton Street. The main feature of the benefit will be the first New York showing of the prize-winning documentary, Here at the Water's Edge, by Leo Hurwitz and Charles Pratt. Pratt was a still photographer and Hurwitz is a highly-respected documentary film-maker. Tickets to the benefit are \$125 per person. For additional information please call, Mary Emma Harris 691-6708 or Ben Green 691-6265.



Public Notice PLEASE POST
BAN THE BARGE

Save your children, your home, your storefront, your business and your loved ones from the harm engendered by drug addicts and their friends.

STOP THE PRISON BARGE AT PIER 40

A R M Y C O R P S O F E N G I N E E R S P U B L I C H E A R I N G

SPEAK OUT !!!

Testify at the Army Corps of Engineers hearing on February 23rd. The Army Corps hearing is our last chance to block the prison barge for drug addicts and sellers, the Bibby Venture, from being berthed permanently at Pier 40 near Morton Street without going to court. It is absolutely essential to have a HUGE attendance at this hearing.

WHEN: Thursday, February 23 beginning at 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: One Police Plaza, just behind the Municipal Building.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND, PLEASE WRITE YOUR OBJECTIONS TO:

Department of the Army
New York District, Corps of Engineers,
Regulatory Branch
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937
New York, New York 10278-0090
Attention: Mr. Steven R. Mars

If you are writing to the Corps, the closing date for the hearing is March 9. Do not delay. Speak out in defense of our residential community. Speak out in defense of the magnificent Hudson, of our need to have unobstructed open space along the river.

SAVE THE HISTORIC GREENWICH VILLAGE WATERFRONT

Pier 40 is very close upon the site where Robert Fulton built the Clermont, and it is also part of the famous Deep Port of the City where from before the turn of the last century until after the First World War, all of the major steamships lines of the world at some time had their own piers along the Greenwich Village waterfront. All factors will be weighed by the Corps including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

SAVE THE HISTORIC GREENWICH VILLAGE COMMUNITY

Distributed for BAN THE BARGE INC. by



"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community for More Than a Quarter Century"

- Mr. Bowser 243-0762
- Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
- Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
- Mr. Crosland 929-0070
- Ms. Slatin 255-7066
- Ms. McCusker 929-5228
- Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 · Port Authority Station · 15th Street and 9th Avenue · New York, New York 10011



March 1989

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 • Port Authority Station • 15th Street and 9th Avenue • New York, New York 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 28, 1989 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Prison Barges #1, #2 and #3.

CITY ORDERS 800-BED PRISON BARGE FOR \$130,000,000

As we go to press, the City has announced it has placed an order for a third prison barge costing double the cost of the land-built White Street Jail with 500 beds. Commissioner of Corrections Koehler, more arrogant than coy, has announced that they are not going to tell where it will be placed permanently. Speculation is that it is going to Hunt's Point, Hart Island or Brooklyn. But we recall that 12th & Jane and the Meat Market are also intended sites for prison barges. A final decision will be made on the purchase at the Board of Estimate, City Hall, on Thursday, March 30. Be angry! Be enraged! Be there and testify against prison barges as an answer to the prison shortage! We have never lost a battle yet. Help us win this one.

WRITE TO SENATOR OHRENSTEIN: STOP THE ARTIFICIAL REEF IN THE HUDSON

Down near the end of Manhattan off Piers 26 and 32 in the Hudson there is a dump of rubble out in the river. A woman named Catherine Drew working under a project title, The River Project, is proposing rearranging that rubble to create a landscaped reef to be used as a testing ground to see what wildlife - birds and fish - could be attracted to live with man-made landfill. She has gone to Senator Ohrenstein to obtain State funding and has been well-received there. Community Board #1, with some opposition, has approved the project. Such a project seems to go against the Westway court decisions which basically said that anything which could be placed elsewhere, should not be placed in the Hudson. Ms. Drew may be acting in innocence, but her studies could be used to justify further platforming and landfilling in the Hudson River. We urge you to write to Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, 270 Broadway, New York NY 10007, and demand that he drop any idea of requesting State funds for The River Project. Write today. The State Budget will have its final day on March 30.

SUBWAY MURAL SET FOR UNVEILING MAY 9TH

The 96-foot long mural being prepared for installation in the upper level of the 14th Street/8th Avenue IND subway station is expected to be completed by the first week in May with an unveiling set for May 9th. We are still collecting last-minute contributions for this project. If you would like your name added to the plaque of contributors beside the mural, get your contribution in soon; or you might want to plaque the name of a departed friend. The West Village Committee is acting as the not-for-profit sponsor, in association with the Transit Authority and the New York State Council on the Arts, both of which have provided substantial funding. And from now on it will be a lot of hard work for young Village artist, Ross Lewis, but we have every confidence he will turn out a splendid work of art. Final and formal details of the unveiling and reception will appear in the April Newsletter. Contributions are tax deductible.

HEARING DATE SET FOR COMMITTEE'S SUIT AGAINST BARGE #2, THE BIBBY RESOLUTION

As you know, the West Village Committee has filed suit through the efforts of James Lane of the highly respected Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Firm against the City's acquiring a second prison barge, the Bibby Resolution. Environmental objections form the basis for the suit. At the time the order was placed for the Resolution, there was no indication of where it was to be berthed. More recently the City has said it will be moored at Pier 36 on the Lower East Side, and that it is already on its way from Europe. It does seem to us impossible to do a legitimate Environmental Impact Study on a specific spot if you are still making up your mind where to place the floating prison. Our overall opinion is that it should not be on the Lower East Side, nor at Hunt's Point, nor in Brooklyn, nor in the Hudson River. None of the above. The case is now scheduled to be heard before Judge Tompkins, in Room 252 at 9:30 A.M., 60 Centre Street, Tuesday, March 28. This suit has been filed pro bono by the Fuchsberg firm.

