

Pulled Back from the Precipice

BY ARTHUR Z. SCHWARTZ



CITY LAWMAKERS AND HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES PROTEST Mount Sinai's decision to close Beth Israel hospital on March 24th. Photo by Gerardo Roma/NYC Council Media Unit.

Two weeks ago, I delivered a “we lost” message to the broad coalition of community activists and leaders, who had endeavored since 2018 to keep Beth Israel Hospital open. But, in fact, this fight has now backed off the precipice.

As we have often reported, Mount Sinai Hospital has been plotting for years to close Beth Israel. (In 2021 they announced they would keep Beth Israel open and invest \$1 billion in improving the facility and services. The closure would leave no full-service hospital in Manhattan south of 30th Street (Bellevue). On the West Side, the nearest full-service hospital is St Luke's/Mt. Sinai Morningside on 114th Street and Amsterdam. Downtown would have the small

Presbyterian Downtown Hospital, which is not a full-service hospital. The problems go beyond the distance needed to travel to get emergency care; it's that the two hospitals on First Avenue between 30th and 34 Street (Bellevue and NYU) are already overcrowded. Beth Israel, pared down since 2017, still sees 70,000 E.R. patients a year. They absolutely could not squeeze into Bellevue and NYU without a calamity. And should another COVID-like pandemic hit, Lower Manhattan would be overwhelmed. But the greedy executives at Mt. Sinai, with their multi-million-dollar salaries, really could not care less. Nor it seems, does Governor Hochul who has been pushing to close state-owned Downstate Hospital in Central

Brooklyn. In turn, this has met huge push-back in the Assembly and Senate.

Last October Mt. Sinai released a plan to the State Health Department (DOH) to close Beth Israel by July 2024. A few weeks later they released an Amended Plan to close by the end of March—early April. Although DOH regulations require no diminishment in services until a closure plan is approved, Beth Israel started closing immediately. We now know that on 11/2023 the ICU beds were decreased from 24 to 16. On 11/11/2023, a 32-bed medical telemetry unit was closed. On 12/3/2023, a 30-bed medical surgical unit was closed. As of 12/15/2023 only emergent cardiac catheterization procedures were

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Tales From The Front

Horror stories reveal the human cost of losing a full-service hospital in Manhattan south of 30th Street

BY ARTHUR Z. SCHWARTZ

On January 16, 2024, Geroge Faust, a decades-long resident of Morton Street/West Village Houses, called 311 following a painful fall. The ambulance took him to the Beth Israel Hospital Emergency Room on East 16th Street where X-rays were taken and something was inserted to inflate his lung. The staff then informed him that Beth Israel did not have sufficient personnel to handle a “trauma patient.” He was placed back into an ambulance and taken to St. Luke's Hospital on 114th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. After arrival at the Mount Sinai facility, he spent nearly two days on a cot in the E.R. George was told they did not have enough staff to move him to an in-patient room. On January 22, he was released after little, if any, treatment. He was prescribed an opioid for the pain and Naproxen. He had to stop taking both because of a negative reaction. There was no follow-up by Mount Sinai.

On February 2, George was taken by ambulance to Bellevue Hospital because his abdominal pain was unbearable. They found blood had accumulated in his lungs and abdomen. George died in Bellevue early in the morning of February 4.

In another case, an unresponsive patient with an “intracerebral hemorrhage — a potentially deadly kind of stroke that involves bleeding inside the brain — was transferred because Beth Israel's intensive care unit was full. A different patient brought to their emergency department, who was unresponsive and in septic shock, was trans-

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performed. No “elective” (scheduled) procedures were allowed. (Like getting a stent in your heart is “elective.”) As of 1/25/2024 cardiac catheterizations were running at 1-4 cases per day; prior to that there were 15-20 per day. After 12/31/2023 the Emergency Department no longer accepted categories 4 and 5 stroke patients. After 12/31/23 the MRI on-call service (12:00AM - 8:00AM, seven days a week) was cancelled. CAT scans were no longer performed in the ED. Outpatient CAT scans were no longer performed.

As of 1/26/2024, outpatient elective surgeries were stopped. Only emergent surgeries were performed. And on and on. Even after the DOH issued a Cease-and-Desist Order on December 17, 2023, the arrogant folks leading Mount Sinai barreled full speed ahead.

A lawsuit was filed in February by the Community Coalition to Save Beth Israel and NY Eye and Ear Hospital, and the Center for the Independence of the Disabled NY, alleging violations of the Public Health Law, the NY Constitution, disability rights laws and environmental laws. One week in, we got a Temporary Restraining Order to stop closure of any other services. But on March 5, the press caught wind of a Fire Department directive to stop bringing heart attack victims to Beth Israel. Beth Israel told the press that they had lost staff and could not do the procedures safely. Within minutes my phone rang; two nurses from the Cardiac Unit called and said, “It’s a lie. We haven’t lost any staff.” They gave me all the details. On March 10, the FDNY stopped bringing heart attack patients. On March 12 we were in Court seeking a new Temporary Restraining Order. The next day we met with Judge Nicholas Moyne and he was incensed. That morning a Federal Report came out accusing Mt. Sinai of illegally diverting ambulance patients away from the Beth Israel Emergency Room.

On March 13, with an incensed judge, who thought his prior TRO was being violated, we thought the fight was over. Mt. Sinai’s five lawyers told the judge. “There is nothing we can do. Doctors and staff are leaving en masse. We have a huge group of physician resignations effective March 31. It’s going to be difficult to operate after that.” And guess what? March 31 had always been the target date to close most of Beth Israel. Mt. Sinai hadn’t missed a beat, despite a Cease-and-Desist Order from DOH and a court Restraining Order. Our hearts sank; we began to explore a sit-in at the Governor’s office. The judge called us in for a hearing on March 25 to see what he could do.

All of a sudden on the morning of Friday March 22 we got an email from Mt. Sinai’s lawyers. They would agree to a new restraining order. They suggested one which was still not going very far. Then it was revealed that they had been served with a DOH “Finding and Order,” which listed dozens of Public Health Law violations – closures of services without permission – since November and demanded a response within 10 days about how those services were going to be reinstated!

In my 45 years of practice, I have never seen lawyers from a white shoe firm more shaken. And as we go to press, the judge has issued an order requiring reinstatement of the full catheterization lab and “best efforts” to restore all services back to December 17, 2023. Mount Sinai is promising to hire doctors back and restaff, while also calling the DOH findings unfounded, blaming everything on the loss of staff that they just could not control. Fact is, they pushed the staff out.

Mount Sinai’s press release on March 26th: “The basic truth remains: the dilapidated 16th Street hospital is simply not sustainable and continues to hemorrhage staff and resources. We must close MSBI and nothing about today’s allegations changes these facts.”

SCENE FROM THE STREET

TEXT AND PHOTO BY BRIAN J PAPE, AIA

Who’s winning this battle?

Who’s winning this battle? This majestic oak tree was planted by the city at some untold age years ago, and as it grew to fill its tree pit, the gnarly roots, or ‘feet’ if you will, wrapped its ‘toes’ over the sidewalk edge. The city may have enlarged the tree pit at some point to provide more room for the roots, as evidenced by the newer joint in the concrete sidewalk. But then, indignity of indignities, we see fresher looking concrete has been filled in around the toes, instead of protecting the tree with a barrier and soil. Even in this relatively short time in the life of an oak tree, the tree is exerting its force and cracking open the concrete, not just in the tree pit, but also the curbing material (see the bulge). We get to admire this tree on Washington Place, and watch the scene to see who wins the battle.

LETTERS to the EDITOR**MOONSTRUCK MEMORIES**

Roger Paradiso's story about Norman Jewison and the Academy Award winning film *Moonstruck* brought back memories.

He may not know it but the connection between Greenwich Village and the film is deeper than the locations he mentions.

My talent agency Artists Agency Inc., based in NYC, represented the writer of the film, John Shanley. Our agent Jeannine Edmunds was his biggest fan and also a close friend of Norman. She was the one that sent the script to him and pushed him to read and buy it...the rest is history.

With Shanley present we actually went to The Grand Ticino on the night of the awards and watched as he won the award for best screenplay. Later Shanley moved to the Village with the money from all his successes.

I have lived in the Village for over 40 years and remain here resisting the cry of Hollywood.

Jonathan Russo

Hi Jonathan

It all brings back good memories. Thanks for adding to the story of Moonstruck.

I'm sure it was a special moment for you and John. His film Doubt ended up shooting at a stage I started with a friend in Yonkers. New Yorkers are all connected to each other in many ways.

Roger Paradiso

RE: “A LOOK BACK AT PERRY STREET” (FEB. 2024, P. 12) BY GORDON HUGHES

The *Village View* editors apologize to Ms. Elaine Schechter for an unfortunate circumstance with the article *A Look Back at Perry Street*. We thank Ms. Schechter for her diligence and care to convey to the editors the details of her book *Perry Street: Then and Now*, which was published and copyrighted in 1972.

We also thank Ms. Schechter for her encouragement of our “fledgling neighborhood newspaper” (*Village View*) which “should be welcomed and celebrated.”

We have communicated to our writers that plagiarism is not tolerated, and we routinely run articles through ‘plagiarism checker software’ which unfortunately did not flag this problem. We will redouble our efforts to avoid this problem.

We would welcome seeing an updated edition of Elaine Schechter's original book, or an article from her about all her wealth of knowledge of the neighborhood. It is just what we want to see in the *Village View*!

In the meantime, a copy of *Perry Street: Then and Now*, by Elaine Schechter, is available for reference at the Jefferson Market library.

The Editors

COMMENT TO EDITORS OF VILLAGE VIEW

Re November 2023 article, “Village Preservation to Fight Plan to Turn SoHo Building into Luxury Housing.”

For over a decade members of the Greenwich Village community have been fighting to assure affordable housing in this neighborhood. The November, 2023 issue points

out that in 2021, the City Council championed an Upzoning + Displacement Plan that, “promised it would promote affordable housing development and wouldn’t destroy existing affordable rent-regulated housing.”

Yet it seems that although almost every developer has promised to provide affordable housing, those promises are broken. Is there no way to enforce these promises? Or are the Village and SoHo simply going to become another conglomeration of tall buildings meant only to sequester the money of foreign corporations and the rich?

We would love it if your reporters investigated specific ways citizens of New York can actually protect and promote the affordable housing the developers have promised, but failed to deliver.

The reason SoHo and The Village became such cultural and creative communities for young artists, dancers, musicians, performers and writers is that these neighborhoods were very affordable. Now, not even the teachers who teach our kids nor the police who protect us can afford to live here.

Please have *Village View* investigate the following questions: What are our legal resources to protect and expand affordable housing? Which government agencies should be enforcing these rules? How can they enforce them? How can WE assure our leaders are doing the jobs for which we elected them?

Kate Hull

KIM HUNTER

I thoroughly enjoyed Richard Weigle’s article about Kim Hunter. I also remember her and Bob Emmett fondly as the mother and father of my good childhood friend Sean Emmett. Kim lived in my aunt’s small apartment house on Grove Street before moving above the Cherry Lane Theater, where Sean and I spent hours after school and on weekends doing what 10/11 year olds do. We were in the same class at P.S. 41 in fifth and and I think sixth grades back in the late 50s. I even remember that gold statue on the shelf in their apartment and the lunches she would make for us when she wasn’t working. I find it amusing now that I had no clue as to how accomplished she was—just the kindness of her mothering.

Alan Fried Ph.D.

INTEGRAL YOGA INSTITUTE

A friend sent me your article on the Integral Yoga Institute and I thought you should know that this organization is currently a defendant under the Adult Abuse Survivor's Act. Students who come to the Institute in hopes of finding their emotional and ethical balance, as well as a decent Hatha Yoga Class are not informed of this. Whether or not the IYI should inform people is an open question, but perhaps this reporter should have dug a little deeper as the lawsuit has been reported by other media.

The two women who brought the suit were long term secretaries of Swami Sat-chidananda (who is revered as a god by the

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IN THE HEART OF THE MEATPACKING DISTRICT AT CHELSEA TRIANGLE, as well as numerous other locales throughout the city, the persisting problem of traffic congestion remains a pressing concern. With the city's expansion welcoming burgeoning foot traffic for tourism and shopping, reassessing the flow of vehicular movement stands as an enduring challenge. *Photo by Bob Cooley.*

Major Congestion Issue on 9th Avenue at Chelsea Market

Dear *Village View*,

Not breaking news but a story nonetheless.

The City is trying its best to balance all levels of traffic from pedestrians to cyclists to vehicular traffic all the way down to anything that moves in its five boroughs.

There is, though, an undercurrent that is at play in the City, where the narrowing of many city streets and the closing of streets has caused undue stress on the system and also to mass transit, especially busses, to the detriment of disregarding the voices of its local residents.

What is more flagrant is the complicit inner workings of many Business Improvement Districts (BID), particularly the Meatpacking District (MEPA), with the blessings of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the lack of enforcement from the New York Police Department (NYPD).

A perfect example is what the MEPA BID is doing in phases, without regard for the consequences of what it causes to surrounding neighborhoods.

For instance, the Chelsea Triangle, a street in our neighborhood, is a great example. The southbound western lane that stretches from 15th Street to 14th Street, from Starbucks Roasters to the Apple Store, has been permanently closed off for over a year now. According to the Community Affairs Officer of the 10th precinct, the NYPD is provided barricades wrapped with MEPA BID covers.

According to DOT, the street is part of the Open Streets Program but in fact they HAVE NO PERMIT. Even if there was a permit, the program only authorizes them to be closed from Wednesday to Sunday from 2 pm - 10 pm. Even that, however, is completely disregarded by the BID, the DOT and the NYPD.

What this does mean, though, is incredible traffic that commences at the Chelsea Market and stretches all the way to 20th and 9th Avenue, especially on high tourist days and weekends and busy city evenings. The 9th Avenue bus often rests at a standstill go-

ing down the street.

If you ask any of the residents at the Fulton Houses and if you ask anyone on the avenues of surrounding neighborhoods, the closure of this street is a major congestion problem caused by the BID, condoned by the DOT and ignored by NYPD without any permitting.

This goes further though — the MEPA BID, run by Jeffrey LeFrancois, continues to present plans that constrict many of the streets of the MEPA and would cause undue stress to many of the streets and neighborhoods surrounding MEPA. Not only does he run the BID, he was the Chair of CB4 and is a current member of CB4. A bit of a conflict of interest as he and a handful of members of CB2 and CB4 are also members of the BID. LeFrancois and some members are keen to shut down 9th Avenue and even 10th Avenue to reduce tunnel traffic at the 34th Street tunnels. This is a snapshot of contradiction with the creation of congestion pricing.

I've attempted to get answers to these issues on my own. Unfortunately I needed to

come to you and the team as I keep getting the run around from the parties involved. In fact, most attempts to obtain answers have been met with refusals or delay tactics:

- No answer from DOT since January 18
- Told by DOT's Kate Schere that the street in question was part of the Open Street Program and its schedule was Wednesday-Sundays 2 pm-10 pm
- No permits for the street nor listed on NYC DOT Open Streets Data Permits
- No one from DOT or NYPD can answer how to enforce compliance.

I am only speaking as a native New Yorker because I thought our voices were of weight and significance, but if one is not part of the agenda we are silenced. I can attest to this with firsthand experience when attending CB2.

Again not breaking news, but a story of a community and a resident.

Jonathan Weizmann

Steps Forward for City Affordable and NYCHA Housing

BY BRIAN J PAPE, AIA, LEED-AP



THIS RENDERING OF THE NEW BUILDINGS PROPOSED FOR THE ELLIOTT-CHELSEA HOUSE CAMPUS, hints at cultural activities and amenities on the lower floors, and a city-street atmosphere. *Credit: NYCHA.*

Scott has lived in his parents' apartment since he was a little boy--soon after Chelsea Houses were built in the 1960s. Scott is "cautiously optimistic" about their move into a new NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) apartment, even though they will downsize from the current family home.

The city's public housing in Chelsea is in the process of a \$1.5 billion revitalization plan for the Elliott-Chelsea and Fulton House campuses. Their Hudson Guild Gallery is exhibiting a show called "Unhomeless NYC" to examine ideas about the housing crisis. It runs until April 3. The housing crisis, a vexing issue for decades, is getting worse with increasing homelessness. These two NYCHA campuses have about 3,000 residents, although there is no accurate count since NYCHA does not know how many infants, children, or 'friends' reside there.

NYCHA is the city's biggest landlord in all five boroughs with 400,000 people who call NYCHA home. Nearly 275,000 families were on the waiting list for a NYCHA apartment this year. They have backlogs of repairs that have grown to \$60 billion. Lead paint, asbestos, bugs, and heating breakdowns are persistent problems.

Architects and politicians are seeking the expansion of social housing (public or publicly funded housing) and prioritizing projects that mass produce substantial, properly

sized homes. Former NYCHA General Manager Gregory Russ emphasized, "There's consistent underfunding by a whole chain of administrations. I think it's particularly egregious that in former President Trump's proposed budget, they zeroed out the capital for public housing." He added, "RAD (the federal Rental Assistance Demonstration program) brings needed private investment and private capital."

"More good architects should get involved in social housing," NY-based architect Daniel Libeskind declared in a *Dezeen* Social Housing Revival interview. "We need creativity to overcome the social housing stigma and we need architects who can invent new ways to create housing that is decent, has dignity, is beautiful, and sustainable within the budgets allowed."

Many of the existing housing projects were built as experiments with the "tower in the park" urban plan--but with poor quality standards and buildings disconnected from the surrounding city, meaning they succumb to class and racial segregation. Libeskind continued, "The New York City public-housing authority (NYCHA) is beginning to think about a new generation of social housing that would be something beautiful for people."

"The character of the street, safety, and sense of belonging in the neighborhood -- it's a synergy of all these dimensions that comes together when one really thinks of

investing in social housing." He added, "By creating high-quality housing that people can afford, you can address not just one of the hundreds of people that you're building the building for, but the entire neighborhood will change."

Plans for such a change have been presented at public forums, at NYCHA facilities, schools around the city, and at the Center for Architecture on LaGuardia Place. In late 2021 NYCHA teamed with a development group that will offer the first ever combination of new mixed income buildings on NYCHA land with NYCHA buildings, under a program called PACT=Permanent Affordable Commitment Together.

Change can be very hard, so NYCHA and the developers, Essence Development and the giant Related Companies, are first ensuring that no resident will lose their rights or neighborhood in the move. Jonathan Gouveia, NYCHA executive vice president for real estate development, notified all residents that they will retain all their rights as public housing residents, pay rent limited to 30% of their income. Ninety four percent will remain in their buildings until new apartments are complete, while 6% will be temporarily relocated to vacant apartments on campus.