FUNDS RAISED AGAINST THE PRISON BARGE PASSES \$30,000 MARK

We have worked closely with Ban the Barge Inc. in raising funds for the lawsuit against the City docking the first prison ship, the Bibby Venture, at Pier 40 in June or July. We have absorbed some of the printing costs for fund-raising and postage. Ban the Barge Inc. had set a goal of \$60,000. With the help of a crew of very loyal members and friends in as many buildings and byways, we have by now passed the \$30,000 mark. In nearly 30 years of fending off unwanted projects, such spirit in defense of our beloved community is amazing. And our community survives so long as that spirit continues. We will be working toward getting together some fundraising events in the near future. In the meantime, if you are intent on sending a check and want to be certain of a tax deduction, you may write it to the West Village Committee and memo it for Bank the Barge.

BOOK SALES WILL RESUME

We expect West Village Committee book sales to resume in May or June in our new location on Greenwich Street. Donated books have supported our expenses and causes for many years and we hope to not only resume book sales but keep the shop open with volunteers more often than previously. More on this in the April Newsletter.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Officers for the West Village Committee will be elected at our April meeting.

FUNDS NEEDED FOR SOCIETY'S STUDY TOWARD LANDMARKING WATERFRONT AREA

Richard Barnett, a former President of The West Village Committee, and now President of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, has approached us to make a funding gesture toward publication costs of the completed study by Regina Kellerman of the West Village beyond the present border of the existing Greenwich Village Historic Landmark District. Whether it were to become a part of the existing District, or more likely, a separate landmarked waterfront district, is unimportant. Historically this area incorporates the oldest part of Greenwich Village and desperately needs protection from greedy developers. There is an estimate that it might require as much as \$12,000 to put the study into print so that it can be made available to all of us, and so that we can intelligently request landmark status for the area. The Society is a valuable sister organization, and we will be happy to receive funds toward the publication of this invaluable architectural study. All contributions are tax deductible.

CHRIST STROLIGO - 1899-1988

The January issue of the Newsletter noted with regret the death of Mr. Christ Stroligo on December 21, four days before Christmas. From the formation of The West Village Committee as the Committee to Save the Village nearly 30 years ago, the Stroligo family has been supportive of our goals. But we also were aware that Mr. Stroligo had a very interesting background, and so we are very pleased to relate some of that history here.

Christ Stroligo was born on December 24, Christmas Eve 1899 in the Province of Istria, which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the age of 16 he was drafted into World War I service, was wounded at 17, and at war's end was critically ill with malaria.

After the war, hearing about the opportunities in the United States, he joined the crew of a ship destined for the U.S. and decided to remain in this country.

He found his "golden opportunity" on a tugboat shoveling coal - twelve hours a day, seven days a week.

At age 24 he married Maria Gitz. In 1926 Mr. Stroligo managed the down-payment on a brownstone located at 318 West 11th Street. At that time, there was an outhouse in the backyard, one water tap in the cellar, and a working blacksmith next door on Greenwich Street.

Christ and Maria Stroligo raised four children on 11th Street. Their children and three of their grandchildren were educated in the West Village and inherited their love and appreciation of this unique community.

The Stroligo family has lost a beloved parent, the West Village Committee has lost a friend.

HB PLAYRIGHTS: "A BACKWARD GLANCE OF EDITH WHARTON"

The HB Playwrights Foundation, 124 Bank Street, is announcing their latest stage production with "A Backward Glance of Edith Wharton," beginning with 8 P.M. curtains on March 22 thru April 3. The exception is No Performance on March 26. We have many enthusiasts of these productions among our membership. Admission is free, but reservations must be made Monday thru Friday from 11 A.M. until 5 P.M. by calling 989-6540. Telephone reservations are automatically confirmed, but to be sure of a seat you must arrive and claim your seat 15 minutes before curtain at 8 P.M. The theater is located on the south side of Bank Street between Greenwich and Washington Streets.

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

Do you have a boiler and heating pipes in the basement wrapped in asbestos? Does it worry you? Would you like to have it removed from the premise? Many small, older homes have an existing asbestos conditions, and in some instances the asbestos wrappings surround the pipes into the upper floors. The best advice is not to do the removal yourself, because you will still have a problem of disposing legally of this dangerous material - you can be fined for putting it out for City Garbage Pickup. It is often only a one-day job for a licensed remover, more for apartment houses, and for very small jobs the bill may be in the high hundreds, but for average brownstone basements it can run as high as \$2,000-\$3,000. If you would like a list of licensed removal contractors we suggest that you write to

Department of Environmental Protection
Asbestos Control Program
295 Lafayette Street
New York, New York 10012

and enclose a check for \$6 made out to "NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection." They, in turn, will send you a fairly complete list of all contractors licensed to do this dangerous work so that you can obtain cost estimates. If your neighbors have similar existing asbestos problems, you should inquire of the contractor as to whether he would take on cleaning out several houses in the same area at a reduced group rate.

I wish to contribute to the following West Village Committee projects: Postage/Printing
 Jane Street Garden Jefferson Market Rock Garden Iron gates & plantings in Abington Square Park
 Art work in IND 14th/8th Ave. subway station Support of publication of the Kellerman architectural study toward landmarking the West Village to the Hudson River.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Return to The West Village Committee, PO Box 30301, NY NY 10011. Contributions are tax deductible.



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice
"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

April 1989

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 • Port Authority Station • 15th Street and 9th Avenue • New York, New York 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 25, 1989 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Election of officers; reports on progress of the West Village Committee suit against the "Bibby Resolution" prison barge and the Federation/Ban the Barge suit against the "Bibby Venture" prison barge.

THE PRISON BARGES

The suit filed by the Federation and Ban the Barge against the docking of the Bibby Venture has achieved notable success when the judge granted a temporary injunction preventing the prison barge from being placed at Pier 40. The tough part of that victory was that the court demanded a deposit of \$5,000 from the plaintiffs, but fortunately Ban the Barge was able to come up with the funds immediately. The West Village Committee's suit against the Bibby Resolution has asked for a similar injunction, but so far we have had no ruling handed down. Our suit is pro bono with the Jacob Fuchsberg law firm, except for court costs; but the court could legitimately ask for such a deposit from us if an injunction is granted.

The other best guarantee against placing prison barges on city waterfronts is to write to N.Y. Secretary of State Gail Schaffer and ask her to order the U.S. Corps of Engineers not to issue permits. She has this authority because of her control over the Coastal Zone Management Program. If you have written to her already, write another brief note repeating your stance. Persist. Win. Win by keeping the pressure on the issue. Her address is:

The Hon. Gail Schaffer, Secretary of State
New York State Department of State
Division of Coastal Resources
162 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12231

REZONING THE WEST VILLAGE

Community Board 2's Zoning Committee has for some time been dealing with the need to rezone the West Village area to maintain its low-rise character and to prevent the mistake of constructing more Memphis Downtowns. Central to this work is Columbia University's Professor Sclar and his team of students, and also central was the need for \$10,000 to carry out the study. We are pleased to learn that the Archives Fund is going to supply these funds following requests for such action from us and from other groups. It is quite clear to us that the area to be fully protected will need action both in landmarking and in zoning. The latter is funded and well on its way, but we are still asking contributions to support publication of the study prepared by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation to be used as a tool for landmarking parts of the West Village. Contributions made directly to the Society or paid through the West Village Committee are tax deductible. The great danger here is along West Street and out into the Hudson River where forces in City Hall and in Albany almost equally regard the magnificent Hudson River as just another piece of real estate to accommodate high rise buildings cutting off view, light and air. We are such hypocrites in America to lecture Third World Countries on conserving their natural resources, and yet we permit developers working with politicians to trash America's most splendid river -- the Hudson. We urge you once again to write to Governor Cuomo and demand a stoppage of plans for building into the Hudson River. And tell him at the same time we don't want any lousy prison barges either. Write to:

Governor Mario Cuomo
The Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

After decades of tax abatements for Trump and other billionaires, there has to be another way to balance budgets without savaging healthy communities and trashing the Hudson.



UNVEILING AND RECEPTION FOR SUBWAY ART WORK

On Tuesday, May 9 at 1 P.M. there will be an unveiling of the wall mural which we have sponsored in conjunction with the Transit Authority and the New York State Council on the Arts on the upper level of the 14th St./8th Avenue IND station. The mural is by an accomplished young artist, Ross Lewis, whose studio is located in the meat market area. A small reception will follow in the nearby Spanish Catholic Church, La Guadalupe, 229 West 14th Street. If you plan to attend the reception please RSVP by leaving a message at 243-0762.

LETTERS TO PROTECT THE HUDSON

Anne Slatin and a number of willing volunteers (we hope) have gotten off letters to every State Senator and Assemblyman in Albany making a plea for support of the Hudson River Habitat Protection Bill -- which is several hundred letters. If passed by both houses, it would be a strong move toward preventing construction and building out into the Hudson water, but it needs to pass with a strong majority to override a probable Cuomo veto, because the Governor is generally considered to be a strong supporter of construction out into the river. This was a mammoth job of typing in the name of the Committee, and the response has been rewarding and positive.

BICENTENNIAL PRESIDENTIAL PARADE ON APRIL 30

The weekend of April 29-30 marks the 200th Anniversary of the Inauguration of our nation's first president, George Washington, in New York City, our nation's first capital. To celebrate this important historical event, the City of New York is sponsoring a series of events including a Bicentennial Parade in which many civic, military and historical organizations will be participating. In addition to these groups, some of the finest bands in the country will be marching. The parade route will begin in Wall Street in front of the Federal Hall traveling north on Broadway, making a left on Waverly Place, and concluding with a celebration in Washington Square Park. The procession will begin at 1 P.M. and reach its destination at 3:30 P.M., all on April 30. Participants in the parade will include representatives of groups who participated in the 1889 Centennial celebration, units of all branches of the armed forces, and the marching bands. The parade committee is interested in having businesses or civic groups along the parade route to "adopt a block" and place flyers and posters along the route. If your group can gather as many as 25 people or more to view the parade, the committee will ensure your party of people a prime viewing location along the route. Further information about any of the above regarding the parade may be obtained by calling Mitchell Schwartz or Wendy Smith at (212) 566-8580.

FUTURE BOOK SALES

We are planning to open our new book sale site in late May or June at the private garage located at Greenwich Street and West 10th, and will eventually use the site as a mailing address. This is just to say that we will be accepting donations of books in future.

THE LONG GOOD-BYE

We regret to report the death of Matthew Alexander, long on the staff of 75 Bank Street, and known to everybody as "Sonny." He was born in North Carolina, one of 18 children, the son of a farmer and handyman. He said that he learned from his father how to do the mechanical things he did so well for the tenants in 75 Bank. Around 70 when he died, he had come north in his twenties, married, had five children and many grandchildren who were absolutely devoted to him in his final illness. Sonny was unfailingly kind and helpful even to strangers and to the elderly in 75 Bank Street.

We wish also to belatedly record with regret the death of a long-time member Dennis Helfand, West 11th Street.