While rezoning and Uniform Land Use Review Procedure applications are in process, there is a "Meanwhile Plan." Jamar Adams, principal of Essence, noted, "Even

while the plans are being developed, Essence is already adding to the residents' quality of life by providing private security guards on campus, hiring pest control firms, making entry door fixes, and completing numerous in-unit repairs." Adams explained the process, "A single building will be vacated by moving residents (at developer's expense) to other campus units. This will allow a new as-of-right building to be constructed, large enough for community facilities on the lower levels, then senior housing units, and other apartments for all who would need to move in from other NYCHA buildings. Once this new facility is settled in, further replacement of other buildings can continue, until 100% of current NYCHA residents are resettled there." Then, more mixed use and mixed income apartment buildings can be constructed to complete the neighborhood.

The developer's design team is made up of some of the city's leading practitioners: PAU-Practice for Architecture and Urbanism, ILA-Ismael Leyva Architects, CookFox Architects, and Determine By Design Interiors.

The new NYCHA buildings will differ widely from existing projects. Manish Chadha, principal at ILA said, "All buildings will have full-time lobby attendants (e.g. 'doormen') and secure mailrooms. Kitchens will be larger with dishwashers and washer-dryers in each apartment. Heating and cooling systems will comply with all-electric carbon reduction standards while the units get high-performance insulation and windows."

Chadha continued, "Buildings will be planned for ADA (Americans with Disability Act)-compliant elevators, more than one for each floor so disabled residents aren't stranded if one fails. The size and quantity of ADA-compliant bathrooms will be greatly increased. There will even be roof terraces on many buildings."

The new campus will have more social services and community activity programming, according to Ruchika Modi, principal at PAU. "Buildings will be sited along the sidewalks to better connect residents to the surrounding neighborhoods by using ground floor activation with local grocers, clinics, or other services. There will be open space improvements, with programming and cultural displays. Resiliency will be built in to landscaping and utilities."

We know mixed-use buildings and mixed-income neighborhoods produce better health, education, and economic outcomes for residents. That is the goal of this administration and civic-minded New Yorkers, and that is the goal of this Chelsea redevelopment. Nevertheless, it will take a successful completion to convince many that our government is capable of providing caring communities of social housing.

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WBA bolsters leadership team with the

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) has solidified its Executive Committee with the appointments of a U.S. Healthcare segment leader, permanent chief financial officer and human resources chief.

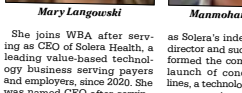
Mary Langowski was named president of U.S. Healthcare, and Elizabeth Burger was appointed global CFO, and Elizabeth Burger was named chief human resources officer.

The appointments bolster the leadership team "that will carry WBA into the future as we look to expand our reach beyond neighborhood pharmacies into the fastest-growing areas of health care," said chief executive officer Tim Wentworth. "We have a strong team with a track record of operational excellence and an unwavering commitment to the

execution of our goals. The spirit of this leadership team is one of collaboration, transparency and working effectively together. We share a sharp focus on the important goals in front of us, unlocking embedded profitability and reshaping our health care strategy to deliver sustainable value for our stakeholders."

Langowski, a nationally recognized health care leader, brings a successful track record of building and driving commercially successful initiatives, businesses and partnerships that improve patient outcomes, lower costs and unlock profitability within new models of care. Her decades of experience span leading payer organizations, pharmacy retail health care services and providers as well as senior roles in federal and state government.

She joins WBA after serving as CEO of Solera Health, a leading value-based technology business serving payers and employers, since 2020. She was named CEO after serving as Solera's independent director and successor to the company's launch of container lines, a technology and economic model



Mary Langowski

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FEBRUARY 26, 2024

McMillon Says, 'We Can Do More'

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — Walmart entered 2024 moving strategically on several fronts to advance its transformation into a new kind of retailer — one that starts with solving the needs of its retail roots with plans to resume opening stores in the United States.

A number of recent industry forums, executives have described current activities and future plans and the vision that inspires them.

Over the course of the last decade, the company that began as a general merchandise discount store operator has entered several new fields, including financial services, technology development and health care clinics, to name just a few. During the Walmart Keynote presentation at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), president and chief executive officer Doug McMillon outlined that he is often asked to describe what Walmart is doing. He provided a succinct characterization of the company



A rendering of the Supercenter of the Future that customers love.

positive difference in our world," he said. "That's what inspires us to solve problems and address our own imperfections."

While much of the discussion at CES centered on Walmart's initiative, McMillon returned to the broader vision that now propels the company. "We believe we can and should help people live better beyond just saving time and money," he elaborated. "Sam challenged us to design our business to make a bigger, more

Costco CFO Galanti to Step Down

ISSAQUAH, Wash. — Costco Wholesale Corp. said chief financial officer Richard Galanti intends to step down from that role, effective March 15. Galanti will continue to work as senior vice president and CFO at Costco's U.S. operations through January 2025, serving in an advisory role, according to Galanti during the transition and continuing to serve on the company's board of directors.

"Over the nearly 48-year tenure as chief financial officer at the company, Richard has made tremendous and invaluable contributions to its success, widely known, admired and respected among our shareholders, employees, business partners and others. We express our deepest gratitude for his long and impactful service."

Galanti joined Costco as its first chief financial officer and CFO at Costco in 1983, the company's 15-year tenure at the company. After April 2019, he served as CEO of a 15-year tenure at the company. Before that, Galanti spent more than 20 years in banking, most notably with the Sun West Group (formerly Royal Bank of Scotland), where he worked in various roles, including CEO, CFO and CEO of Sun West Group's U.S. operations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, and in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, and in Japan.

Edeker Hails Hy-Vee's Obsession With Change

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — After more than a decade of leadership, Edeker has been named to the board of directors of Hy-Vee's board of directors, a role that is a testament to his leadership and vision in equipping the supermarket chain to consistently adapt to a dynamic market. On August 1, he will pass the torch to Jeremy Goetz, who will succeed Edeker as CEO of the company.

"We always thought about evolution, change and adapting — we live that every single day," he said during an interview at the recent FMI Midwestern Executive Council. "The thing that I'm most proud of is how we've evolved Hy-Vee to be a company that always has its eye on innovation, really trying to find the right thing to do. You can't do that. I've learned that the hard way. If you don't do that, you're not going to survive. That's what's driven us. We're not just reacting to the market, we're leading it."

Hy-Vee made great strides since Edeker succeeded his former CEO, Kennerly, and Albertsons repositioned in a joint statement that they were "disappointed in Kennerly's performance and the decision to fire him."

Second Lawsuit Aims to Block Merger

DENVER — Colorado attorney general Phil Weiser has filed a lawsuit to block Kroger's planned \$25 billion merger with Albertsons Co., arguing that the deal "would lead to stores closing, higher prices, fewer jobs, worse customer service and less resilient supply chains."

Kroger and Albertsons repositioned in a joint statement that they were "disappointed in Kennerly's performance and the decision to fire him."

CVS tops fourth quarter sales and profits

WOMINGTET, R.I. — CVS Health beat analysts' forecasts for fourth quarter sales and profits, but cut its full-year earnings outlook, citing rising medical costs that are hurting the insurance industry.

Revenue for the three months ended December 31 climbed 11.9% from the year-ago period to \$93.81 billion, topping Wall Street's estimate of \$90.41 billion.

Adjusted earnings per share increased 3.9% to \$2.12, exceeding the consensus projection of \$1.99.

"With a focus on delivering care and value, we had a strong fourth quarter and full year in 2023 as we build a world of health around every consumer," said president and chief executive officer Karen Lynch. "We will continue to drive affordable access to care when, where and how people want, while we improve transparency throughout the health care system."

The company revised its full

year 2024 GAAP diluted earnings per share guidance to at least \$7.05 from at least \$7.26, and its adjusted EPS guidance to at least \$6.30 from at least \$6.50. It also revised its 2024 cash flow from operations guidance to at least \$12.0 billion from at least \$12.5 billion.

Net income for the quarter was \$2.05 billion, or \$1.58 per share, down from \$2.33 billion, or \$1.77 per share, a year earlier.

Operating income in the quarter decreased 7.8% due to \$193 million of non-recurring transaction costs and integration costs. Current year and the year-ago pretax gain of \$2 on the sale of the wild subsidiary benefit LLC in the prior year. These items were partially offset by an increase in adjusted income described below.

Operating income is 72.8% for 2023 compared to 2022 primarily due to

NACDS well represented at Food is Medicine summit

WASHINGTON — On January 31, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted its first-ever Food is Medicine summit. The National Association of Chain

Drug Stores joined policy makers, advocates, researchers and stakeholders at the federal government's event to discuss the importance of the concept — and the ways in which pharmacies can work together to scale initiatives.

NACDS members including Albertsons Cos., Hy-Vee Inc., Kroger Health, Meijer and Walmart had represented at the event. Association president and chief executive officer Steve Anderson participated in a panel titled "Integrating Food and Medicine."

Walmart plans to open or convert more than 150 stor

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — Walmart will invest in new and remodeled stores that will create jobs while offering an improved shopping experience for its customers. The planned expansion of its store count marks a change in direction for the retailer, which has not added to its physical presence in recent years.

"In the next five years, Walmart is planning to build or convert more than 150 stores, while simultaneously continuing our program to remodel existing stores," Walmart U.S. president and chief executive officer John Furner said in a blog post. "These efforts represent millions of dollars in capital investment of



A rendering of the Store of the Future, featuring many upgrades.

labor, supplies and tax revenue, which benefit their respective communities. And they'll help us reach and serve even more customers."

Furner said Walmart plans to remodel 650 stores across 47

states and Puerto Rico over the course of the next 12 months — creating tens of thousands of jobs. "That's in addition to the hundreds of jobs we'll bring to a community each time we open a new store," he said. "And those jobs come with amazing benefits like tuition-free college starting on day one, or flexible scheduling and competitive paid time off."

The first two new stores under this initiative, both Neighborhood Markets, are set to open this spring in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., and Atlanta. Walmart is also finalizing construction plans for 12 projects scheduled to start this year, along with the conversion of one of the retailer's smaller locations into a Walmart Supercenter.

The new and remodeled stores will reflect Walmart's Store of the Future concept, featuring improved layouts and expanded product selections.

WBA Solidifies Leadership With Langowski, Mahajan and Burger

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) has solidified its 199 management team with the appointment of a U.S. Healthcare segment leader, permanent chief financial officer and human resources chief.

Mary Langowski was named president of U.S. Healthcare, and Elizabeth Burger was appointed global CFO, and Elizabeth Burger was named chief human resources officer.

The appointments solidify the leadership team "that will carry WBA into the future as we look to expand our reach beyond neighborhood pharmacies into the fastest growing areas of health care," said chief executive officer Tim Wentworth. "We have a strong team with a track record of operational excellence and an unwavering commitment to the company's growth strategy and customer service."

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proudly created by residents of Greenwich
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Photo by Bob Cooley.

Contributors this Month

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LIONELLE HAMANAKA, native New Yorker and Sansei, is a playwright (30 plays), a member of the Dramatists Guild, Crossways Theatre and Pages, received five grants and four awards, and writes articles. She studied music for 30 years, reviewed for the NYS Council on the Arts, the *Amsterdam News*, the *Villager*, and is in the Amherst Archives of Asian American female playwrights. She believes theatre provides alternatives and journalism, insights for a world in crisis.

TOM LAMIA is a retired lawyer and occasional writer. He practiced law in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and New York. From 2004 he and his family lived in a townhouse on Charles Street. In 2015, he moved to South Bristol, Maine, maintaining an apartment on Horatio Street. His "Notes From Away" column appeared monthly in *WestView News* from 2015 through 2022.

KEITH MICHAEL is a West Villager, birder, urban naturalist, photographer, writer, and ballet choreographer, and leads nature walks throughout the NYC area. Visit www.keithmichaelnyc.com or follow @newyorkcitywild on Instagram.

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BRIAN J. PAPE is a citizen architect LEED-AP "Green" certified, a co-chair of the American Institute of Architects NY Design for Aging Committee, and member of Historic Buildings, Housing, and PassiveHaus Committees. He is appointed to the Waterfront Code Committee (2023-24) for the NYC Building Codes. He serves on the Manhattan District 2 Community Board, the Executive Committee and the Landmarks Committee. He is a journalist specializing in architecture and urban subjects.

JOY PAPE, FNP-C, CDCES, CFCN is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and Foot Care Nurse who specializes in Weight Management, Obesity and/or Diabetes and holistic care. She practices at Weill Cornell and has a private practice in the Village. Joy believes in making the best of the moment, loves all living beings, music and living in The Village.

ANTHONY PARADISO is a contributing writer and editor. His career in journalism began at the Montclair State University student newspaper where he covered sports and environmental topics. Anthony has gone on to work for sports news sites *In The Zone Sports Lifestyle & Culture*, *Bad Dawg Sports* and *Jersey Sporting News*. He is dedicated to telling stories that stray a bit from the norm, highlighting the human element above all else.

ROGER PARADISO has been a journalist and filmmaker for many years. He is a founder of *The Village View*. His films include the award-winning *The Lost Village*, the award-winning *Tony N' Tina's Wedding* and the acclaimed *I Want My Name Back* about The Sugarhill Gang. They are available on Global Cinema online, Prime and Apple TV.

DAVID PINTO is the founder and president of Racher Press, a business-to-business publishing company that produces newspapers for the mass retailing community in America and throughout the world. Founded in 1978, the company publishes *Chain Drug Review*, a bi-weekly targeted to chain drugstores in the U.S. and elsewhere; and *Mass Market Retailers*, a bi-weekly written and edited for the mass retailing community and its suppliers.

ALEC PRUCHNICKI, MD is a fellowship trained geriatrician with a primary care practice in a non-profit, community run, Medicaid supported assisted living facility in Manhattan. He has lived in the Village for over 30 years and is involved in healthcare, housing, and political issues as a member of the Village Independent Democrats, a local political club.

KAJU ROBERTO is an accomplished musician, singer/songwriter, journalist, and an award-winning producer. He is the artist Rad Jet on Spotify.

ARTHUR SCHWARTZ is a labor and civil rights lawyer for 45 years and the Democratic District Leader for Greenwich Village since 1995. Schwartz is a member of Community Board 2 for 24 years; former Parks and Waterfront Chair. He is a Village resident since 1981 and a father of four. He hosts the radio show *Advocating for Justice* on WBAI-FM every Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Welcoming Our Newest New Yorkers: A Review

BY JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS, PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

In the summer of 2022, the first bus of people seeking asylum at the southern border arrived in our city. What was initiated as a callous and cruel political ploy by Republican governors has become an ongoing crisis as our city attempts to provide shelter and support to tens of thousands of newly arrived New Yorkers, with little support from state or federal partners.

My office has worked to be on the ground in this effort, both welcoming and supporting asylum seekers directly and in our advocacy to the state and federal government. This review documents some of those efforts over the last year and a half, and attempts to chart a course for the next phase of the effort to provide support and safety to people in dire need, upholding both our governing and moral mandate.

This is a national issue, and as documented in this review, it requires a comprehensive federal response, as well as state support with both financial and infrastructural needs. At the same time, while we continue advocacy for that essential action, there are things we can do in the city right now, which support from other levels of government will bolster. Among the most critical in this category are expanded legal support for people seeking asylum, to initiate, facilitate, and expedite the process, and stability for migrants who have arrived, rather than the chaos and cost of uprooting families every 60 days, as the administration has recently begun to do. We need legal support for migrants in need, not legal challenges to the right to shelter all New Yorkers are entitled to.

As important as what actions we take in response to this ongoing crisis are the things we do not do. We cannot allow



LADY LIBERTY. Image by U.S. Post Office; Bureau of Engraving and Printing - U.S. Post Office; Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

for the otherizing or vilifying people coming to our city in dire need, and we cannot stand quietly when leaders would do the same. Nor can we have leaders scapegoating the migrant crisis for the many other issues our city faces, such as

crime, or for the budget cuts that continue to slash services citywide. We can, and we must, both acknowledge the challenges we face and lead with compassion.

We understand the frustrations of longtime New Yorkers, particularly in Black and Brown communities, who have never seen the focus or funding that they deserve. And we don't ask them to forget their frustrations – only to aim them at who is truly to blame for decades of dysfunction – a government which only responds to acute crises, rather than addressing longstanding harms. Both the people seeking asylum and longtime New Yorkers seeking services echo the same message. “We are hurting, we've been hurting for a long time. Please do not take actions that will only hurt us more.”

The call to center compassion extends beyond the halls of government and into our communities and homes. I am a first-generation American, and so many in our city know the immigrant experience, firsthand or from family. New Yorkers are welcoming, defined by our shared humanity and our diversity of background and experience. When the first buses arrived, we echoed the welcoming sentiment on the Statue of Liberty, but as time has passed, the narrative has shifted and division has been sown. We must know that the struggle we face supporting asylum seekers is far more manageable than the struggles migrant families fled to come here, and as a new year is underway, renew our commitment to do all we can, with all we have, and bring the spirit and substance of welcome to our new and aspiring New Yorkers, as we have throughout our history.

Our Health Care is Now at Risk NYC's Frontline Doctors Need Your Help

BY DR. FRANCES QUEE

In 2020 we as a nation faced the most difficult of times. We battled a 1-in-a-100-year pandemic as countries closed off borders, travel was restricted and much of the world wore face masks to protect themselves and loved ones from infection. More than a million Americans perished and we, the dedicated doctors, fought for your and our own survival.

Each day, more than a dozen patients would succumb to the virus within our hospital walls at Elmhurst Hospital. Ours mirrored the reality of virtually every public hospital in New York. In an attempt to mitigate the havoc wrought by this new disease, overworked physicians and nurses worked round the clock treating hundreds of patients despite the incredible danger it posed to their own well-being.

These numbers reflect the magnitude of the battle waged by health care professionals at Elmhurst and all of the city's other public hospitals. A battle that, at times, felt apocalyptic.

As health care professionals, we witnessed the chaos within the emergency rooms – the stretchers running out, freezer trucks being used to store bodies as morgues overflowed, chairs doubling as makeshift accommodations, and the overwhelming demand for critical care. The intensive care units intended for the most critical cases and sickest pa-

tients, were inundated beyond capacity, underscoring the immense strain placed upon our health care workforce

Before the pandemic, the city's hospital system grappled with significant physician staffing challenges. However, the pandemic's aftermath intensified this pre-existing problem, pushing recruitment and retention of doctors to the brink of impossibility. The absence of sufficient staffing jeopardizes patient care, regardless of the doctors' expertise, leaving them unable to deliver the necessary and deserved care. In such stressful conditions, doctors are more prone to experiencing burnout, hindering their ability to perform optimally.

We have substantial vacancies in many, if not most, public hospital departments across the Health + Hospitals system. The scarcity of physicians within the system has exacerbated the workload for those already in service, compelling them to extend their work hours beyond reasonable limits. This prolonged strain on the existing workforce has led to an alarming rise in cases of burnout among health care professionals.

The inability to effectively recruit and retain physicians has not only hampered the delivery of quality care but has also taken a toll on the well-being of those tirelessly working to uphold the health care infra-

structure. In light of these pressing challenges, we are seeking out your support in addressing the urgent staffing needs within our health care system.

The physicians who work in the facilities that make up New York City's Health + Hospitals are at a disadvantage relative to those who work in facilities owned by private entities. Compared to our counterparts in privately-owned facilities, physicians within the city hospitals are notably under-resourced, receiving significantly lower compensation while grappling with perpetually short-staffed environments.

Despite these challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing quality care to all, irrespective of background, economic status, immigration status, or identity.

Our physicians serve as beacons of compassion and dedication, often sacrificing personal time and familial obligations for the betterment of their patients. Their unwavering dedication to serving the most vulnerable members of society underscores their selflessness and resilience in the face of adversity, embodying the true spirit of health care service.

However, we are fortunate to be part of a union that understands our needs as physicians. The Doctors Council SEIU aims to create meaningful change that not only enhances the professional satisfaction and

quality of life for our physicians but also bolsters the overall resilience and effectiveness of the public health care sector. By championing fair pay and dignified working conditions, the union seeks to fortify the foundation upon which the Health + Hospitals system rests, ensuring its capacity to continue serving the diverse health care needs of New York City's residents.

We are fighting for a fair contract and are seeking the public's support during our negotiations. I am proud to be part of this coalition of doctors in public service. Help us continue to have the ability to serve the communities we love. Call or email your City Council member or the mayor. Tell them the city's doctors who service us deserve a fair contract that can help maintain the health care system.

The city hospitals need to be fully staffed. They need to recruit and retain the doctors who serve those most in need – those who have nowhere else to go for their health care needs.

Quee is President of the Doctors Council, the union of physicians and dentists who work in New York City's public Health + Hospital system. This opinion piece was originally published in the NY Daily News on February 18. Republished at the request of the Doctors Council.

A VILLAGE ICON

Jack Kerouac

BY ROGER PARADISO

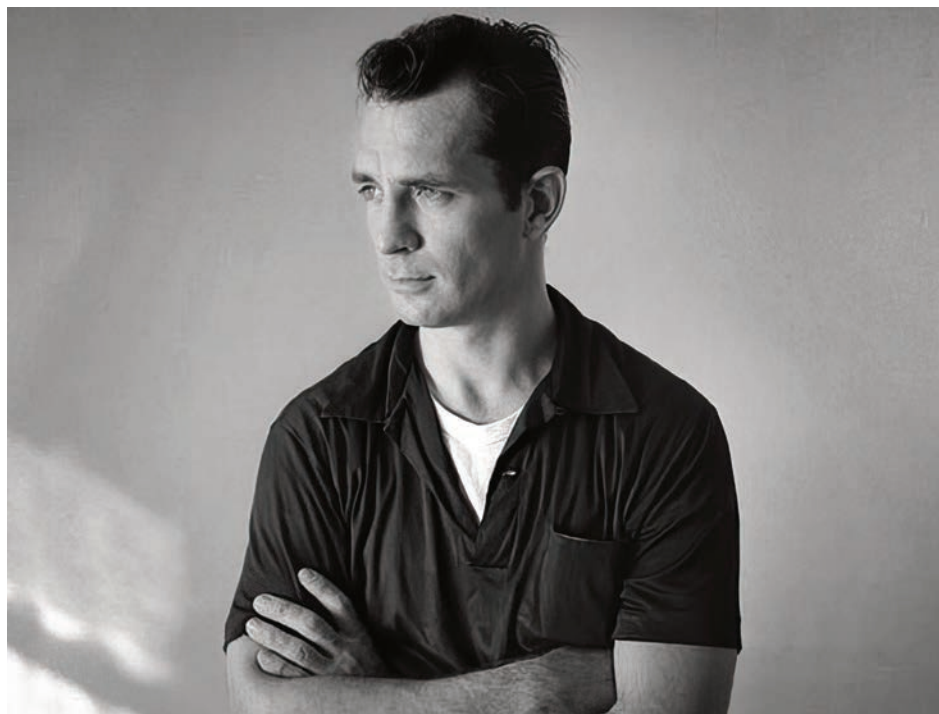
Jack Kerouac was an artist and that is a tough bag to carry around in any time period. His father came from Quebec but Jack was born in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1922. In the 1940s he moved to Greenwich Village, his spiritual home for his artistic life. He had many hangouts like Café Wha, Café Regina, the Kettle of Fish, and places he “crashed”—mostly apartments of women he had affairs with or his friends.

But his true home was always where his mother lived—in Queens and Long Island. He even lived in Florida in the late sixties because his mother was paralyzed from a stroke and she wanted to get out of the winters in the Northeast.

Kerouac was like any artist stuck in a time capsule. He was trying to understand himself and the times he lived in. It was a pe-

high point of Greenwich Village artistic life when many flocked to the Village because it had cheap housing, clubs, vibes, and talented artists who would lead the Village into becoming the epicenter of the counterculture. Those times started in the 1950s and live on to this day. However, we can see the ending

three weeks to write and seven years to publish. It came out in 1957 and made Kerouac a cult hero. He continued to drink and drug himself to oblivion while becoming a celebrated “beatnik” writer. I italicized “beatnik” because a lot of artists at that time resented the term or at best tolerated it.



JACK KEROUAC, AN ICONIC FIGURE OF THE BEAT GENERATION, embodies the restless spirit of wanderlust and rebellion. His words echoed through generations, challenging societal norms and embracing the raw essence of human experience. *Photo Credit: Tom Palumbo.*

of this reign as gentrification eliminates all the factors that made the Village “the scene.” We don’t have anyone ready to call the counterculture dead but it is on life support.

In a way, Kerouac’s life was much like ours today. We are born in our time and we try to understand it but it won’t be understood until decades later. *On the Road* took

It seemed that Madison Avenue’s caricature of the American “beatnik” artist was Kerouac. He was the white American male, a pot-smoking, liquor-drinking, jean-wearing rebel. Kerouac traveled on the road to find himself and in that process discovered America. But he always came home to Greenwich Village and his mother’s nearby house.

“Portrayed as a hard-living free spirit, Kerouac was in fact dedicated to his craft and lived a mostly “monastic life” with his mother and his Persian cat Tyke.

—ELLE HUNT
THE GUARDIAN

“When he died in 1969, Kerouac left an estate valued at ninety-one dollars. Needless to say, at the time few people were very concerned about getting their piece of the Kerouac pie. Today (2005), however, that same estate is estimated to be worth approximately ten million dollars.”

—PATRICK RAFTERY,
LITERARY TRAVELER

Kerouac died in his St. Peterburg, Florida home when he was just 47 from “massive abdominal hemorrhaging” according to the *New York Times*. Like most artists, Jack Kerouac was never to enjoy the financial riches of his writing. Much like many artists today who wonder how they can make a living, he wondered until the day he died. The irony for many artists is that they will make more money when they are dead than when they are alive. And I’m not talking about rich and famous money, but money to live on comfortably while being an artist.

We celebrate Jack who would have been 101 this past March 12th. Until he died at the age of 47, he could still come home to the Village to find the comfort and love he never did find in the outside world.

“The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, desirous of everything at the same time,” he wrote in *On the Road*, a novel he completed in only three weeks but had to wait seven years to see published.”

NEW YORK TIMES OBITUARY

Letters continued from page 2

leaders of the organization). I would be happy to speak further with you if you feel your readers might wish to know more about this.

Sharada Thompson, Ph.D.

Village View Response

The intent of my article was not to do a deep dive into 50-year-old allegations against Swami Satchidananda who passed away 20 years ago. I trust that duty to the legal system. Rather, I wanted to focus on the present-day role of the Integrated Yoga Institute and simply provide a profile on the new director, Rahda Metro-Midkiff. Many thou-

sands of Villagers and people from all over the tri-state area come to IYI to learn yoga and meditation. As far as I know, everyone rates the center as one of the best around.

I do not know who Sharada Thompson is or where she is from. I do know that she has made some allegations that are beyond the scope and intent of the article.

Roger Paradiso

Integral Yoga's Response

This is a claim around a 50-year-old issue. It has not been a very well-kept secret and has been reported in the media many times over the years beginning with the Village

Voice in the 1970s. We feel it is important that people are allowed to decide for themselves how they want to engage with our organization. As for customers, it takes a pretty light Google search to find information about these allegations. It is even mentioned on the Swami Satchidananda Wikipedia page. I don't think we are harboring the conspiracy that Ms. Thompson would like to suggest.

Also, I would like to make a correction, that I, in no way, regard Swami Satchidananda as a God. Definitely a godly person, but nowhere do we state he is a God. Any assumption around that would just be a misinter-

pretation of the ancient teachings and rituals we follow as part of a 5,000-year-old Yoga tradition based in Indian indigenous culture.

Here is the official statement from our lawyer, Wayne Wilansky: “The allegations themselves are wholly without merit, as we believe there is an orchestrated collaboration from several people to undermine the organization and the Institute. We intend to counterclaim for interference with business relations and libel and slander. Both plaintiffs have given prior inconsistent statements.”

Radha Metro-Midkiff, Executive Director
Integral Yoga Institute NY

The Last Time I Saw Flaco

BY KEITH MICHAEL



THE LAST TIME I SAW FLACO, the Eurasian Eagle Owl, in Central Park on November 17, 2023. Photo by Keith Michael.

For weeks now, I've been hearing the Jerome Kern/Oscar Hammerstein II "Paris" song on repeat in my head—substituting Flaco's name.

It was over a year ago, the night of February 2, 2023, when Flaco, a charismatic Eurasian Eagle Owl, escaped from the Central Park Zoo after his aviary was vandalized and he first stepped through, after 12 years in captivity, to the wide, wild world of New York City. Since his recent, unfortunate demise, presumably from crashing into an Upper West Side backyard window, reams have been written about him city-wide, nationally, and internationally. Where to begin?

The first photos of "Flaco on the Lam" poised on the sidewalk in front of the Plaza Hotel on 59th Street, complete with celebrity barricades and police protection, began circulating in the NYC bird-iverse nearly immediately after his escape was discovered. Most people visiting the Central Park Zoo likely spent no more than a few seconds passing by a day-time, sleepy owl in his enclosure. Now, media trucks and long-lens cameras surrounding him were the norm. A paparazzi sensation.

The next days were flooded with nearly hour by hour reports with his whereabouts as well as updates on the 24/7 surveillance and rescue attempts by the vigilant zoo staff. At the time, his capture seemed imminent. I didn't make my first pilgrimage to infiltrate the rubbernecking circus until three days into his freedom. Heading to the general area by Hallett Nature Sanctuary, where he had last been reported, he was easy to find. One just had to look for the hundred-plus crowd star-

ing up with reverence like toward an eclipse.

As his fame grew and the speculations about his survival vs. his capture became more vitriolic, I made the effort to track him down four more times that week. I ended up seeing him a total of 11 times over the next year with longer spans between sightings like the expanding chambers of a nautilus.

Fast forward to waking up on February 24, 2024 to the impassioned news that Flaco had been found the night before (the day after my birthday) face down on the ground and was pronounced dead. In current parlance, my Instagram "blew up" during the day as heartfelt paeans and "the last time I saw Flaco" photos consoled the grieving.

From the moment Flaco left the zoo, his story had the perfect tension of a Greek tragedy. What was loved about Flaco was that through escaping a lifetime of captivity, he proved that his innate wild skills to survive still flourished. The naysayers felt it irresponsible that he wasn't recaptured to live a long, protected life. His champions revelled in each rat that he caught, each face-off with a fool-hardy squirrel, each nightly foray exploring new territory, each shrugging off of the harassment from neighborhood birds, each photogenic pose. Very few zoo animals could have survived so spectacularly, and publicly, as did Flaco. He was no ecological threat as a species because his nearest potential mate was an ocean away. There was no vicarious thrill of his danger to humans (like an escaped tiger would have been) or the comedic entertainment of seals surfing out of their flooded enclosure. No one resented his dining on rats and pigeons. Rats,

in particular, had become a city-wide menace. Flaco was touted as the new Rat Czar. Flaco was handsome. Flaco was a hero. Flaco became a symbol of the conquest over city life as one more "if you can make it there," transplanted, resilient New Yorker.

Even Flaco's zoo resume—having been stared at daily by hundreds of people at close range—contributed to his comfortability with "finding his light" for glamorous portraits. Scrolling through daily new "content" fueled his fame.

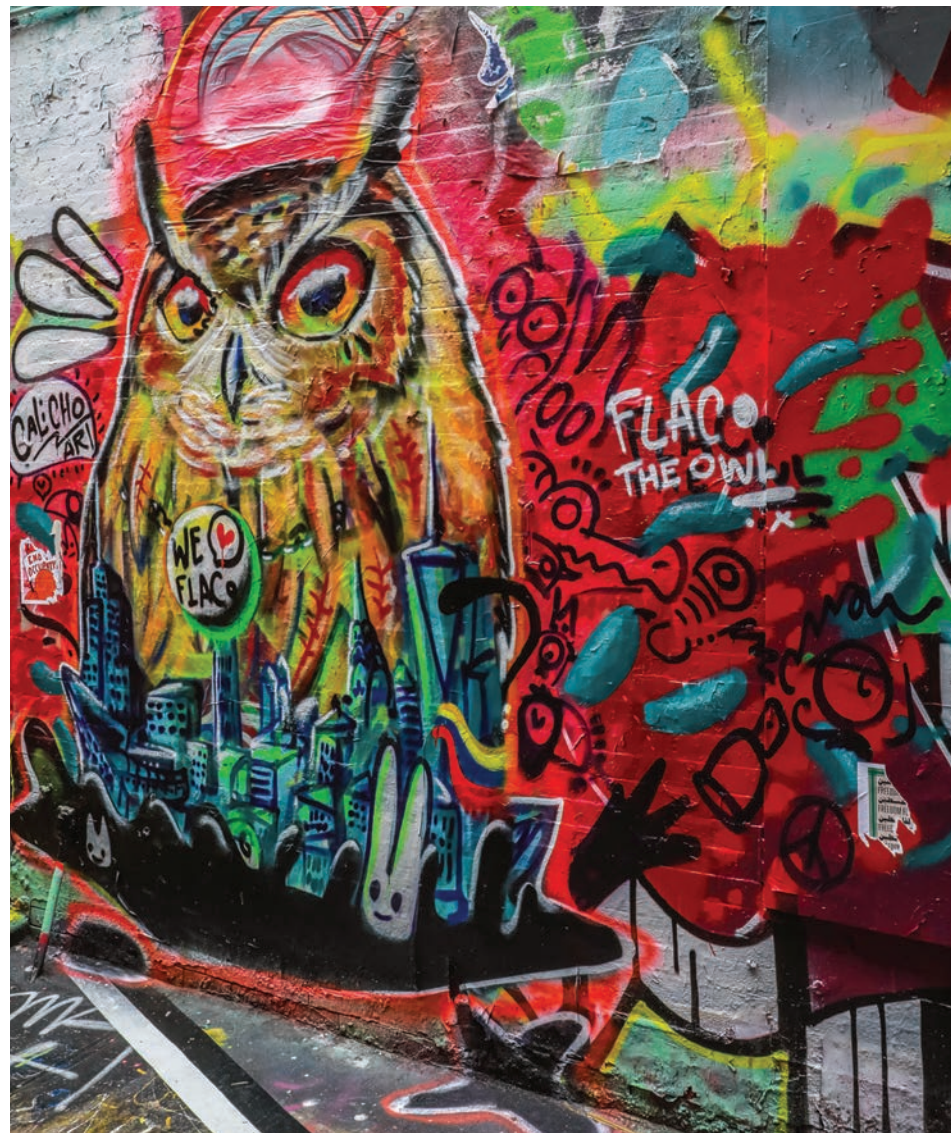
In November 2023, owl courting season began. Flaco started to roam from the hospitable environs of Central Park in search of a mate. Suddenly, he disappeared. Had Flaco headed north to the Adirondacks never to be seen again and his fans never to know his fate? But then he was spotted and his mellifluous hooting was heard in the East Village. The devoted photographers followed. Rooftops, fire escapes, and water towers were his new backdrops.

Again, he vanished but was soon heard, then seen, on the Upper West Side. Now art deco landmarks resonated with his nightly serenades to a damsel who would never appear. Once more, the anthropomorphizing of his unluckiness in love kindled new debates over the cruel trajectory of his freedom. Day by day, anxieties rose that his

seemingly charmed protection against that triumvirate of urban raptor fates—eating a poisoned rodent, crashing into a window, or being struck by a vehicle—was drawing to a close. Tragically, it would be this same freedom that we adored about him which would kill him, consequently, breaking our hearts.

Once he was gone, a spontaneous memorial arose at the base of one of his favorite trees in Central Park at 104th Street and East Drive. In this tree was actually the last place I saw Flaco. Lengthy articles eulogized him only weeks after lengthy articles had chronicled his one-year anniversary of freedom. Media trucks showed up again. Street art tributes appeared. At his tree, a Ceremony of Remembrance was attended by hundreds. In Albany, the Bird Safe Buildings Act was renamed the FLACO Act to reduce window-strike bird deaths.

Would it have been better for Flaco to live 30 more years in obscure peace in the Zoo? This is a question to ask ourselves: Would we like all our needs attended to and guaranteed safety for the rest of our lives but never be able to leave our apartments ever again OR take the risk of an adventurous life out in the world inspiring thousands, if not millions, of people—the trade-off being an equally lonely, unpredictable, inevitable, possibly violent, end? For myself, I would choose the latter. Debate amongst yourselves.



TRIBUTE TO FLACO IN FREEMAN ALLEY. Painting by Calichoart.

HISTORY NOW!

Collect Pond to the Holland Tunnel- Canal Street

BY BRIAN J PAPE, AIA, LEED-AP

For the large, irregularly shaped, spring-fed, pond, Collect Pond was the English name, derived from the Dutch Kalck, meaning chalk or lime, probably referring to oysters, according to oldstreets.com. The pond was an important source of drinking water in colonial times, but as humans tend to foul their own nests, it became progressively more polluted. Since the water was an environmental hazard, the city rejected Pierre L'Enfant's plan to clean up the pond and chose a crude way to resolve the problem; they dug a 40-foot-wide canal to drain the Collect into the Hudson River and filled in the swampy pond between 1802 and 1813, as noted in Wikipedia.org.

Like other parts of Manhattan after the 1811 grid, the city evened out the depression by excavating the nearby Bayard's Mount and Bunker Hill, the highest points in Manhattan. But the fill was poorly done, and for years after the fill has continued emitting methane, and settling, cracking sidewalks, streets and buildings.

The infamous Five Points neighborhood near the five-way intersection of Anthony, Cross and Park streets was mainly built on the poorly filled-in Collect Pond. From the 1820s to the early 1900s, this slum was notorious for its crime and squalor. Most of the neighborhood buildings were replaced by courthouses and other public buildings in the early 20th century, and the neighborhood is now centered on Columbus Park, although there is also a small Collect Pond Park along Centre Street.