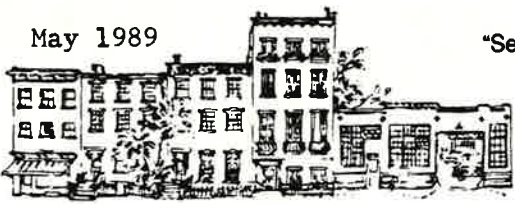
I wish to contribute to the following West Village Committee projects:

- Jane Street Garden
- Jefferson Market Rock Garden Area
- Toward iron gates/plantings in Abington Sq. Park
- Toward publishing the Kellerman study toward further landmarking in the West Village
- Ben the Barge Inc.

Return to The West Village Committee Inc., PO Box 30301, NY NY 10011. Contributions are tax deductible.

And a special word of thanks to Evelyn Cahn for supplying us with information on "Sonny" Alexander.

May 1989



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's, 224 Waverly

Agenda: Final balloting for officers; report on
the Sclar/Columbia students zoning study, and
update on Prison Barge Program.

Mr. Bowser 243-0762
Mr. Spiegel 929-3169
Ms. Steinberg 242-6380
Mr. Crosland 929-0070
Ms. Slatin 255-7066
Ms. McCusker 929-5228
Ms. Fisher 929-3169

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 · Port Authority Station · 15th Street and 9th Avenue · New York, New York 10011

THE PRISON BARGES

At this moment, and despite confused press coverage, the temporary injunction against docking the prison barge, Bibby Venture, at Pier 40 is still in effect. What the court has permitted is continued work on the pier to prepare it to accommodate such a docking. The injunction which has been lifted has to do with the Bibby Resolution at Pier 36 in the Lower East Side, and the lifted injunction has to do specifically with a separate suit filed by Assemblyman Sheldon Silver against the Resolution; he rather quickly was granted an injunction and almost as quickly had it lifted. The court has so far taken no action on our suit against the Bibby Resolution, which argued largely against acquisition of the prison barge. At the moment the Bibby Resolution is receiving inmates with a voiced plan for turning the barge into a prison drug treatment facility. But so long as you continue to support our legal efforts as you have in the past, have faith that we will continue to proceed with continuing court actions whenever a ruling goes against us. Contributions to Ban the Barge made through our appeals for funds have given major support to the lawsuits. And the other thing you can do, and we beg you once again to follow through on this -- write a letter of protest to New York Secretary of State Gail Schaffer. It does not matter if you have written before, write again to remind her that tremendous opposition is still out here. That's the way you will win the battle. Stick to the issue, keep up the pressure. She holds the power to stop prison barges on the waterfront. Her address is:

The Hon. Gail Schaffer, Secretary of State
NYS Dept. of State, Division of Coastal Resources
162 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12231

GREENMARKET OPENS SATURDAY, JUNE 3

The West Village Greenmarket in Gansevoort Street at Hudson will reopen on the morning of Saturday, June 3. This area has deteriorated sharply over the past year with a sharp increase in the presence of prostitutes and drug sellers. If we cannot flush out some of the human dregs infiltrating the area, we are seriously going to discuss closing the market. Our appeals to higher authority have not always been met with promises to solve the problems present. Our concern is not just for neighbors who come to shop -- but for the farmers who have become our friends. One "higher authority" suggested that we ask the farmers to arm themselves with baseball bats to fend off robbery and assault from this human trash when they arrive at 7 AM. The Greenmarkets are sponsored by the Council on the Environment, and the West Village Committee is the local co-sponsor of the Gansevoort market.

BOOK ON GREENWICH VILLAGE WATERFRONT SET FOR AUTUMN PUBLICATION

Plans are in the air to publish the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation's book, The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront, according to Richard Barnett, president of the Society. Based on a comprehensive research project undertaken by Regina Kellerman in 1987 and completed in 1988, the book documents in text and photographs every building and pier in the 36-square-block Village waterfront area. It will be issued in both hard and soft cover, and will be promoted to libraries and booksellers in the Fall of 1989 New York University Press Catalog. This study can become a tool in the hands of the public to push for an expanded historic district or more likely a special waterfront historic district, and together with the on-going Columbia study re zoning, may help to preserve our waterfront as an open space. The publication is being made possible by a grant from the Paul and Klara Porzelt Foundation and contributions from Society members. Society officers have called to thank us for several times publicizing the need for publication funds.

RECYCLING REMINDERS

1. Put bundled newspapers at the curb the evening before your scheduled pick-up day. Call 240-4830 (Curbside Recycling) if you don't know your pick-up day. The morning of pick-up day is too late -- trucks come early. Do not put out newspaper bundles earlier: they attract dogs and are more likely to get untied.
2. The newspapers in bundles. Do not put in plastic or paper bags.
3. Magazines and corrugated cardboard are now being collected by the City along with newspapers. Magazines may be mixed with newspapers, but since they must be sorted before processing it would helpful to put magazines together at the top of a bundle. Corrugated cardboard, brown or colored, must be flattened and tied separately from paper. Telephone books cannot be recycled at this time.
4. Return all soda and beer cans and bottles. You paid 5¢ for each -- get your money back!
5. The Village Green Recycling Team collects glass, aluminum, tin and other metals, and plastic jugs. Call 473-4227, 420-0621 or 777-1422 for information and hours.
6. Dog owners: please bring paper for droppings from home; do not untie or pull newspaper out of bundles on the street.
7. Avoid the use of plastic products: request paper bags at supermarkets instead of plastic, avoid unnecessary packaging, refuse a bag when buying only one item, don't buy styrofoam products. We can all help to reduce waste and save the environment.

—Jackie Davidson



"It will never be possible to provide parking space in the largest cities for all motorists who want to come to them. There wouldn't be anything left worth coming to." —Harrison E. Salisbury, The New York TIMES

October 5, 1958

THE GOVERNOR'S BILL No. 63

Governor Cuomo has placed a bill before the State Legislature, Governor's Bill No. 63, which if passed could set up a State commission to override local law and local decisions on where to place solid waste management facilities. He apparently has found a sponsor in the State Senate in Senator Spano of Westchester. This is extremely dubious territory for the Governor to be pushing in, and we hope you will write to your state legislators and ask them to kill the item. The Port Authority is enough of a commission with dictatorial powers -- we don't need a second one in this State. The Governor is a gentleman and well-spoken, but his solid support of such projects as Westway back when he was Secretary of State indicates that he is one of many who think that Manhattan only exists to bear continued overdevelopment in order to balance the budget for all five boroughs. Of late, downtown Brooklyn has begun to suffer some of the same overdevelopment. We don't need more hideous monstrosities such as is planned for Columbus Circle any more than we need prison barges at all remaining piers. And we certainly don't need a commission of paid flunkies overriding local law as to where incinerators are to be placed at any time, now or in the future. To our mind, neither State or City officials have yet put any serious attention to recycling. In some quarters among some very intelligent individuals, there is extreme suspicion that the prison barges are only a guise to get waste, water and other utility lines beyond the waterfront so that in the near future, the prison barges may be withdrawn and the sites will be ready to receive high rise structures in the water. So write to Governor Cuomo again and ask him to halt high-rise development on the waterfront. We're tired of seeing Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn used as pawns to balance the budget for the City.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN

The Department of General Services has informed us that we are to repair the sidewalk around the Jane Street Garden "immediately," and accuse us of illegally attempting to repair the sidewalk with asphalt. So far we have a low bid for repair of \$10,400, and we have informed the City that we will not meet such an expense -- not at that price. The disgraceful condition of the sidewalk goes back at least 15 years and City DOT repaired it with asphalt. So you may see a garden disappearing in the near future.

WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE BOOK SALE

The West Village Committee will hold a book sale on Saturday, June 10 in the private garage at 702 Greenwich Street at West 10th (north of the Community School playground) from 11 A.M. until dusk. It will be an off-street sale, but you will have no trouble finding us, but we will need volunteers to help.

SUBWAY ART INSTALLED AND UNVEILED

On Tuesday, May 9, Ross Lewis' 96-foot mural got unveiled in the upper level of the 14th Street 8th Avenue subway. All of this was possible because of a very talented artist and because of generous contributions from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Citibank, Republic Bank, the Citizens Committee of NYC (and the Mollie Parnis Prize), and many smaller donations from individuals. A station desperately in need of uplift has gotten one and that corridor is clean and better lighted. We said at the ceremony that the transit system is next to clean air and water in importance in this City. Stop and see the art work. And God bless all of you who helped it come to pass.

The New York Times

Style Makers

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989

Ross Lewis

WAY MURALIST

In the beginning there were scraggly mus-faces inked onto the faces on advertising posters. Then came the age of graffiti, when no subway was safe from egos and spray cans. Erase all that. Now the real thing is being installed on the west wall of the subway station at 14th Street and Eighth Avenue in Manhattan.

The artist is 32-year-old Ross Lewis, one of the winners in the Metropolitan Transit Authority's Arts for Transit Competition, part of an effort to bring new art and fresh design into the 85-year-old transit system. (The project was co-sponsored by the West Village Committee.)

Mr. Lewis's work, "Parallel Motion," is a mural four feet high, 96 feet long and painted in acrylic on hemp paper. It is mounted in 12 continuous panels framed in aluminum bolted to the wall. The painting will be protected by quarter-inch plexiglass. It is to be unveiled Tuesday.

"The art galleries have lost their rawness," Mr. Lewis said. "The subway is really like public theater where everyone from commuters to musi-



The New York Times/Chester Higgins Jr.

Ross Lewis and his mural.

cians, entertainers and vendors clash in a whirlwind of expression and motion. I tried to achieve a sense of motion and find a statement that expressed the energy of the people in the subway as they travel through a long, continuous underground passageway."

Mr. Lewis's prize-winning statement consists of black figures (he calls them "dance calligraphies") on a white ground linked by blocks of blue, red, yellow and silver. He painted it in sections in his downtown studio.

Mr. Lewis studied

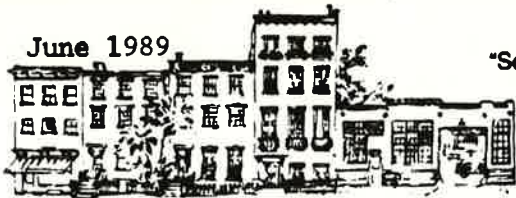
Chinese landscape painting and calligraphy ("I was obsessed by it from the first") in China and Taiwan, which probably will not surprise viewers of "Parallel Motion."

For the past three years he has been drawing modern dancers: "They remind me of calligraphy. You put the brush on point, and then you turn and then press."

He speaks fluent Mandarin. He rides the subway everywhere; he used to go by bicycle, but then his bike was stolen.

RON ALEXANDER

June 1989



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice
"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

243-0762

Volume XXIX, No. 6

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Box 30301 · Port Authority Station · 15th Street and 9th Avenue · New York, New York 10011

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: Late developments re a prison barge at Pier 40, should we join in with Ban the Barge for a street fair fund-raiser, and the need for volunteers to serve in our bookstore/headquarters on weekends.