Initially, the canal was bordered by two tree-lined thoroughfares running at a diagonal line to the northwest following a natural



WHERE CANAL STREET TERMINATES at West Street there is Canal Park, a small fenced triangular garden surrounded by busy streets. This park and Canal Street are only two blocks south of the West Village border, still within the Community Board 2 district. The history behind this unremarkable park reflects the timeline of the growth of New York City. Credit: Brian J Pape, AIA.

ravine, conveying a stream from the underground spring that had fed the pond. By 1821 the canal was turned into an underground sewer, with a street built above which runs the same course as Canal Street today.

At the other end of Canal Street, near the Hudson River, a basin was built in 1810, occupying the area between Spring Street and the projected line of Broome Street. In 1820, the basin was filled in and Canal Street was continued through it, dividing it into two triangles. The southerly triangle partly became Canal (Street) Park. The northerly tri-

angle was later partly the site of the Clinton Market before becoming the city Salt Shed Building, completed in 2015 by Dattner Architects and WXY Architects.

That would not be the end of the water connection of Canal Street. Plans for a fixed vehicular crossing across the Hudson River were first proposed in 1906, when both a bridge and a tunnel were considered. The tunnel wasn't started until 1920, opening in 1927. Initially considered the Canal Street Tunnel, it was ultimately named the Holland Tunnel in memory of Clifford Milburn Holland, its initial chief en-

gineer who died suddenly in 1924.

The location of The Holland Tunnel was the natural geological cleavage that occurs at Canal Street. The westbound traffic tube ramp originates at Broome Street between Varick and Hudson Streets, then tunnels under Spring Street until it converges with Canal Street.

The eastbound tube ramp comes up under Canal Street until it ends at the Holland Tunnel Rotary just south of Canal. In its early years, the tunnel ended at Canal Street, creating a huge traffic problem.

At the time of its opening, it was the longest continuous underwater tunnel for vehicular traffic in the world and was the world's first mechanically ventilated tunnel. Each tube has a 29.5-foot diameter and the two tubes are spaced 15 feet apart. The lowest point of the roadways is about 93 feet below mean high water.

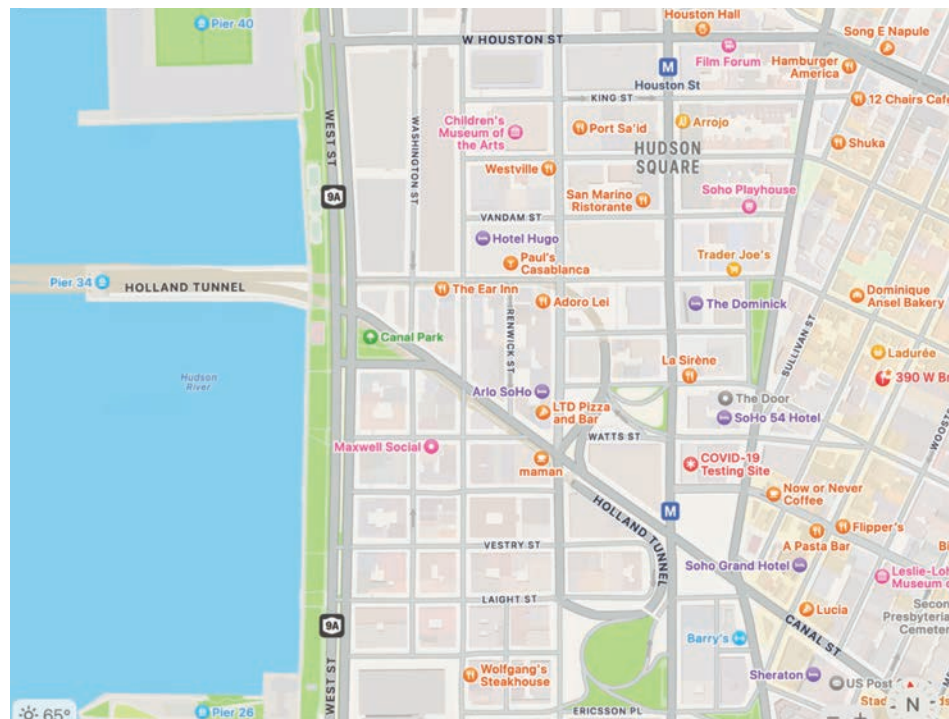
The tunnel was designated a National Historic Civil and Mechanical Engineering Landmark in 1982 and a National Historic Landmark in 1993.

In 2013-14, the Hudson Square Connection (a BID) and the Port Authority planned improvements for Freeman Plaza on the north side of Canal, originally used as the toll plazas until 1971. Now open to the public with trees and seating, it allows pedestrian use among the incessant traffic.

Today, Canal Street still suffers from the volume of trucks and cars entering Manhattan from New Jersey through the tunnel. DOT has promised for years to make Canal safer and easier to use, but we're still waiting to see some results.



ONCE A MAJOR FRESHWATER WATER SOURCE IN LOWER MANHATTAN, the spring-fed Collect Pond occupied the land in the area roughly bounded by today's Duane, Centre, Walker, Canal and Mulberry Streets, and Cardinal Hayes Place. Credit: Apple maps with VV notes.



THIS STREET MAP OF THE WESTERN END OF CANAL STREET shows the angle of Canal Street relative to the other streets and the tunnel crossing the Hudson River. Credit: Apple maps.

What's Made Record Runner a Village Gem

BY ANTHONY J. PARADISO



GREENWICH VILLAGE NATIVE JOHN PITA among his vinyl records for sale (including many rare and collectables) at Record Runner — one of the handful of remaining vinyl shops in the Village (and NYC). Pita opened the shop in 1984, and it has become a destination for both vinyl enthusiasts, and collectors of rare albums. The store is gearing up for Record Store Day on April 20th. Photo by Bob Cooley.

There's a gem of a record store called Record Runner located at 5 Jones Street between Bleecker and West 4th streets. The original store was opened on Cornelia Street in 1979 by John Pita. In 1984, Pita opened the second Record Runner location on Jones Street, which is the only one that exists today. Inside Record Runner's front window, one can see *The Free-Wheelin' Bob Dylan* record, the cover of which shows Dylan and his girlfriend at the time, Suze Rotolo, walking down Jones Street.

When I called the store, Pita answered the phone and we had a long conversation about the store's history. When asked about his inventory, Pita said: "I don't think anybody in the city has a bigger collection of Madonna records, or Michael Jackson, or Duran Duran—all these kinds of more pop-oriented [artists]. We also carry unusual stuff and more common stuff like Taylor Swift."

First, a bit of history. Young John Pita first became interested in music when he was a teenager and would climb a fence with his friend to play on the basketball courts that used to be at St. Luke's School on Hudson Street. The gym teacher would chase them out but when Pita and his friend persisted, the teacher asked them to come inside and

help coach basketball. In return, the teacher introduced Pita to music he hadn't heard before and guided him to his first job in the record business.

"He's the one who introduced me to a friend who was opening up a record store on Tenth Street called 'Golden Disc.' He suggested I go work there after school and that's where it all began," said Pita.

After Pita learned the tricks to the trade, he went to college for a bit and ended up working with the gym teacher, again. Eventually, he and the gym teacher opened Record Runner on Cornelia Street with a fresh vision for how to appeal to a new audience.

"Record Runner became known for new music at that time. We would get a lot of imports from the UK and we became pretty famous. A lot of the record companies would come to us to find out what was happening. They wanted to know about new bands... like The Cure, The Smiths and many bands where people didn't know who they were," Pita explained.

Speaking of bands, Pita recalled when three members of English pop rock band, Duran Duran, visited Record Runner in the 1980s. "It became a pretty well-known thing and very

shortly after, the store was inundated with a lot of young girls who were coming in and buying everything we had on Duran Duran. This was completely different from our regular clientele. I knew this was something I needed to really key on if we were going to become the Duran Duran store. We became that store where you could comfortably ask for all those kinds of artists and we created a lot of fans for Duran Duran and other '80s bands."

From that point forward, Record Runner started doing "a lot of mail-order" across the country to help with a magazine called *Star Hits* that highlighted a lot of these bands. In addition to creating an inventory of records belonging to bands and artists who recorded in America, Pita also collected records and memorabilia belonging to artists who recorded specific albums in foreign countries.

"I would travel all over the world just to get stuff," he said. "I would be in Europe; I would be in Japan bringing unusual things that you couldn't find anywhere else. That's what really made the store and we continued doing that. We don't do it as much as we used to because the Internet has changed [the business] a lot."

All in all, Record Runner has been in the business for 45 years because of Pita's deter-

mination to find rare records and memorabilia that the public can't find anywhere else.

Pita described how he's persevered. "First of all, our landlord has a lot to do with it. He has been very fair. Then it's been our ability to adapt to the changing times of music and also just the fact that we built such a reputation over all these years. We've made friends all over the globe. I have people who come in from South America, Argentina, Brazil, and a lot of stores that came here to buy stuff. Those friendships still exist and they still come."

It's difficult for record stores to compete with Amazon or eBay, but one thing that makes it easier is Record Store Day. According to recordstoreday.com, Record Store Day will be held on April 20 and is "a day for the people who make up the world of the record store—the staff, the customers and the artists—to come together and celebrate the unique culture of a record store..." Independent record stores benefit greatly from record companies making exclusive vinyl and CD releases.

If you have old records or memorabilia, Record Runner is interested in buying them from you. Be sure to remember a Village gem like Record Runner throughout the year.

CHARACTERS OF THE VILLAGE

“Just Ask Ivy” at Brooklyn Fare

BY JOY AND BRIAN PAPE

We met Ivy Diaz last year as we were interviewing Kenia Hernandez for our March 2023 *Village View* Character of the Village. Ivy is Kenia’s manager and helped to make sure Kenia had all she needed for the interview.

We learned that as a manager, she is not above doing every day things. She just wants to get things done and done right. She doesn’t always delegate, she does things herself, but never wants the credit.

We have come to learn that’s just the way she is. Her customers come first and she goes above and beyond to make sure they get what they need.

About two weeks ago, on a cold Friday evening near closing time, I needed a specialty health item. I knew Brooklyn Fare carried it, but I could not find the item. I saw Ivy and asked her if they have it, and she literally ran over to where it usually is, moved things around and found one, hidden behind other brands! We checked the expiration date; all was good, and she handed it to me. That’s when I came to think of Brooklyn Fare and Ivy as, “Just ask Ivy.”

If you’ve met her, you most likely haven’t forgotten her. If you haven’t, we want you to meet her. One day you may need something you can’t find. We recommend you go to Brooklyn Fare and “Just ask Ivy.”

Ivy came to mind when it was time to choose this month’s Character of the Village, so we ‘Just Asked Ivy.’ We know that she doesn’t like to be doted over, so she started naming several people in the store who deserved this honor more than her, which only confirmed to us who and what she is. But we insisted.

What do you think is important for our community to know about you?

I’m Ivy Diaz, married, no children. I work at Brooklyn Fare, I’m the Cashier Manager. I was born in Manhattan, but I was raised in the Dominican Republic. My parents are from the DR, so we moved there when I was two, then came back when I was 11, when my father bought a grocery store in the Bronx. Spanish is my first language, but I always speak English first to our customers. If they want to speak Spanish, then I do.



IVY MAKES SURE THE CUSTOMERS, including the fur-babies (dogs), are treated well. Here she is helping Harper who you have met in *The Village View*. Credit: Joy Pape.

Tell us about your work.

I have been working almost 14 years in this company. I love my job. The owner and managers are very good to me. We are all like family. I feel very blessed, and I thank God every day for that.

I started at the first Brooklyn Fare store

in Brooklyn as a Cashier Manager. I came to help open the store on Greenwich Street in 2016 for a short time, then went back to the Brooklyn Store. Then, about three years ago, during the pandemic, I came back here.

I do what we’ve been taught. The owner is very creative. I like making sure that our

customers find what they are looking for, and making sure they are being helped, or if we don’t have the item, making sure we get the item for our customers.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

I make sure the customers, including the fur-babies (dogs), are treated well. I love everything about my job.

What is your least favorite thing about your job?

The commute, because I live in Yonkers, so it is a little far.

Where do you park?

I am lucky. I usually find a street parking space. I only have to pay for parking about twice a month.

What was it like for you when the pandemic hit, and what is different now?

It was a crazy time. No one, including the customers, knew what was happening. We didn’t know if the world was coming to an end or what.

We were busier than ever because people wanted to shop and they could come here. We worked very long hours; management was very good to us, so we didn’t mind it at all. The customers were fighting about a lot of things, including wearing and not wearing masks. I love my customers, but it was hard because I couldn’t recognize them due to the masks. Now things are pretty much back to normal.

What are your favorite places in the Village?

I like the quietness of the area. I’ve been to many restaurants but I don’t have a favorite. I have to say my favorite place is right here at Brooklyn Fare.

What is your favorite accomplishment in life?

I love animals and love doing for them. I have even brought homeless animals home and let them sleep in my bed. Some people call me ‘the dog whisperer.’

What message do you want us to share with our readers?

God bless everyone, love you guys all! And don’t forget to always talk to our Creator, GOD!

Tales from the Front *continued from page 1*

ferred due to “space and staff limitation” in the intensive care unit.

In another instance, a stroke patient was transferred elsewhere due to lack of interventional radiology doctors. An unidentified staffer told investigators that Mount Sinai’s neurointerventional radiology doctors used to come to the E.R. to treat patients, eliminating the need for a transfer. However, they were directed not to come to

Beth Israel to treat certain stroke patients after December 31.

Recently, the hospital transferred a patient with a ruptured appendix who was developing sepsis because the person required “specialty care” that Beth Israel did not provide. Internal anonymized records reviewed by *POLITICO* corroborated a Beth Israel worker’s description of the events. Both conditions can quickly become life-

threatening, so time is of the essence. Instead of receiving surgery at Beth Israel, the patient was forced to wait for more than an hour until an ambulance could bring them to another hospital.

Other recent transfers included a patient with gastrointestinal bleeding, another with gangrene and someone with a bowel obstruction, according to two health care workers familiar with the cases. A patient

with an abscess eating into their muscle, which emergency department staff had deemed potentially life-threatening, waited two hours for an ambulance to take them elsewhere for surgery, one worker said. In such cases, health care workers have cited a lack of operating-room capabilities as the reason for transfer, internal records show.

Father Ed Chinery

BY ROGER PARADISO



FATHER ED CHINERY, (L) and ANDRE SMITH restock the pantry at The Church of the Ascension on 11th Street. The pantry program largely serves a monolingual Chinese community, and sources culturally preferred vegetables and foodstuff from a variety of sources. Photo by Bob Cooley.

Father Ed is Associate Director at Church of the Ascension on 11th Street and Fifth Avenue. I met him years ago when my film, *The Lost Village*, played at the Resistance Cinema located in the Parish Hall. This was a couple of years before Covid. And it's all gone downhill since then with lots of artists and people hurting. I asked Ed about his outreach program at Ascension Church which, many decades ago, was one of the most wealthy and supportive churches in Manhattan.

He runs what he calls “a very robust, but moderately sized pantry program” that serves a population that self identifies with the 98th percentile as monolingual and Chinese. In the beginning of his tenure, Ed saw that “the canned food we were giving out was not culturally compatible with this population. So, it took me several years to convince the parish leadership to rethink the process.”

Ed's job was difficult. “I found right out of the gate that the people on the pantry line could burst into very aggressive behavior. It got out of hand a number of times which made me call the police and they wanted to help. I asked to have a squad car standby just for the optics. They said, ‘I can do better than that, I'll send an officer who speaks five Chinese dialects to help you out.’”

This led to several new relationships for Ed and the Church. “I'm now the clergy liaison to the Sixth Precinct [NYPD]. They send me to the citizens police academy. I've had

training. I go there on the mornings of 9/11 and I offer a prayer on the street for them,” said Ed. “It's been a wonderful relationship since Officer Lee came to help us out. It was a sea-change in terms of the energy and that brought us to a place where we were able to enthusiastically comply with the food bank's strong recommendation that we go from pre-packaged bag distribution to an in-house, indoor client-choice model. So since 2018, we set up our parish hall as a table-top grocery store where people choose what they would like.”

Ed has become a “go to” guy and Ascension a “go to” pantry for food-challenged Asians, some of whom have also formed new relationships with the Church.

“On top of that, we recently partnered with the Episcopal Charities Foundation. Their Food Sovereignty Program has providers of different kinds of food stuff. They linked us with a small farm in Poughkeepsie that specializes in growing Chinese vegetables,” said Ed.

“You can't even imagine the difference our clients experience with the program. To have an agency when they didn't before. The first few times I was holding back tears because I would see this little old Chinese lady choosing which things she wanted.”

“You've got to see the looks on their faces. Some of them have said in broken English, ‘my grandmother used to make this.’ Now we give out mostly fresh produce. Some rice,

***And whoever gives even a cup of cold water
to one of these little ones in the
name of a disciple—truly I tell you,
none of these will lose their reward.***
—MATTHEW 10:42

rice noodles and cereals that they like. We're one of the only programs that gives out cooking oil and frozen protein, not canned.”

Ed explained, “When the program began we were serving people who were food insecure—that included black, white, and brown people. Five years later, Chinese people started showing up and their numbers grew and grew.”

There were three or four other Saturday morning pantries in Ascension's neck of the woods. “Folks would make the circuit, and trust me when I say this population might be down on their luck in terms of socioeconomics but they are brilliant when it comes to learning about these programs, accessing them, and coordinating to get the most at maximizing the experience,” said Ed.

He has gotten some push back from a few neighbors in one of the most expensive areas of Manhattan. “They like to cause a ruckus because of the noise on a Saturday morning. Sometimes, I want to say, ‘listen, not for nothing but if you want to sleep in

on a Saturday morning, I've got a nice home for you in Westfield, NJ. This is New York City. This happens twice a month for like all of an hour.’”

This street has been hailed in the press as one of the most affluent in NYC and many residents have volunteered to help. “Especially during COVID, we had such an influx of people coming who were distressed about all the suffering they saw,” said Ed. “This whole team just fell into place to help. We get people from the building right next door, 40 Fifth Avenue—some of the most affluent people in the world. We must get \$10,000 in contributions from them every year.”

Ed told us about a guy who just moved in to 40 Fifth Avenue and started coming to church. He wanted to find out who was behind the pantry operation.

“The guy is probably in his 80s and he's volunteering and throwing money at us,” said Ed. “There's lots of stuff around this program that makes you not lose hope.”

Before Central Park: The Story of Seneca Village

SOURCE: CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY



NEARLY 200 YEARS AGO, CENTRAL PARK'S LANDSCAPE near the West 85th Street entrance was home to Seneca Village, a community of predominately free African-American property owners.

The Central Park Conservancy works to preserve and celebrate Central Park as a sanctuary from the pace and pressures of city life, enhancing the enjoyment and wellbeing of all. Their website has fascinating information about historical aspects of the park, including Seneca Village. In the article below, the Village View utilizes excerpts and images from the Conservancy website.

Before Central Park was created, the landscape along what is now the Park's perimeter from West 82nd to West 89th Street was the site of Seneca Village, a community of predominantly African-Americans, many of whom owned property. By 1855, the village consisted of approximately 225 residents, made up of roughly two-thirds African-Americans, one-third Irish immigrants, and a small number of individuals of German descent. One of few African-American enclaves at the time, Seneca Village allowed residents to live away from the more built-up sections of downtown Manhattan and escape the unhealthy conditions and racial discrimination they faced there.



SENECA VILLAGE EXTENDED AS FAR EAST AS SEVENTH AVENUE, and would have bordered the present-day Arthur Ross Pine-tum (mid-Park between 84th and 86th Streets).

THE FORMATION OF SENECA VILLAGE

Seneca Village began in 1825 when John and Elizabeth Whitehead, subdivided their land and sold it as 200 lots. Andrew Williams, a 25-year-old African-American shoe shiner, bought the first three lots for \$125. Epiphany Davis, a store clerk, bought 12 lots for \$578, and the AME Zion Church purchased another six lots. From there a community was born. By the mid-1850s, Seneca Village comprised 50 homes and three churches, as well as burial grounds, and a school for African-American students.

A THRIVING AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Despite New York State's abolition of slavery in 1827, discrimination was still prevalent throughout New York City, and severely limited the lives of African-Americans. Seneca Village's remote location likely provided a refuge from this climate.

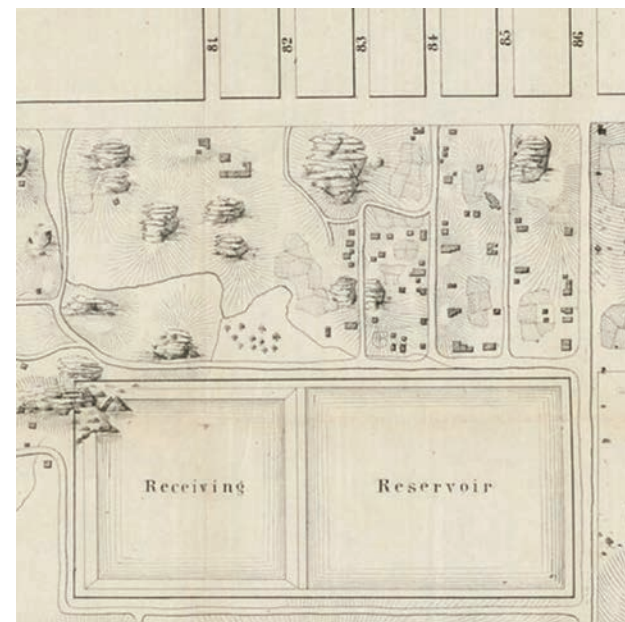
Compared to other African-Americans living in New York, residents of Seneca Village seem to have been more stable and prosperous—by 1855, approximately half of them owned their own homes. With property ownership came

other rights not commonly held by African-Americans in the City—namely, the right to vote. In 1821, New York State required African-American men to own at least \$250 in property and hold residency for at least three years to be able to vote. Of the 100 black New Yorkers eligible to vote in 1845, 10 lived in Seneca Village.

The fact that many residents were property owners contradicts some common misperceptions that the people living on the land slated for the Park were poor squatters living in shanties. While some residents lived in shanties, most lived in two-story homes. Census records show that residents were employed, with African-Americans typically working as laborers and in service jobs, the main options for them at the time. Records also show that most children who lived in Seneca Village attended school.

THE CREATION OF CENTRAL PARK

During the early 1850s, the City began planning for a large municipal park to counter unhealthy urban conditions and provide space for recreation. In 1853, the New York State



DETAIL OF MAP OF THE PRE-CENTRAL PARK LANDSCAPE showing the area of Seneca Village. Courtesy of New York City Municipal Archives.

Legislature enacted a law that set aside 775 acres of land in Manhattan—from 59th to 106th Streets, between Fifth and Eighth Avenues—to create the country's first major landscaped public park.

The City acquired the land through eminent domain, the law that allows the government to take private land for public use with compensation paid to the landowner. This was a common practice in the 19th century, and had been used to build Manhattan's grid of streets decades earlier. Although landowners were compensated, many argued that their land was undervalued. Ultimately, all residents had to leave by the end of 1857.

DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT SENECA VILLAGE

In 2011, archaeologists from Columbia University and The City University of New York conducted a dig of the site. They uncovered artifacts which have helped piece together what life was like for the village's residents. Seneca Village is now understood as a tight-knit community that served as a stabilizing and empowering force in uncertain times.

Learn more about the history of Seneca Village
centralparknyc.org/articles/seneca-village

McConnell Steps Down, Let's Sing!

BY ALEC PRUCHNICKI

(Sung to the tune of *The Patriot Game*)

Come all of you people, and list while I sing
For the fear for one's country is a terrible thing
It revs up paranoia with the speed of a flame
And it makes us a target of the politics game.

My name is Pruchnicki and I'm 76
I was raised in the North Bronx way up in the sticks
I was told that the Right Wing of our nation's to blame
For the dark evil side of the politics game.

For some years now our country's been only half free
Nearly half of our people love Don Trump's tyranny
And old man McConnell is greatly to blame
For his devious part in the politics game.

I remember when Al Gore was screwed by The Court
And Obama and Garland never got what they sought
Mitch's evil spread widely his strength and his fame
For this lowly event in the politics game.

So let's sing now with force and let's sing now with fire
Maybe patriots tune from the nation of Eire
Bella Ciao's song from Italy somewhat the same
To exile this bad man from the politics game.

I know not who will come next to replace this sad 'hore
For the Senate is poisoned way down to the core
Hope the next one won't be more of the same
And continue the evil of the politics game.

A SATIRICAL OPINION PIECE

City Fails to Finish Its Work

BY DAVID PINTO

There's good news tonight! Finally fed up with largely unwarranted criticism over its failure to do much of anything to improve the lot of its citizens, the City of New York has at last issued a schedule of construction projects, along with projections of when these various projects will be completed and how the new landscape will supplant the old.

The news is especially bright for West Village residents, those second-class citizens who have for too long been forced to live on promises largely unrealistic and always unkept.

As a way of apologizing, the City has rewarded West Village residents for their patience by allowing the *Village View* to break the news of this unprecedented construction project along with the mayor's solemn pledge that, once begun, it will be completed well before the first snow flies.

The landmark construction project has five components. Here, in no particular order, we will spell them out for you, our loyal and long-suffering residents.

1. The completion of Pier 40. Perhaps "completion" is an imperfect word here. Put another way, this vagrant edifice, neither fish nor fowl, will be demolished, probably before the July 4th holiday. In its place (the mayor claims before the New Year is ushered in) will come a brand new Madison Square Garden, with the tacit approval of the Garden's current owners. The new arena will host the Knicks, the Rangers, the Islanders, the Jersey Devils, and, possibly, the New York Giants football team. (The mayor, it should be noted, is rather vague about the Giants. Space, he admits, might be an issue.)

2. Removal of all scaffolding in the West Village. A just-released study has revealed that the West Village is covered in illegal scaffolding, with no fewer than 350 illegal structures (along with the accompanying

ground-level "cages" added to protect and divert pedestrians) embarrassing our neighborhood. The mayor insists they will be history by Labor Day. (In truth, the mayor launched a campaign last year to clear the streets of these eyesores, but please don't remind him of this failure. He's become very thin-skinned of late.)

3. Repaving the streets in the West Village to, finally, remove the cobblestones. In truth, a similar project has already been launched on the streets abutting Central Park and, according to the *New York Times*, is proceeding with only minor delays. Expected completion date: Valentine's Day 2025. To raise revenue to complete this project, the City will auction off these outdated cobblestones sometime this fall.

4. Removal of the traffic lights that have transformed what was once the West Side Highway into something more akin to Featherbed Lane. To subsidize this transformation, the City is currently soliciting bids for the outdated but still functional streetlights from a variety of U.S. cities, most notably Reno, Nevada and Ogden, Utah. It's rumored that Beijing, China has also submitted a bid.

5. Last, but by no means least, the mayor is committed to synchronizing the infamous street lights that unfailingly transform the once-impressive West Highway into something resembling nothing as much as the ascent of the dollar coaster at Coney Island. In other words, it promises — but never delivers. These traffic lights, one hears, may also be pedaled overseas. Apparently, Russia has expressed interest as a way of sprucing up Red Square.

Well, there you have it. So unpack your bags, stop leafing through the real estate ads, and renew your subscription to the *Village View*. Life is just beginning — I think.

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SCAN ME

The More Things Change...

BY TOM LAMIA

Politics is a nasty business. Nasty people often gravitate into the business of politics. Power is the business of politics. Electioneering is the door opener to gaining that power. The next seven months will be decisive as never before of whether the U.S. Constitution will survive an all-out attack by the people it was designed to protect. The nasty business of politics will determine the result.

The playing field of politics continuously evolves, as it has done since the Constitution was first adopted in 1789. There have been fundamental amendments; the first ten created rights in the people to protect them from their government; the three Civil War amendments (13, 14 and 15) added further rights to end slavery and protect against its return in another form. Countless other changes in our governance have come from legislation and constitutional interpretation; all done under the guidance of politicians and the elections that gave them the power to shape sociological and technological change. Through all, the Constitution, as amended and interpreted, has persevered. So, why now is it existentially threatened?

The people in charge did not get their power through high character and scrupulous adherence to rules... They are the survivors of catch-as-catch-can election contests in which losers go home.

One argument is that the “leave well enough alone” principle has worked well enough in the past to avoid self-immolation, so doing nothing is a workable solution. Another is the semi-mystical notion of American Exceptionalism (that saviors have and will come to the fore when needed), so, again, do nothing. My view is that fear of the abyss has saved us so far and could once more if we keep talking and don’t shoot one another. That will happen only if the nasty business of politics finds a way. So far I am not optimistic. The nasty business is not a well oiled and finely tuned machine, it requires the involvement of a cohort of bloodied nasty warriors who will see that the survival of the Constitution and its rule of law is the *sine qua non* of their own survival as cogs in the machine of governance. The people in charge did not get their power through high character and scrupulous adherence to rules, or to any shared guiding principle. They are the survivors of catch-as-catch-can election contests in which losers go home. They are reined in only by the lessons learned from defeats. Fortunately, those lessons, to date, emphasize a need for caution and a need to keep the golden goose of representative democracy alive.

Even “bad people,” those who sow chaos on issues and facts, can help in finding solutions. Sometimes in the past that has not been clear until the contest is near a cataclysmic conclusion (the abyss). The saying that a pending execution wonderfully concentrates the mind

is very much involved in what is happening. I offer a personal historical observation on how I have come to these dreary conclusions:

In 1960 Vice President Richard Nixon was facing Senator John F. Kennedy in the Presidential election. Republican Nixon had served eight years as Vice President, two years as a U.S. Senator and four years as a U.S. Congressman from California. Democrat Kennedy in his second Senate term had come close to the Vice Presidential nomination at the 1956 Democratic Convention; was the second son of Joseph P. Kennedy, FDR’s wartime Ambassador to England and had a large fortune made on Wall Street. Both men were young: Nixon 48, Kennedy 43. As Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, Nixon pursued an investigation of Alger Hiss with a zeal that got him re-elected to the House in 1950 with majority votes in both Republican and Democrat primaries and led to Hiss’s conviction for spying for the Soviet Union. Kennedy was a war hero and author of *Profiles in Courage* a ghost written prize-winning book that profiled Senators who had risked their political careers by supporting meritorious but

unpopular causes in the Senate.

The Democratic National Convention in 1960 was held in Los Angeles, my native city. There were many candidates for the great prize, all men and all older and more experienced than Kennedy. Several were favorite sons of states that accounted for large blocs of electoral votes. Eleanor Roosevelt and the old guard of “Wise Men” who had served FDR through WW II supported Adlai Stevenson, the Democrat nominee in 1952 and 1956. Lyndon Johnson of Texas, Senate Majority Leader, had the qualified support of several Senators and a big state Governor (Symington, Humphrey, Meyner) each of whom were expected to shift their support to Johnson if their own chances were to dim.

Kennedy had the glitz, money and ambition that came with and through his family. Having financed a number of Hollywood movies, Joseph Kennedy could and did put celebrity magic behind his son. Sinatra, Monroe and other personalities enhanced Kennedy’s aura of youth and confidence. On the other hand, Joe Kennedy had a reputation for tolerance of right wing causes and isolationism that clashed with mainstream Democratic views. In the end, Kennedy money and Boston Irish politics carried the day.

Kennedy got the nomination and won the election by a whisker. Two years later Nixon sought career revival in challenging incumbent Governor Pat Brown in California’s gubernatorial election. It looked like a safe

bet for the man known, even then, as Tricky Dick, but Nixon lost. In a post-election press conference the loser grumbled his closing message to the press: “you won’t have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore.” It looked like surrender, but wasn’t.

What Nixon did next is with us still. He set out to find a winning formula; found one; then failed to recognize that his winning formula depended on law breaking that could not be sustained and brought disgrace to him and the nasty politicians who advised him and did his dirty work. That Watergate scandal very nearly killed the golden goose for the Republican Party. Trump and his enablers may yet find their way to having that happen to them.

In 1960 I was a 22-year-old senior at the University of Southern California, struggling to stay afloat financially during the summer semester break. That summer the Democratic National Convention came to Los Angeles. The Convention and its temporary influx of politicians and hangers-on created a surge in demand for hotel rooms, call girls, alcohol and other necessary distractions from the hard work of politics. To accommodate delegate-revelers around the clock, the city’s taxicab fleet required drivers willing to work the graveyard shift (midnight to 8 a.m.). And there I was, eager to do my part for city, country and the American Way.

As I drove my cab through LA’s nighttime noir my eyes were opened to the game of politics (and other things) by exposure to the ramblings of voluble fares. Political junkies, delegates, journalists, party bosses and a hierarchy of campaign regulars enjoying a week away from home and family supervision. The revelry included a lot of drinking and associated spilling of secrets (some perhaps true), the essence of which was non-stop dirt dishing on party rivals. For example: Joe Kennedy was a fascist; Jack Kennedy a callow upstart being a fascist; Jack Kennedy a callow upstart being sold to a gullible public; Johnson a powerful

insider who would soon upend the Kennedy enterprise; Eleanor Roosevelt would save the Democrats from the Pope by a surprise nomination of Adlai Stevenson; and more. What was truly confounding for me was the regularity with which people in the back seat would ask who I favored for the nomination. I generally answered that President Eisenhower (a term-limited Republican) was my choice, which brought drunken hoots at my naiveté, but also serious questions as to what qualities Eisenhower had that I found attractive in a president. I came away with a low opinion of the people and process that would decide who would be the Democratic nominee.

Between the Convention and the November election there would be the first televised debates and tsunamis of backroom politicking by those who controlled votes. No one seemed sure of the outcome, but all seemed to be immensely enjoying the process.

A few months later, I voted for the first time. I felt the weight of the world on my shoulders. My decision was dictated by a sense that the serious but dull Nixon would better protect the nation and my place in it than the bright and charming Kennedy. I voted without enthusiasm for Nixon.

The experience just related has often reminded me of the timeless nature of politics. What works perseveres and is added to the storehouse of tools for the ambitious politician and a professional network of advisers that carry those lessons forward. The tools that seem to have most successfully endured are those that teach how to damage reputations. These are the tools of the nasty staffer who is essential to victory and hence untouchable. Both Nixon and Kennedy had such people. Nixon constantly complained that Kennedy’s people were nastier and thus more successful. He set out to build his own, nastier, staff. He did, and the abyss, his Watergate Waterloo, was the result.

JOY IN THE MOMENT

Soft Pillow, Clear Conscience— Clear Your Conscience to Get Some Sleep

BY JOY PAPE, FNP-C, CDCES

“There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.”

—French Proverb

You may have had a situation that didn’t feel right to you. You had to make a decision and may have even lost sleep over it. Others most likely have had different opinions, but in your gut or in your heart you knew what was right for you.

You chose what’s right for you and you most likely slept better, had more energy and joy in the moments to follow because you chose what’s right for you. Continue to do so.

—OR—

You may now have a situation that doesn’t feel right to you. You have to make a decision about it. You may even be losing sleep over it. Others have different opinions, but in your gut or in your heart you know what is right for you.

Make the decision to choose what’s right for you. Don’t listen to or agree with the thoughts trying to get you to overthink it. You’ll most likely sleep better, have more energy and joy in the moments to come because you have your answer. You know you’ll choose what’s right for you.

New Kids on the Block | *Do We Need More Pizza? Yes!*

BY ARTHUR SCHWARTZ



Photos by Arthur Schwartz.

The West Village is undergoing a pizza renaissance. For a while, between Brunetti's at Horatio and Hudson, and Bleeker Street Pizza on 7th near Bleecker, and John's (which doesn't sell slices) there wasn't much choice. (I should note that I am a big fan of Little Italy Pizza on University, but that's a shlep for lots of people living further West.) But over the last few months we have had Romeo Pizza return to 6th and 11th (most famous pizza corner in the Village), and now two more, near the intersection of Christopher and Bleecker. Two of the City's greatest slice shops, L'Industrie and Mama's Too, opened a block apart from one another.

Mama's Too had a store on the on the Upper West Side for five years. Its owner decided to expand and opened in March at 325 Bleecker Street, just south of Christopher on the east side.

A few months earlier L'Industrie, another popular Brooklyn slice shop, opened at 104 Christopher Street, west of Bleecker, on the south side of the street. The slice shops are located roughly 250 feet apart, so that if you stand on the northeast corner of their shared intersection, you can see both.

According to a recent review in *The Eater*, "they belong to a newer class of pizza makers focused on better ingredients. Their

crusts are naturally leavened, and the tomato sauce is tart, not sweet." They are also more expensive. Slices at L'Industrie (\$4 per slice) are crunchy, and charred, made from sourdough, and are ranked by many reviews as one of the best in the City. There are often lines out the door. The shop has indoor tables and a standing counter, but most people eat outside. They also have sandwiches, pastries, and soft serve gelato.

Mama's Too house slices go for \$4.75. The pizzeria is known for its square slices. They are set out on trays by the register. They have

flavors like cacio e pepe and pear with gorgonzola cheese.. The slices are cooked in olive oil until they're tender in the middle and basically fried on the bottom. The house slice is a triangle, not a square and the toppings are layered in reverse: cheese first, then sauce. The first thing you taste is tomatoes.

Eater says: "Mama's Too and L'Industrie are at the top of this city's slice scene, and having them so close makes this one of the best blocks for New York pizza, probably in the world."

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VILLAGE PET PAGES

BY JOY AND BRIAN PAPE

My New Life Partner

BY HOWARD STEINBERG

It Was All Meant to Be in The West Village

I met Howard 20 years ago when the Queens native was starting his second company in the Connecticut suburbs where he lived and worked. We connected over shared philosophy and he hired me to work for his new health media business. That was the catalyst that brought us from Missouri to our forever home in the West Village. Howard and his buddy, Tico, recently moved to the West Village from Noho where he had been living the past five years. Just as we were meant to be here, Howard and Tico were meant to be here, together. —Joy Pape

I moved to the city with my old black rescue mutt, Benny, to begin my new chapter of personal exploration and growth after I was nest emptied, divorced and stepping back from my start-up business life. His mode was “feed me and leave me alone and we’ll get along fine.” Sadly, at age 11, Benny got suddenly ill in 2021 and I put him down as he struggled with severe pain.