INJUNCTION AGAINST A PRISON BARGE AT PIER 40 IS LIFTED

Despite the lack of press coverage, we regret to inform you that Judge Shorter lifted the injunction against permanently locating the prison barge, Bibby Venture, at Pier 40 near Morton Street earlier in the month. The City had said all along that they planned to have the Venture in place at Pier 40 by the end of July, and they will probably be able to keep their promise. However, the State in granting permission for placing a prison barge at Pier 40, gave permission for only a temporary mooring of five years since they admit that any such use of the Hudson River waterfront violates Federal Coastal Zone Management policy. Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard is said to be delighted, but then prison barges are said to be his idiotic idea to begin with. What else would you expect from such a hack planner? An appeal is being prepared, and we once again will accept tax-deductible donations to support the appeal in the courts.

Bad planning may originate here in the City, but it does not help when State officials in Albany reinforce bad planning with a five-year temporary permit. The splendid oratory of the Governor, when measured against the compromising acts of his Secretary of State Gail Schaffer, seem less impressive than when we first heard his mellow tones years ago.

CALL YOUR ASSEMBLYMAN, CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR

In the State Senate and in the State Assembly, there is a worthwhile bill dealing with energy and environment, but it contains a very dangerous provision -- giving the State a total veto power on where waste disposal and incinerators are to be placed. This is not the Governor's Bill #63, which is considered to be dead at this time, but it contains the same provisions we objected to in the Governor's Bill #63. In the State Senate, it is #S4051, in the Assembly, #A7491. We do not ask that the bill be killed, only that those hidden provisions to override Local Law be removed. The wishes of local communities are often enough dismissed, we don't need to be stomped on besides. Please call your Assemblyman and your State Senator. In the Village, your Assemblyman is Bill Passannante, 385-6622, and Senator Ohrenstein's office is 587-5531, and phone calls are quicker. But if you want to write, they both have offices in 250 Broadway NYC 10007.

RUMOR SAYS A WATERSIDE PARK IS ON THE WAY

Rumor has it that Governor Cuomo and Mayor Koch have agreed to a waterside park along the Hudson River waterfront and will declare a ban on waterside development. We are curious only as to how much of the waterfront will fall under such a plan for a waterside park, because if it only considers the Village waterfront, it will not be enough. We urge you to write to Governor Cuomo and ask that he pursue making the entire Hudson River waterfront a park, and also demand that streets in the Greenwich Village Historic District not be attached to the superhighway to be built along the Hudson as a replacement for the West Side Elevated Highway. Cuomo may be addressed as follows:

The Hon., Mario Cuomo, Governor
The State of New York
The Executive Chamber
Capitol
Albany, New York 12224



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 30301 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011

The West Village Committee does not meet in July and August; have a good summer!

OFFICERS ELECTED

The following officers were elected by secret paper ballot at the last meeting to serve the West Village Committee for one year: Bill Bowser, President; Jessie McNab, First Vice-President; Barbara Steinberg, Second Vice-President; Eliza Bradley, Third Vice-President; Judy McCusker, Secretary, and Terry Fritsch, Treasurer.

BITS AND PIECES

We were delighted to see the Landmarks Commission vote landmark status for the Ladies' Mile District, and we are proud to have been among those early groups to support the efforts of Jack Taylor and others. We did not get to the Commission hearing which actually voted designation. But, of course, the matter is not completed yet as this action must be approved by the Board of Estimate -- probably in September. Letters to Board of Estimate members asking them to approve the Landmarks Commission's designation are appropriate right now.

We also attended the Landmarks Commission hearing on consideration of four landmarks districts in Tribeca. We did not testify that day because we were "monitoring" the hearing, although our sympathies were certainly with Carole DeSaram and others who have worked so hard for landmarking this interesting area. However, we indicated to the Commission that we would send written testimony in support of landmarking Tribeca. And we lean strongly toward a single district, not one cut in four pieces.

We have also voiced our objections to the Charter Review Commission for having Landmarks Commission decisions approved by the City Planning Commission, and have asked that that role be passed on from the present Board of Estimate to the City Council.

We also attended the Landmarks Commission hearing on setting up rules on window replacement, and we were not very impressed with the rules proposed. A lot of legal gibberish and zoning language, but in the long-run they seem not to recognize windows as an essential part of a facade and seem to encourage almost anything an architect or an owner might propose.

THE GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET IS OPEN

The Gansevoort Greenmarket opened on June 3 and continues with more fresh produce each Saturday morning. The loss of a fish truck is a very great loss for the market, but with the help of the police and local activists, a couple of nearby crack houses have been closed; if you would like to have additional things such as fish in Gansevoort, we suggest you write your wants, needs, complaints, compliments directly Barry Benepe, NYC Greenmarkets, 130 East 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003. Gansevoort is an early market with the farmers often in place by 7 or 7:30. Just remember, it is your market. Patronize. Criticize. Enjoy. It also has a reputation for being the friendliest of the Greenmarkets.

SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE ON JUNE 10

We had a successful book sale on Saturday, June 10 at our new headquarters location, 702 Greenwich Street. We still have work to do to get the books in order and we need volunteers to help sort, price and shelf the books in categories. Let's discuss this at our meeting. We hope to be in order once again to open on the weekend of Saturday, July 1. Mail or messages can already be left in the mailbox for us at 702 Greenwich Street, but we are going to retain our PO Box number until we are in absolutely good order. And besides we paid the box fee for another six months, and have a lot of envelopes with the PO Box number. Thanks to Helen Tierney for telling us about a marvellous stash of books on the upper East Side, and thanks to Mildred Orlans, Grace Sowerwine, Nancy Bruck, Nancy Wilford and Knox Burger for giving us substantial numbers of good quality books. And thanks to Eliza Bradley, Peter Craig, Tom Stokes, Mary Rowe and Eileen Bowser for help before the sale, during or after. And apologies to Jean Gould for mislaying copies of her books which she was planning to autograph.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN

The question of the sidewalk by the Jane Street Garden has not yet been resolved. We are still seeking bids to consider repair of this City-owned sidewalk upon the demand of the City. If we cannot find a reasonable bid, the Jane Street Garden will probably revert to the City.