I took a breather but felt a palpable void in my Noho loft apartment and in my new solo life. I set about adopting Betty, a beige hound mix from Texas who was incredibly sweet but incredibly hyper-stimulated, lunging and pulling in every direction. At over 50 lbs., she was a handful on leash! She was impossible to control and train. I sought help and placed her in boarded training in NJ that was supposed be 4-6 weeks. They kept her for 15 weeks and upon returning, there were only modest changes. This was no life for either of us, so we found her a new home in the country with a fenced in yard and room to roam.

The same adoption agency in CT asked me to take this other unclaimed little guy who was coming up on the next transport from Texas. I’d been through a lot with dogs those past few months and I wasn’t sure if I could take that risk again. They convinced me to treat this sweet little tyke as a foster.

“Button” was advertised as a chihuahua-terrier mix and house trained. He was neither. He was discovered by Border



TICO. Photos courtesy of Howard Steinberg.

Patrol in Texas, roaming free and brought to a kill shelter in San Antonio which ships a lot of dogs north for adoption.

I drove up to CT to meet Tico at a rest stop on I-95. The transport had broken down enroute and 20 dogs were waiting, piled up in crates in a freezing cold U-Haul on the late November night. The driver was overwhelmed. Finally, he passed the yet-to-be renamed Tico to me and said, “oh this one had a rough time.” I put him down on the frosty lawn and he peed for what seemed like five minutes. The poor guy

had held it in since Virginia!!

I started calling him Tico to pay homage to his history at the Mexican border. He looked at me from the passenger side sitting on the wool blanket, so frightened and vulnerable with his bald spots below his chin and legs as he recovered from a case of mange.

The city noise and energy seemed to overwhelm little Tico and I thought, “oh no, here we go again! Covid, new life, dog traumas...not sure I can do this!” I played a soundtrack of city noise in the apartment so he could get accustomed to his new world and by day three he was learning to relieve himself on any small patch of dirt or grass near my former apartment on Great Jones Street.

Within a week Tico adapted like a champ and we grew closer as he displayed uncanny intuition and support. I soon learned that I had won the adoption lottery. I became a doting dog dad. My daughters laughed at how I babied him. I had lectured them when they were growing up that our dogs weren’t human and wanted to be lead and trained, not just loved.

The DNA test revealed Tico was half Australian Cattle Dog. You could see that in his face, the crown of his head and tip of his tail. He inherited the best qualities of that parent: wicked smart, extremely loyal and boundless energy. But he is also a very sweet cuddler and just wants to please. Everyone loves Tico and his kind eyes.

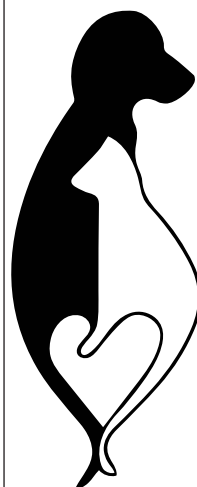
Tico loves his new West Village neighborhood. Wherever I go, there he is with me, including a rogue runaround with playmates at the JJ Walker Ball Field where he zooms faster than any of his competitors. He loves the plethora of tree gardens lining the West Village streets, long river walks and the quiet here vs. the more boisterous boulevards of Noho.

I’ve never experienced a dog with his level of intuition, loyalty and adaptability. I never had a connection with an animal like I have with Tico. The dog rescue god must have decided that it was my turn. Tico became my true companion, blessing my life at a delicate time when I really needed his supremely unconditional love and companionship.

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- Susan F, client

Boris & Horton, The First “Dog Café”

BY JOY AND BRIAN PAPE

What a delight to drop in to the newly re-opened “dog café” on a rainy afternoon. The place was full of dogs and their owners, all merrily socializing with one another. We’ve seen people at restaurants with their pets in tow but never with the freedom that we saw at Boris & Horton. After a two-week closure, as reported by Tehsin Pala in the local paper *Our Town*, Boris & Horton reopened with community support in fund-raising and with a new business model.

Village View visited with Logan Mikhly to learn what makes Boris & Horton so special.

VV: What’s in the name “Boris & Horton?”

LM: Boris is my dad’s dog and Horton is my dog. I own the cafe with my father, Coppy Holzman, and we have close to 30 staff members.

VV: Is Boris & Horton the first dog cafe?

LM: We’re the first NYC Department of Health (DOH) approved dog-friendly cafe in the city. We’re the only place where your dog can run around and socialize while you eat and drink in a clean and temperature-

controlled environment.

VV: What are the new changes to the business model?

LM: We’re now doing a suggested visit fee of \$5 without a dog and \$10 with a dog. The fee is similar to many museums’ “pay what you wish” model.

VV: How crowded does it get?

LM: Our peak times are midday on week-ends. We get close to our capacity of 55 people in the East Village and 74 people in Williamsburg. We have tables inside...and a few outside.

Logan sent us to the NYC DOH website to see the requirements for dog cafes:

“Indoor establishments that provide space for people and pets to interact — commonly called dog or cat “cafés” — have opened in New York City, but the name “café” is confusing! Dog or cat “cafés” do not prepare or serve food or drink for consumption by humans. Here is how these businesses work:

- There must be no doorway or other way to move directly from the business that allows

pets to the restaurant or other food service establishment without first exiting outside.

- Staff of the business that allows pets must not have any work responsibilities that require them to enter any food service establishment.
- Any food or drink consumed by humans at the business that allows pets can only be brought there by the customer. Food or drink for human consumption cannot be directly offered, sold or served at a business that allows pets.”

Here’s how Boris & Horton complies with these rules. Their layout is actually two establishments, side by side. The corner spot is a regular human café with a broad offering of sandwiches, salads, coffee, tea, soft drinks, beer and wine. Then right next door, with a separate entry, is the doggie “café” where humans can bring their dogs, food and drink to hang out. There are lots of merchandise and dog specialties to purchase. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, with or without a dog companion.



WITH OR WITHOUT A PET COMPANION, customers are welcome to hang out in the bright, warm atmosphere of this large room. Credit: Brian Pape, AIA.

Learn more at: Borisandhorton.com, NYC Health Dog and Cat “Cafes”

HUMANIMAL

The Mouth-Body Connection

BY JOY PAPE, FNP-C, CDCES AND NICOLE CERNIELLO, DVM

Why is it that we can get medical care for our body but not as easily for our mouth (teeth and gums)? I don’t think it’s the medical practitioners but most likely the insurance companies, and why I don’t know.

For example, I have had many patients who have diabetes. They can’t seem to keep their blood sugars in reasonable range until they go to the dentist and find out they have a tooth or gum infection. Once treated, their blood sugars often get better.

HUMANS

Studies have shown, as reported in *WebMD*, there may be a link between your mouth and your body, such as boosting self-esteem and confidence, lowering risk of heart disease, preserving memory, decreasing risks of infection and inflammation, stabilizing blood sugar, and even helping pregnant women carry their baby to term. Good oral health is the best prevention for oral health problems at all ages.

The CDC recommends age related tips:

For Babies

- Wipe gums twice a day with a soft, clean cloth in the morning after the first feeding and before bed to wipe away bacteria and sugars that can cause cavities.
- When teeth come in, brush twice a day with a soft, small bristled toothbrush and plain water.
- Visit the dentist by your baby’s first birthday to spot signs of problems early.
- Talk to your dentist or doctor about putting fluoride varnish on your child’s teeth when the first tooth appears.

- For children younger than two, consult your doctor or dentist regarding the use of fluoride toothpaste.

For Children

- Brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- Help your child brush their teeth until they have good brushing skills.
- If your child is younger than six, watch them brush. Make sure they use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste and always spit it out rather than swallow.
- Ask your child’s dentist to apply dental sealants if appropriate.
- Drink tap water that contains fluoride. New York City drinking water contains fluoride.

Pregnant Women

When you’re pregnant, you may be more prone to gum disease and cavities, which can affect your baby’s health. Follow these steps to protect your teeth:

- See a dentist (it’s safe!) before you deliver.
- Brush your teeth twice a day.
- Floss daily.
- If you have nausea, rinse your mouth with one teaspoon of baking soda in a glass of water after you get sick. This helps wash stomach acid away and keep your tooth enamel safe.

Adults

Here are some things you can do to maintain a healthy mouth and strong teeth.

- Drink fluoridated water and brush with fluoride toothpaste.
- Brush thoroughly twice a day and floss

daily.

- Visit your dentist at least once a year.
- Do not use any tobacco products. If you smoke, quit.
- Limit alcoholic drinks, especially cocktails with sugar added.
- If you have diabetes, work to maintain control of the disease. This will decrease risk for other complications, including gum disease.
- Treating gum disease may help lower your blood sugar level.
- If your medication causes dry mouth, ask your doctor for a different medication.
- Drink plenty of water and chew sugarless gum.
- See your doctor or a dentist if you have sudden changes in taste and smell.
- Help older individuals brush and floss if they are not able to perform these activities independently.

INSURANCE

If you don’t have insurance, reach out to NYU’s College of Dentistry, 212-998-9800 or Columbia University’s College of Dental Medicine, 212-305-6100, for an appointment.

PETS

Dental health is often overlooked in cats and dogs. Research has shown that 30% of dogs may have fractured teeth and as many as 68% of cats may have resorptive lesions (eroded tissue beneath enamel which becomes destroyed). Periodontal disease is the most common disease affecting cats and dogs.

Many cats and dogs resist having their

mouth examined or opened by their owners. As a result, dental disease is often unnoticed until it is very severe or pointed out by a veterinarian during a physical exam.

As with humans, the same goes for cats and dogs regarding dental disease and controlling concurrent diseases, especially diabetes. Just about all general veterinary practitioners can perform complete oral health exams and treatments.

When necessary, some pets may be referred to a board-certified veterinary dentist. To be done correctly, a dental cleaning must be performed under anesthesia. Anything advertised as a non-anesthetic cleaning is inappropriate and unlikely to be performed by a licensed veterinarian. While anesthesia can be scary, pets are monitored closely and precautions are taken to help ensure a positive outcome.

Try to brush your cat or dog’s teeth daily. We understand this not always possible, mainly due to lack of cooperation from your beloved pet! Start slow. Get your pet used to having your hands in and around their mouth. Work up to having your finger in their mouth before graduating to a toothbrush. It’s best to get your pets used to this when they are young, so it is part of their normal routine. As always, if you have any concerns about your pet’s dental health seek the opinion of your veterinarian.

LEARN MORE

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Basics of Oral Health
- The American Veterinary Dental College
- New York City Drinking Water-FAQs

“Peoples’ Movements”

A Cross-Cultural Exhibition Showcasing the Contemporary Artworks of Solidarity and Self-Empowerment

BY KAJU ROBERTO



SINCE 2014, THE TAIWANESE AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL (TAAC) has aimed to foster awareness of Taiwanese American art within the broader community. Photo by Kaju Roberto.

“Peoples’ Movements” is a special art exhibition running through April 15th at the Tenri Cultural Institute located at 43A West 13th Street in the heart of Greenwich Village.

Luchia Meihua Lee is the founding Executive Director of the Taiwanese American Arts Council (TAAC) and the Chief Curator of the exhibition. Since 2014, TAAC has aimed to foster awareness of Taiwanese American Art within the broader community. They have sponsored many events and presented high quality programs in all disciplines of art, while encouraging cross-cultural exchange between Taiwanese Americans and others.

The exhibition will be open free to the public Monday-Thursday from 12-6 p.m. and Saturday from 12-3 p.m. The Institute is closed on Friday and Sunday.

A CROSS-CULTURAL EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS

“Peoples’ Movements” is a cross-cultural exhibition which focuses on the art which embodies and has been borne from particular brave groups of people acting as a whole and taking a stand on contentious issues by refusing to compromise their statements or actions particularly related to corrupt governments and regimes.

This program involves artists’ works celebrating peoples’ political movements — largely youth-led — that took place around the world circa 2014.

TAAC has selected five Movements represented by these artists’ works: Taiwan’s Sunflower Movement, Hong Kong’s Um-

rella Movement, the Arab Spring, the Chilean Winter, and the Ukrainian Euromaiden Movement. In the interest of space I will present only two movements in detail. I have provided links below for further information on all movements if you care to take a deeper dive.

TAIWAN’S SUNFLOWER MOVEMENT

In March 2014, students and other youth in Taipei occupied Taiwan’s legislative body in protest of the plan by the ruling government to strengthen trade ties with China.

Ten years ago, on the night of March 18, 2014, students and activists broke into Taiwan’s Legislative Yuan in an effort to block the passage of the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement between Taiwan and China.

The day before, then ruling government the Kuomintang (KMT) led by President Ma Ying-Jeou, had attempted to force passage of the trade agreement in the Legislative Yuan, without giving it a clause-by-clause review.

Those youth knew that a successful clandestine execution of such a plan by the KMT would lead to catastrophic future events that could eventually jeopardize Taiwan’s newfound fledgling democracy. The occupation of the Legislative Yuan lasted over 20 days and came to be known as the Sunflower Movement. In the end, the students and youth activists prevailed with overwhelming support, and a trade agreement between Taiwan and China was blocked.

Most significantly, not only had the Sun-

flower Movement been successful in blocking the proposed legislation, its byproduct had profound effects, which in time reversed the course of Taiwan’s foreign and domestic policy. The movement led many of its participants eventually to enter formal political life and thus rejuvenating Taiwan’s political culture.

Taiwanese pop punk group Fire EX.’s song *Island’s Sunrise* became the anthem of the movement.

Participating artists showcasing original works at the Tenri Cultural Institute that embody the indomitable spirit of Taiwan’s Sunflower Movement are:

- Island Sunrise Team 島嶼天光團隊 (Portrait painting and video)
- Tsung-Jung Liu 劉宗榮 (Paintings and archives)
- Enbion Micah Aan 洪延平 (Photography)
- Hsin Yi Liu 劉欣怡 (Paintings)
- Chia H. Kuo 郭家瑄 (Sculpture)

HONG KONG’S UMBRELLA MOVEMENT

Taking place between September 26 and December 15, 2014, this movement led by Hong Kong youth was sparked by China’s proposed changes to Hong Kong’s electoral system — changes that the movement unsuccessfully opposed and were later imposed unilaterally by the government in Beijing.

However, this movement was resurrected on its fifth anniversary in 2019 to protest the bill enabling extradition to China — and trial there — of residents of Hong Kong. Beijing eventually imposed this bill on Hong

Kong, further eroding the special status of Hong Kong in violation of the 50-year special administrative status of Hong Kong negotiated by the United Kingdom and China in 1997. September of 2024 will mark the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement.

The participating artist showcasing his original works at the Tenri Cultural Institute that embody Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement is Tracy Wong (prints, video, helmet, cocktail sculpture).

EXHIBITION SUMMARY AND LINKS

The “Peoples’ Movements” Cross-Cultural Exhibition demonstrates intriguing installations that celebrate the artworks representing the spirit of youth-led popular movements of approximately 10 years vintage, thus simultaneously highlighting both the similarities and differences between them.

For further listening and reading on all five Movements and their historical impact, below are links:

- talkingtaiwan.com/fireex-10th-anniversary-sunflower-movement-sam-yang-tells-how-island-sunrise-became-its-anthem-ep-278/
- talkingtaiwan.com/eric-chang-on-the-unfolding-situation-at-the-legislative-yuan-during-the-sunflower-movement-ep-231/
- taac-us.org/upcoming-events
- tenri.org/gallery/index.shtml

THE HONOR OF CO-NAMED STREETS

Bella Abzug Way

People have been honored here in Greenwich Village with co-naming of streets or places for them. Look for the special green signs below the regular street signs.

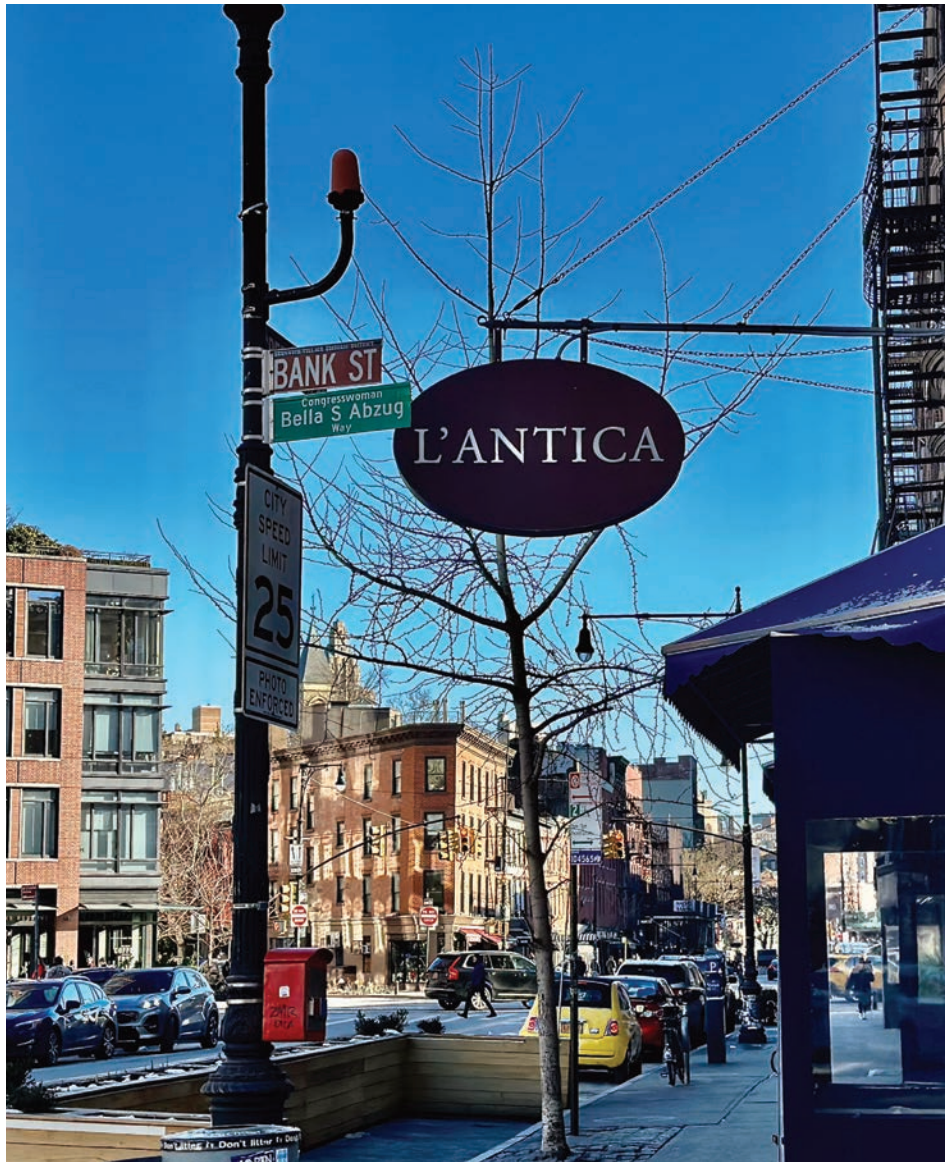


PHOTO AND TEXT BY BRIAN J. PAPE, AIA.

Bella Abzug Way is located at the west corner where Bank Avenue terminates at Greenwich Avenue, directly across from the NYC AIDS Memorial Park.

The honoree is Bella S. Abzug (July 24, 1920-March 31, 1998), a leading liberal activist and politician, nicknamed “Battling Bella,” especially known for her work for women’s rights. Born in New York City, both of her parents were Russian Jewish immigrants. Abzug joined other leading feminists such as Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm, and Betty Friedan to found the National Women’s Political Caucus. She was a leading figure in what came to be known as “eco-feminism.” In 1970, Abzug’s first campaign slogan was *“This woman’s place is in the house — the House of Representatives.”*

From 1971 to 1977 she represented Greenwich Village and other parts of lower Manhattan in the U.S. Congress. She lived and worked at 37 Bank Street for over 40 years. She was admitted to the New York Bar in 1947 and began a civil rights law practice, opening a day care center in her first office at the Duplex on Christopher Street and Seventh Av-

enue. As a Congresswoman, she was active in labor law, a founder of the National and State New Democratic Coalition and helped create the Women Strike for Peace Movement. In 1975, she made history when she introduced the first gay rights bill in Congress.

She spoke out against poverty, racism and violence and was co-chair of the National Advisory Committee for Women. She helped found the National Women’s Political Caucus and wrote legislation making it illegal to discriminate against women trying to get credit, credit cards, loans, and mortgages. She also co-authored the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts.

In 1994 she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. This co-naming honor was approved in 2017.

There is also a Bella Abzug Park in Hudson Yards development, named by the Parks Department in 2019. The park extends from 33rd Street to 36th Street in between 10th and 11th Avenues, alongside newly created streets known as Hudson Boulevard East and Hudson Boulevard West, at the extension of the No. 7 subway line.



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Culture Notes

BY LIONELLE HAMANAKA



GROUP LUNCH during the Annual Day of Remembrance. Photo by Masao Katagami.



AS THE CEREMONY ENDED, survivors walked onstage with candles, naming their incarcerated families and bearing signs with the names of their camps. Photo by Masao Katagami.

COLLECTIVELY CREATED VIDEO AT ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday March 2, the hallways of the Japanese American United Church in Chelsea buzzed excitedly as hundreds of community members attended the Annual Day of Remembrance to memorialize the incarceration at Japanese internment camps and prevent its recurrence.

“The reason I wanted desperately to be part of the redress movement [was]...to know more about our collective past,” said Julie Azuma, a leader of the New York Oral History Project. Her mother fought to move the family out of the concentration camp in 1943 to Chicago’s South Side so that she wouldn’t be “scarred by birth in shame.” Like tens of thousands of other Japanese American parents, hers never mentioned their experience in ‘camp.’ In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Ex. Order 9066, putting 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps, deporting community leaders from as far as Ellis Island in New York.

Since 1979, Azuma has been in the national campaign for redress and reparations for camp survivors. Along with Bill and Yuri Kochiyama, Leslie Inaba Wong, Sasha Hohri and Lani Sanjek, they met at the Japanese American United Church (founded in 1893).

A video of Japanese Americans on the East Coast was filmed, organized and produced collectively by dozens of volunteers and community groups. This video was brilliantly edited by Stan Nakazono. It showed how Japanese Americans started living in New York in 1876. After World War II thousands of Japanese Americans from the concentration camps moved to New York to rebuild their lives. The New York Oral History Project was funded by the National Parks Department through a Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant. “Little was known about east coast Japanese Americans and they were getting older,” said Stan Honda. The grant enabled scores of family members from this area to be interviewed.

In 1988 President Ronald Reagan granted redress of \$20,000 per person reimbursement to Japanese American camp internees. Mike Iishi, a leader for Tsuru for Solidarity, a political group of Japanese Americans, cited national demonstrations against immigrant mistreatment, supporting the Black movement for redress and remuneration, and ceasefire calls in the Gaza war. As the ceremony ended, survivors walked onstage with candles, naming their incarcerated families and bearing signs with the names of their camps.

TWO VISIONS CONCERT AT TENRI

Modern sounds wafted through the Tenri Cultural Center on March 10 at *Two Visions*, a free concert of composers Max Lifchitz and Daniel Kessner (US), and Alejandro Cardona (Costa Rica).

Lifchitz’s piece, *Eulogy for Tyre*, had three parts: I. *Resplendent*, a melodic section, II. *Abomination*, a more percussive orientation with agitated string and flute parts, and cascading and dissonant piano parts; and III. *Amazing*, a section of consolation with light chords from piano and resonant tones of clarinet, echoed by violin and cello, that quoted *Amazing Grace* (composers like Beethoven and Bach quoted popular songs).

Kessner commented on *Two Visions*: “The first movement, *Lost Carillon*, seeks to capture the vision of an unexpected discovery of an old carillon, covered with webs and dust, whose bells are somewhat rusty. The sonorities, particularly of the initial thematic idea and its returns, should be bell-like and resonant, with sharp attacks. The finale, *Imaginary Flight*, is a melodic flight. The opening melody revolves...around A-flat, gradually adding melodic materials between this central tone, and then quickly, removing them. Throughout the subsequent variations of the theme, its initial design was clearly brought out through orchestration,

dynamics, and articulations.”

The unforgettable resonance of a carillon fills cathedrals. The *Lost Carillon* section has a searching quality. The *Imaginary Flight* section seems to pose questions to the universe, its urgent pacing extending to long tone figures ending on a quarter note stop, with multiple time signatures, atonal clusters embodying the sounds of nature, from wind, to rustling leaves, echoed in stirring movements.

The ensemble played Costa Rican composer Cardona’s ten-part piece, *Anancy* featuring Trickster, a multifaceted character prevalent in indigenous culture. Some parts adapted dances like the mambo; a sad melodic lamento depicted a fierce, predatory leopard, or paid tribute to Willie Pacheco in a dramatic, soulful, percussive style rooted in his own angst and cultural offshoots.

Lifchitz’s North/South Consonance Ensemble featured Lisa Hansen (flute), Matthew Goodman (clarinets), Mioi Takeda (violin), Rob LaRue (cello) and Helen Lin (piano), with Max Lifchitz conducting, all virtuosic musicians.

The concert was funded by the New York State Council on the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, BMI Foundation, Zethus Fund and Music Performance Trust Fund.



LIFCHITZ'S NORTH/SOUTH CONSONANCE ENSEMBLE, above. Photo by Micah Joel.



A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE at the Japanese American United Church in Chelsea for the Annual Day of Remembrance. Photo by Masao Katagami.

The Wedding Signer

BY LYNN PACIFICO



THE WEDDING OFFICIATOR: Blessing the rings at a renewal of love vows in Central Park (L); On the way to the Jefferson Market Garden on her wedding day. Photos provided by the couples to Lynn Pacifico.

I make it legal!

I am a priest of the “old” religion, a nature based spiritual practice that honors the earth as the great mother. Years ago I held regular worship services, and taught classes and workshops, often in natural settings. Nature is my church, where I go for physical and spiritual strengthening. Recent science proves that being in nature benefits us on a fundamental level. Nature empowers us and what we do when in her presence.

As children of nature we were designed to have a regular relationship with the earth. Like a child without nurturing, we suffer when deprived of her but we have become completely detached from the natural world. For the last 30 years my ministry has focused on animal welfare and lobbying for more natural areas in our nature starved concrete downtown Manhattan. Lobbying has not been a lot of fun and often heartbreaking.

On the other hand, one of the most enjoyable activities of being a cleric is officiating at weddings. It is time to balance my efforts by doing weddings again. I have officiated at many elegant venues but some of my most memorable weddings were less formal, like walking into Prospect Park with the couple and their loved ones and performing their wedding in a quiet clearing. “We couldn’t have done it without you!”

Similarly, I helped a couple, after one of them had survived a harrowing illness, do a vow renewal in a wooded area in Central Park. As they wished, their celebration was a picnic with everyone bringing food. We found a grove large enough for the 20 attending as well as a volleyball net. We set up the spot, did the ceremony then everyone shared food and stories, cried and hugged and then played volleyball. “Thank you for such a beautiful and perfect ceremony. It was everything I wanted it to be and more!”

One couple flew in from out of town with their two kids and the bride’s mother. Everyone thought that they were already married. This was when not being married in a small town was still frowned upon, especially with children. When they decided to get married, the bride’s best friend, a New Yorker, hired me and we figured out the particulars before the couple arrived.

The wedding was a secret, so during the ceremony, the grandmother stayed in the

hotel with the children while the best friend, the couple and I walked to Strawberry Field in Central Park. The park was almost deserted as it was beginning to rain but the rain held off until I made the pronouncement of marriage.

Then, in the rain, we walked to the little gazebo on the lake. The groom had brought champagne and glasses. While sipping champagne we signed the marriage license, took photos and enjoyed the setting before going, with kids and grandmother, to a restaurant. I usually don’t stay after the signing but we had shared a secret and a little bit of magic in the park that afternoon. “I was so touched by how you incorporated the quote into the ceremony at the perfect time. A last minute idea to do something other than a JOP that turns into something so incredibly wonderful.”

I did a few marriages in Central Park’s Strawberry Fields, one on a very cold winter afternoon with my father in attendance as the couple’s witness couldn’t come and my father stepped up. I have also done quite a few weddings in the Jefferson Market Garden which is another great setting and used for the wedding of Miranda and Steve in an episode of *Sex and the City*.

In the last wedding I did there, the bride’s son walked her up the aisle as I had advised her that if she was wearing heels — she had very high heels for the occasion — the ground would be uneven. Including her son in the ceremony turned out not only to be practical but also gave her son a special part in his mother’s wedding. And yes, some of the brides have kicked off their shoes and were married barefoot. “Thank you so much for the ceremony. It was perfect.”

There is no reason not to have a ceremony that is individualized according to the sensibilities and wants of the couple. I get to know these couples at a joyous time of their life, in the best of settings and they and their ceremony become special to me. Decades later I am still in touch with some of them.

As wedding season approaches I hope to be officiating again and helping couples accomplish the wedding they want. So, while I continue my efforts to bring natural areas downtown, let’s have fun!

Lynn Pacifico can be reached at lynpax@juno.com.

Where do I find?

THE Village View

PLEASE VISIT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR COPIES OF THE PAPER

Caffe Reggio

Cinema Village

Golden Wok

Greenwich Village Animal Hospital

Hector’s Cafe

Integral Yoga Institute

Jane Restaurant

Jefferson Market Library

Kettle of Fish

La Lanterna di Vittorio Restaurant

Lilac-The Chocolate Store

Mercer Street Books

Morton Williams Market

Player’s Theater

Temperance Bar

The Red Lion

Village Revival Records

Washington Square Hotel

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.villageview.nyc



SCAN ME

JAZZ EXPLOSION!

Axel Tosca Meets Rico Jones on Stage at Zinc Bar's Thursday Night Cuban Jam

BY KAJU ROBERTO

What occurs when an immovable object meets an irresistible force? Or when the kinetic alchemy of some random meeting between a 3x Grammy Award-nominated jazz pianist and a 6x *Downbeat Magazine* Award-winning tenor saxophonist happens on stage?

That's what I dreamt would happen when The Axel Tosca Trio, led by its brilliant pianist Axel Tosca and tenor saxophonist Rico Jones, would combust in a wild frenzied jam!

I'd been trying to get these two together on the same stage to jam for months. It finally happened on March 7th at Zinc Bar on West 3rd Street in Greenwich Village during the Axel Tosca Trio's incendiary "Cuban Jam" late night set.

I must say, it gave me great joy to finally bring these two musical titans together for an all-out jam, accompanied by the amazing rhythm section of Junior Terry on upright bass and David Frazier Jr. on drums.

Meet Rico Jones: 6x *Downbeat Magazine* Award-Winning Tenor Saxophonist

If you are one of my awesome readers who follows my past articles, you might remember the story I wrote in September 2023 of how tenor saxophonist Rico Jones and I first met while he was busking in front of the Apple Store in the West Village in late 2022. We've since become good friends. (Read my article on the link below.)

Meet Axel Tosca: 3x Grammy-Nominated Cuban Jazz Pianist

When I first saw the stand-in keyboardist Axel Tosca performing with the fantastic 10-piece Salcedo Latin Soul led by bandleader tenor saxophonist Steve Salcedo at the Bitter End, I knew I was encountering a very special musician. After introducing myself, Axel and his wife invited me to come see Axel perform with his own band at his weekly Thursday night gig at Zinc Bar.

When I actually watched the Axel Tosca



JAZZ EXPLOSION AT ZINC BAR as Axel Tosca Meets Rico Jones onstage. Photo by Kaju Roberto.

Trio play live at Zinc Bar at his weekly Cuban Jam, was I able to truly grasp the breadth of musical talent, compositional, and innate creative improvisational ability this man possessed. (Read my article on the link below.)

Now back to bringing these two musical titans together for the first time ever.

The Night of the Show

On March 7th, I arrived early for Axel's 10:30 p.m. show. Rico texted me that he was running quite late.

What I remember most that night was seeing the club completely packed and filled with extremely happy faces enjoying the great show with not one empty seat to spare. With Rico still nowhere to be found, I have to admit this looming specter made me both equally thrilled and nervous!

However, luckily for us the band's early set was running way over. They would soon be taking a 20-30 minute break before their late show. Such an unlikely convergence of events, yet such an auspicious fluke occurrence. But I'll take it.

Axel's legendary mom, Xiomarra Laugart "the Voice of Cuba" who regularly performs

songs with the band near the end of their sets, happened to be sitting near the back where band members and special guests have reserved seating.

The March article I recently wrote about Xiomarra's past performance was resting next to her on the table. (Read my article on the link below.) She immediately spotted me and gave me a big warm hug. Then pointing to the packed crowd in front she told me, "You won't believe it. This is all because of your newspaper story. Everyone either read it or at least seen the headline!" That really gave me goosebumps.

Rico Finally Arrives at Zinc Bar

Rico finally arrived with his horn at 11:15 p.m. while the band was near the end of their break and about to go on. Whew! That was a really close call!

"Axel meet Rico Jones," I said. Within a few seconds I could already sense there was some familiarity. I believe Axel even mentioned he'd once seen Rico play at Smalls. Not surprising as Axel would go to Smalls to relax after his gig and check out other upcoming jazz musicians.

Without wasting time, Axel and Rico talked about what songs they should play. Within a few seconds, they quickly decided on *Caravan* written by Juan Tizol and popularized by Duke Ellington.

A "Caravan" Jazz Explosion!

Now on stage behind the Baldwin piano, Axel greeted the crowd — which was still quite packed — and introduced Rico Jones as a special guest to the "Cuban Jam!"

Then Axel began playing 16-bars of the quizzical yet memorable opening line of *Caravan*. Soon the upright bass and drums joined in during the open mellow "floating" section. They were still building the introduction; the band hadn't even started cooking yet!

Rico began playing the Arabian-sounding musical hook, before building up into his first solo where he unleashed a wild flurry of notes. It was chaotic and beautiful.

Led by Rico's charge, the band was now swinging hard! Axel, Junior Terry and David Frazier Jr. were holding it down. Six minutes into the jam, Axel joined in with his own incredible piano solo and together they ripped a hole into the space time continuum!

After ending the jam, the stunned crowd gave these jazz titans a raucous ovation.

That's the night a total jazz explosion happened!

Links:

villageview.nyc/2023/09/08/rico-jones-tenor-saxophonist-making-waves-on-the-nyc-jazz-scene

villageview.nyc/2024/01/05/axel-tosca-trio-and-the-legendary-xiomarra-laugart-rock-the-cuban-jam-live-every-thursday-at-zinc-bar-a-must-see-event-in-nyc

villageview.nyc/2024/03/03/xiomarra-laugart-the-voice-of-cuba-does-it-again-at-zinc-bar

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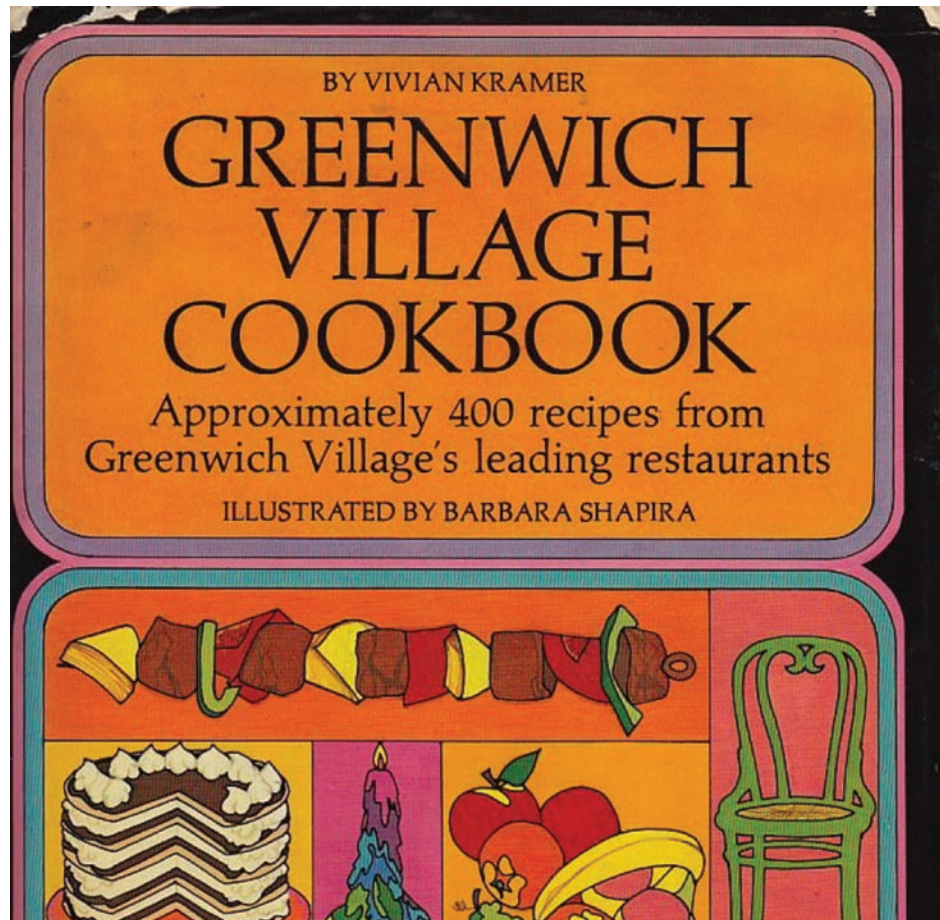
Please contact us at 917-656-5682 to discuss your local advertising opportunities.