Review copies welcomed
-- bring us your books



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Please observe
our change
of address.

Volume XXIX, No. 9

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

702 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10014

(212) 243-0762

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 26 at 7:30 P.M. 1989

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: To seek permission to fund a share of the sidewalk repair costs around the Jane Street Garden; appeal for volunteers to help at the book sale; late news, if any, on the prison barge and the Morton Street PATH towers.

THE PRISON BARGE

The prison barge, the "Bibby Venture," came to dock on the south side of Pier 40 at the end of July as the City had planned, but not with the 5-year permit given by the State, but with the over-riding 1-year permit given by the Corps of Engineers. Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard has recently stated that the City is dropping all plans for placing additional prison barges in the Hudson River. But the 1-year permit may be very difficult to overcome. An appeal could easily take 3 months or 6 months or more, and still more time if an appeal is filed with an even higher court. We have acted largely as a major funding source, although we did not hire the law firms involved and our contact has been minimal for the most part. We had given serious thought to sponsoring a fund-raiser to pay off a major portion of the debt to both firms. We have found the enthusiasm for such a move lacking at this time, although we will continue to pursue it into the Spring. In the meantime, a number of concerned West Side groups have been given State Legislature grants, and we can only hope that that fortunate group can use their funding to retire some of the debt at this time. We also note that the Corps of Engineers has stated that they will monitor the presence of the barge at Pier 40 and see to it that the City does not exceed the 1-year limitation. And we are already well into the year of permission.

PETITION TO PROTECT THE GREENMARKET

We will have copies of the petition put together by Councilwoman Carol Greitzer to protest the beating of Greenmarket farmers in Union Square at 6:30 on a Saturday morning by youths emerging from a late-night disco. The most severely injured was our own John Gorzynski who was setting up a stand for his father-in-law before continuing to the Gansevoort Greenmarket, for which we serve as local sponsor. We will distribute these petitions at our meeting. They ask that the State Liquor Authority lift the license of the offending disco, The Underground.

THE JANE STREET GARDEN

The City has agreed to pay a part of the cost of a new sidewalk around the Jane Street Garden if we will engage in a serious fund-raising effort. This is why we are proposing devoting the proceeds of the book sale to this project, as well as raising additional funds. We would like your participation and your opinion.

THE MORTON STREET PATH TOWERS

For those who see the PATH towers now-abuilding on the waterfront near Morton Street as an impediment to a waterfront park along the Hudson as well as an invitation to commercial uses, please be advised that the one person in the State who has authority over the Port Authority is our Governor. We urge you to write to Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, The Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224 and demand that he order the Port Authority to place the contraption entirely underground. You might also tell him that we are not pleased with the thought of massive parking lots between West Street and the Hudson. Pier 40 as parking is policed and maintained, but we need to be rid of the cars which drive in to the waterfront for a deliberate quick fix for drugs and sex. We need a park, not more problems.

THE CITY CHARTER

We will oppose passage of the proposed revision of the City Charter on the November ballot. It seems to us to be a document prepared by politicians for the benefit of other politicians. We are especially distrustful of playing around with the Landmarks Commission and requiring that yet another body approve Landmarks Commission decisions. Let's defeat it. More in October!

SEMI-ANNUAL OFF-STREET

Book Sale

TO BENEFIT THE JANE STREET GARDEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

12 noon until dusk

1989

702 Greenwich Street at West 10th Street

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

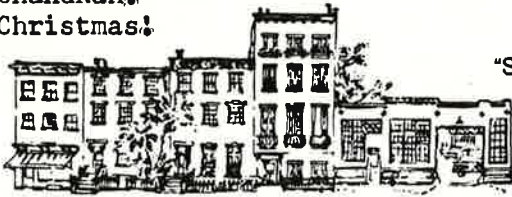
THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE



702 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10014

(212) 243-0762

Happy Chanukah!
Merry Christmas!



NEWSLETTER and Meeting Notice

"Serving and Preserving the Greenwich Village Community
for More Than a Quarter Century"

Volume XXIX, Nos. 11 & 12
November/December 1989

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our change
of address.

THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

702 Greenwich Street • New York, New York 10014 • (212) 243-0762

Meeting Date: Tuesday 28 November at 7:30 P.M.

Place: Parish Hall, St. John's-in-the-Village, 224 Waverly Place.

Agenda: The Ghost of Westway (or Westway II) and planning for the end-of-the-year party celebrating the survival of the West Village community.

END-OF-THE-YEAR DINNER SET FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Our by-laws specify that each year we shall hold a party celebrating the survival of the West Village community following attempts to "urban renew" the area west of Hudson Street nearly 30 years ago. Jane Jacobs, Rachele Wall and a mass of good neighbors won that battle. Later there was the threat of the Lower Manhattan Expressway, and we saw it defeated. And Westway. And we saw that monster die a too-slow death. And the West Village survived all those threats to our healthy community. But as we gather on December 5th to celebrate that survival, we must once again gather strength to fight off yet another threat -- the Ghost of Westway -- put together by the State and City planners of Route 9A which opens up more than 4/5ths of the historic West Village waterfront to development out into the river.

The center of our celebration will be the usual festive buffet dinner served in St. John's Parish Hall at 7:30 P.M. on December 5th. The charge will be \$10 per person and we must have notification by Sunday, December 3rd, whether you plan to attend. It is a matter of providing sufficient chairs and food. This is a celebration, not a fund-raiser, as the many of you who have attended over the years know from our full table. If you want wine with your meal, we suggest that you supply your own favorite and share it with a neighbor. It is a neighborly event.

GANSEVOORT GREENMARKET CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 18TH

The Gansevoort Greenmarket, which we sponsor locally in cooperation with the Council on the Environment, closed for the season on Saturday, November 18. We were delighted to welcome the Vilani fish concession to the Gansevoort Greenmarket with superior fresh fish, and he in turn has told us that he is anxious to return to our market next spring. We like all of our farmers, whether working on the land or in the sea. We fed them once again an end-of-the-season meal to say Thank You from our community, with occasional fresh coffee and cookies at odd times. And we will greet them in the spring with fresh coffee, cookies and a non-alcoholic punch.

CHRISTMAS TREES RETURN TO THE JANE STREET GARDEN SIDEWALK

The same young couple who sold Christmas trees beside the Jane Street Garden last year will return with their wares during the first week of December. We will obtain wreaths from them and resell them at \$10 per wreath, so if you want to benefit our treasury you must buy wreaths from us and not from the tree people. But they are a charming, neighborly couple and we would be pleased if you patronize them in buying trees.

CHARTER REFORM

We previously expressed grave doubts about the wisdom of approving the new City Charter presented to the voters in the last General Election because it endows whoever is Mayor with incredible power, as well as other questionable provisions. And we did not agree with those who agreed there were dangers in the Charter, but who urged approval with a hope of "fixing it up in the future." This is how we got stuck with the Board of Estimate for near half a century. There is a very slim chance that the courts might order a new vote because of the low participation of minorities. About 60% of whites and blacks voted for Mayor, 64% of Latinos. On Charter Question 2, 59% of whites voted but only 40% of Latinos and 33% of blacks. On Question 3, weakening the power of the Landmarks Commission, even fewer of all three groups voted! An appeal could argue that the Charter Commission did not reach out properly to minority groups who were supposed to have their status enhanced. Most such votes on charter or bond issues usually pass 8 to 2. The new Charter sneaked in 5 to 4. We would hope to be a part of any appeal.



THE WEST VILLAGE COMMITTEE

A special word of thanks to Barbara Steinberg, Judy McCusker, Helen Hafner, Jessie McNab, Christabel Gough and Eliza Bradley for trying to hold off the new Charter until a better one could be prepared.

THE GHOST OF WESTWAY

On the last day of October the West Side Waterfront Panel presented a plan for the Lower Manhattan/Hudson River waterfront which is hideously dreadful in most of its aspects -- a true Ghost of Westway in the Future. If you thought you were getting Riverside Park extended down into Lower Manhattan as a waterside esplanade, think again. What is proposed is small "bays" open to the water to serve each community from Tribeca to Mid-Town. The "Village Bay" runs from Perry to Jane Street; everything north of Jane as far as 21st Street is set aside for development out into the Hudson River. Everything south of Perry Street until you reach the Tribeca Basin is set aside for development out into the Hudson River. It was said that the types of development could be commercial, residential, marinas, etc. Gary Hack of Carr, Lynch, Hack & Sandell, showed us what seemed to be a high dense building from the Boston waterfront as an example of what they might have in mind for the Hudson River waterfront. And this is not the first time the highway planners have picked the worst horrors from waterfront development in Baltimore, Boston, Toronto, etc. as shining examples of what should be built out into and along the Hudson River. The last thing in the world Greenwich Village needs is to have Battery Park City extended along our Hudson River shoreline. Let's contain the mistake of Battery Park City where it is. Many of us had thought of an esplanade open to the water as a mitigating factor to the presence of an interstate highway link -- Route 9A. But the present plan for development for more than 80% the waterfront area could wall in and contain most of the car exhaust -- and so much for mitigating factors.

We are not surprised that the panel came up with the Ghost of Westway Future. The members of the Panel are appointed by the Governor, the Mayor and the Manhattan Borough President. They almost had to present the Ghost of Westway because earlier in October Governor Cuomo had requested a listing of possible development sites along the Hudson, and the Governor, long a proponent of Westway, is undoubtedly a strong force over the Panel's planning. We urge you to write letters of protest expressing your outrage that they are planning to destroy through development citizen access to the magnificent Hudson. Every time the City is again in financial trouble, Manhattan is opened up wide without wit or wisdom to developers blessed with tax abatements. Perhaps, Manhattan, not Staten Island, should secede from the City. Write your letters of protest to

Mr. Michael Del Giudice, Chairman
West Side Waterfront Panel
141 Fifth Avenue 10th Floor
New York, New York 10010

and send copies of Borough President David Dinkins, Municipal Building, New York NY 10007, and to Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, The Capitol, Albany NY 12224. Let's try to stop the Ghost of Westway now, and not spend another 17 or 18 years in lawsuits as was done with the original Westway plan. Please write a letter of protest this very day.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S 16TH ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

The Village Community School, 10th Street west of Greenwich Street, will hold its Annual Book Fair on Thursday, December 7 & Friday, December 8 from 8:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. in good time for Christmas shopping. The sale is to benefit the school library. For further information call Bunny Gabel at 243-1022 / 691-5146 or Idalee Alderson 691-5146.

Incidentally, we will make every effort to have our bookstore headquarters at 702 Greenwich St. open on weekend afternoons, weather permitting, to accommodate Christmas shoppers. And if you see us working there, you are always welcome to visit and browse.

Name _____	Address _____	Phone _____
I wish to reserve ___ seat(s) @ \$10 each for the West Village buffet dinner on December 5.		
I wish to order ___ Christmas wreaths at \$10 each.		
Please add this name & address to the WVC mailing list _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please delete my name from the mailing list.		

Contributions to The West Village Committee are deductible.