Please direct all correspondence to articlesforvillageview@gmail.com

REPORTING FROM THE REFERENCE ROOM

Good Reading, Good Eating

BY CORINNE NEARY



A JEFFERSON MARKET LIBRARY BOOK THAT IS NOT SO OFTEN SOUGHT AFTER, BUT VERY MUCH DESERVING OF ATTENTION: the *Greenwich Village Cookbook*, published in 1969 by Vivian Kramer. Image courtesy of Jefferson Market Library.

As you may be aware, in the storied basement reference room of the Jefferson Market Library, we are proud to house a sizeable collection of reference books, including things you may think of as relics from the past, but which we consider absolute must-haves: almanacs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, indexes, and the like. What we're most known for within this reference room is what we like to call the *Greenwich Village Collection*: interesting, and sometimes rare, books on the history of New York City—and particularly, Greenwich Village, that librarians at this branch have been collecting since our opening in 1967.

These days, the collection takes up 20 shelves just to the left of the librarians' desk, and comprises roughly 350 books, like *Valentine's Manual of Old New York*, volumes 1916–1927, which are packed with historical illustrations and maps, as well as descriptions of daily life in the city.

One of my personal favorites from the collection is not so often sought after, but very much deserving of attention: *The Greenwich Village Cookbook*, published in 1969 by Vivian Kramer, writer, counselor, and wife of Ed Fancher, co-founder of *The Village Voice*. The front and back covers of

the book are lined with *Village Voice* copyrighted maps of the neighborhood, and the restaurants listed within its pages, where Kramer has described them and detailed their most famous recipes.

The book, intended as both a cookbook and a restaurant guide, is a time capsule. Although a number of the restaurants are still serving food today, it's safe to say that things have changed a bit. Gene's on Eleventh Street, a library staff favorite, is featured, including several items still on the menu like baked clams, fettuccine alfredo, and cheesecake. Here's something I can't say I've noticed on recent trips, however: "A rolling wagon offers dinner customers their choice of 16 cold hors d'oeuvres, including eels, at no extra charge."

And to test the memories of those of you who have been around for a while, here's a story about McBell's which was once in business at 359 Sixth Ave. "Some years ago there was a fire in the kitchen that left it roofless. But the restaurant did not close down. Somehow the kitchen staff cooked in the open air for three weeks. Recalling this crisis, Mr. Campbell comments, 'It was difficult when it rained.'"

THE PROUST CENTER

Eric Karpeles, author of *Paintings in Proust*, to speak at the Jefferson Market Library

Proust-Czapski Spring Festival!

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 6-7:30 PM
Eric Karpeles: "Proust Against Despair: Józef Czapski and the Impact of Proust"

Eric Karpeles, in conversation with Monika Zaleska

This April 9th event explores the influence of Marcel Proust's writings on Polish writer and painter Józef Czapski (1896-1993).

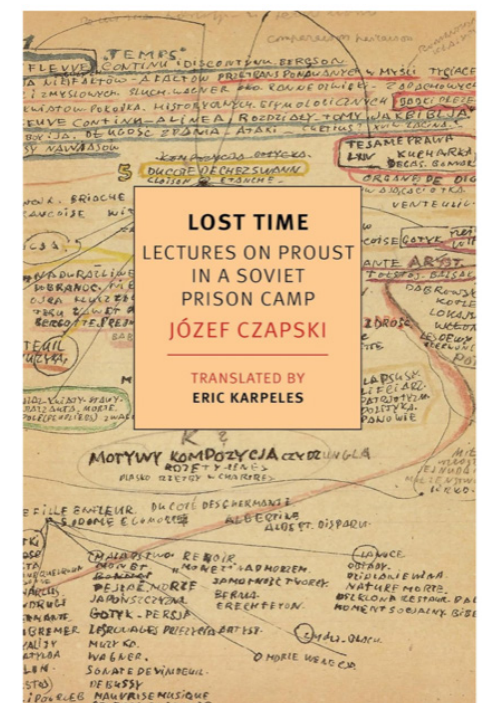
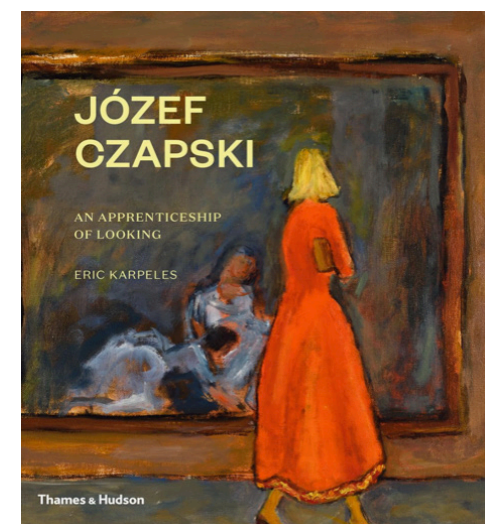
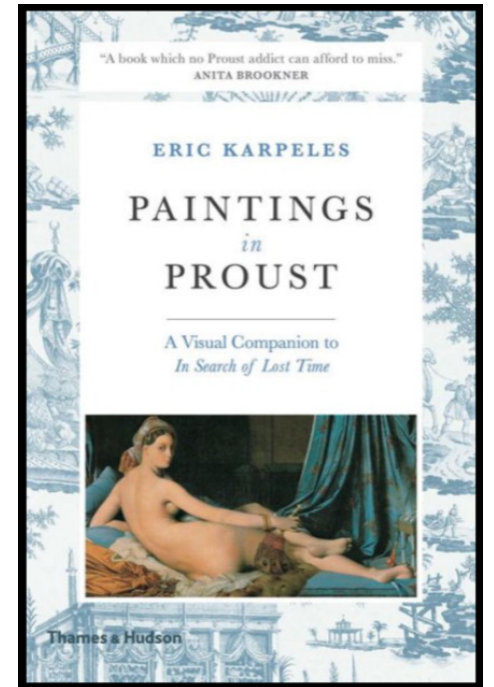
From his early literary criticism, to a series of lectures he gave on Proust's great novel while a prisoner-of-war in the Soviet Union during WWII, and on to his later journals and essays, Czapski derived enormous inspiration from the French novelist. In the 1920s, Czapski lived and worked in Paris with a small band of Polish painters. During these years he rubbed shoulders with people who knew Proust and inhabited his milieu. Once WWII ended, Czapski again made France his home, as a political refugee, living with a group of spirited men and women who founded *Kultura*, a periodical of European culture and realpolitik that became the displaced voice of Polish politics and literature throughout the postwar communist era. We will explore aspects of how *In Search Of Lost Time* guided Czapski's life and work—and held off despair in dark moments of the 20th century.

Presented in the first floor Willa Cather Room of Jefferson Market Library. All events are free and open to the public. As space is limited, registration is required for this event.

REGISTER AT NYPL:
nypl.org/events/programs

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Eric Karpeles is the author of *Paintings in Proust*. With the publication of three books, he has introduced Polish painter and writer Józef Czapski to English language readers, having translated Czapski's *Lost Time: Lectures on Proust in a Soviet Prison Camp*, written a biography, *Almost Nothing: The 20th Century Art and Life of Józef Czapski*, and produced an artist's monograph, *Józef Czapski: An Apprenticeship of Looking*. Monika Zaleska is a writer, translator, and Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is writing her dissertation on Proust's influence on Polish writer and artist Józef Czapski. She is currently a lecturer in Polish Studies at Hunter College.



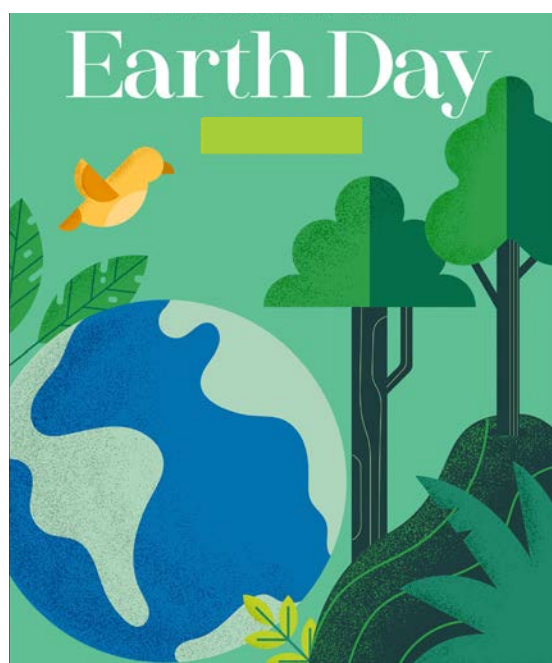
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April 2024

EVENTS

in and
around the
West
Village

Celebrate Earth Day



■ **EARTH DAY 2024 FESTIVAL**
Sunday, April 14
12-6 PM
Union Square
(East 17th Street and Park Avenue South)
Free and open to the public

Join the millions who want a more sustainable future! We're coming together to call for climate action and environmental justice. Join the climate conversation at a pivotal time. This annual in-person festival features exhibits by dozens of environmental non-profits and climate campaigns, interactive workshops, live performances, art installations, kids' activities and sustainable foods.

MUSEUMS

■ **THE CLIMATE MUSEUM**
"THE END OF FOSSIL FUEL" EXHIBIT
105 Wooster Street, Soho
Monday & Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday through Sunday: 1-6 PM
climatemuseum.org



The first museum in the nation dedicated to climate change, it features exhibits that educate visitors about the fossil fuel industry and the intertwined histories of inequality and the climate crisis, and that invites visitors to connect and take action. The exhibition's lead artist is R. Gregory Christie, a celebrated illustrator who is an NAACP Image Award winner, a six-time Coretta Scott King Honor recipient, and a Caldecott Honor winner. The show features Christie's 45-foot mural *Making Tomorrow*, which envisions the struggle for, and transition to, climate justice.

Hudson River Park Earth Day Green Team

Gain meaningful experience working with friends, community members and like-minded individuals looking to beautify and maintain Hudson River Park's picturesque waterside landscape! This volunteer program offers community members the opportunity to nurture their inner green thumb alongside their neighbors while improving public green space.

April 20 — 9:50 AM — Hosted By Hudson River Park Friends
Best Way to Register: email Volunteer@Hudsonriverpark.org

Participants must confirm their sign up via email and fill out the waiver prior to the event.
 Please use this link to complete the waiver:

jotform.com/240074106080140

hudsonriverpark.org/get-involved/volunteer/hrpk-green-team
 Social Media Handle: #HRPK, #HudsonRiverPark

ART EXHIBIT

■ **CROSSROADS, CURATED BY LANIE LEE**
April 3-May 31
Opening Reception: April 6, 2-4 PM
Hudson Park Library
66 Leroy Street

The artists in this group exhibit employ various cultural influences in their art practice. They bring different cultural perspectives to their work that are personal and insightful. The crossroads of American culture with other cultures are interpreted metaphorically, spiritually, and psychologically. The artists are Areta Buk, Abyssinian Carto, Janice DeMarino, Prawat Laucha-roen, Lanie Lee, and Margaret Maugeness.

WRITERS GROUP

■ **POETRY ELECTRIC:**
WRITER'S ANONYMOUS
April 29 - 7:30-9 PM
LaMama - Community Arts Space
74 East 4th Street
lamama.org

NYC based writers group comes together for a night of laughter and commiseration. Whether it be a rowdy rant, silly song or spoken word, these writers speak their truth the only way they know how: with words (and HELLA heart!). Join us as we investigate what it means to be alive and nowhere near well.

MUSIC

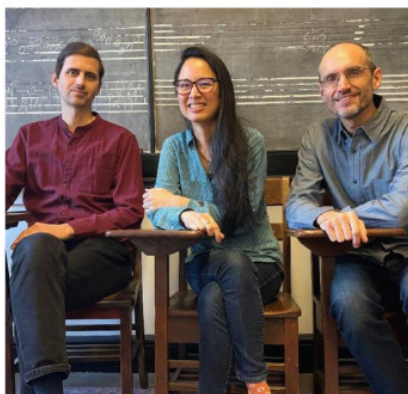
■ **SONGS FROM THE 400 YEAR'S WAR**
Ukrainian music from the
17th and 18th centuries
Julian Kytasty, bandura
St. John's in the Village
218 W 11th Street
Sunday, April 7, 3:00 PM

The bandura has been called Ukraine's national instrument. Julian Kytasty, a third generation professional bandurist honored by President Zelensky for his services to Ukrainian culture, has devoted a lifetime of exploration to the bandura and its historical traditions.

■ **JOE MCGINTY & THE LOSER'S LOUNGE**
April 18-20, 2 shows per night
Joe's Pub / The Public Theater
425 Lafayette Street (at Astor Place)
publictheater.org

Joe McGinty & The Loser's Lounge are back to perform the classic songs of the Honky Tonk Angels: Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Emmy Lou Harris, Patsy Cline, Kitty Wells, and more! With their incredible house band, eclectic cast of guest singers, and signature brand of reverent irreverence, Joe McGinty & The Loser's Lounge will take you on a trip to the golden age of country!

Uncharted at Greenwich House



UNCHARTED 2024 SEASON
The Uncharted Concert Series
featuring the Baisley Powell
Elebash artists-in-residence
Thursdays at 8 PM
April 4 to May 9
Greenwich House Music School
46 Barrow Street
greenwichhouse.org

Uncharted is a concert series that encourages artists to take risks and work out new or existing material, collaborations, and projects for an intimate concert experience. In keeping with Greenwich House Music School's artist advocacy work, 100% of ticket and merchandise sales go directly to artists. Uncharted alumni include Aaron Diehl, Marc Ribot, Sofia

Rei, Deva Mahal, Bora Yoon, Shaina Taub, Celisse, and many others.

SCHEDULE

4/04 Camila Meza & Aaron Goldberg
 4/11 Queen Esther
 4/18 Alea
 4/25 Mireya Ramos & Trevor Turla
 5/02 Raquel Acevedo Klein
 5/09 Dana Lyn with We the Gleaners

VILLAGE PRESERVATION

SELECT APRIL 2024 PROGRAMS

■ **VANISHED MANSIONS OF LOWER FIFTH AVENUE: CELEBRATING THE ICONIC STREET AT 200**
Thursday, April 4 — 6:00 PM
In-Person, Pre-registration required, Free
Rockwell Gallery at Salmagundi Club
47 Fifth Avenue (at 12th Street)

Opened in 1824, Fifth Avenue originally vied with several other locations for social supremacy, including St. John's Park, Lafayette Place, and Second Avenue. By the Civil War, Fifth had become "The Avenue" superseding all other addresses in which to flaunt you had arrived.

In this talk, part of the celebration of the thoroughfare's 200th anniversary, explore some of the early mansions constructed on Fifth Avenue below 14th Street in the years prior to achieving social victory. *Co-sponsored by the Salmagundi Club Library Committee.*

■ **IMPRESSIONS OF GREAT ESTABLISHMENTS OF GREENWICH VILLAGE: AN EVENING WITH ARTIST LILY ANNABELLE CALEAKAV, VILLAGE PRESERVATION, AND THE LGBT HISTORIC SITES PROJECT**

Tuesday, April 16 — 6:00 PM
In-Person, Pre-registration required, Free
Jefferson Market Library
425 Avenue of the Americas

Since the early 20th century, Greenwich Village has been a sanctuary for writers, artists, academics, and activists alike. As the century progressed, the charming tree-lined streets bore witness to the collection of quintessential theaters, bookstores, cabarets, jazz clubs, and iconic monuments that have contributed to New York City and American culture. Discuss the contemporary work of artist Lily Annabelle who has illustrated many of these important sites as part of an exhibition opening at Jefferson Market Library on April 3. Speakers from Village Preservation and the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project will share with the community the Village's past and present.

THE MOTH



THE MOTH MAINSTAGE
Wednesday, April 24 @ 7:30 PM
NYU Skirball
566 LaGuardia Place
nyuskirball.org/events

The Moth returns to Skirball for its third annual spring show. The Mainstage is the quintessential Moth experience, a two-act show —featuring a musical act— where the storytellers and a notable host share true personal stories, without notes. Experience true stories live as they're recorded for future episodes of The Moth Podcast and Moth Radio Hour.

The Moth — hailed as "New York's hottest and hippest literary ticket" by *The Wall Street Journal* — is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling.

THEATER

■ BREAD & PUPPET THEATRE

The Hope Principle Show:
Citizens' Shame & Hope in
the Time of Genocide

Wednesday, April 10 @ 7pm

Thursday, April 11 @ 7pm

Judson Church

55 Washington Square S
breadandpuppet.org

Bread & Puppet Theater is kicking off their 61st year by traversing the Eastern Seaboard with a brand-new play created with their director, Peter Schumann, for the exact moment at hand. After the show Bread & Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli. Bread & Puppet's "Cheap Art" from the Bread & Puppet Press will be for sale. No one turned away for lack of funds.

■ AFTERSHOCKS

By Rori Noguee

Directed by Lissa Moira

Through April 14

THU, FRI, SAT at 8 PM

SUN at 3 PM

Cino Theater, 155 First Avenue
theaterforthenewcity.net

A woman with a troubled past and a history of casual relationships falls for the one man she cannot touch,

due to his own childhood trauma. Together, they attempt to heal from the lingering effects of their early wounds.

■ NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE:

THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE

SHOWTIMES AT IFC CENTER

Saturday, April 20 — 11:00 AM

Sunday, April 21 — 11:00 AM

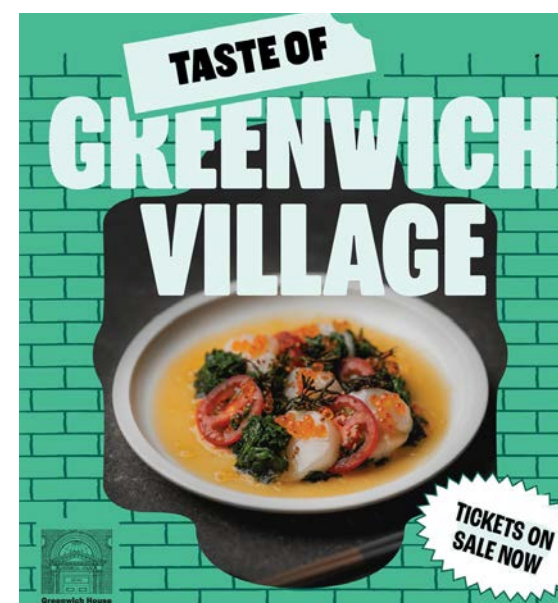
Monday April 22 — 6:30 PM

323 6th Avenue
ifccenter.com

Sam Mendes (*The Lehman Trilogy*) directs this fierce and funny new play.

1964: Richard Burton, newly married to Elizabeth Taylor, is to play the title role in an experimental new Broadway production of *Hamlet* under John Gielgud's exacting direction. But as rehearsals progress, two ages of theatre collide and the collaboration between actor and director soon threatens to unravel.

Written by Jack Thorne (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*) and designed by Es Devlin (*The Crucible*), the *Evening Standard* award-winning best new play was filmed live during a sold-out run at the National Theatre, and is featured here for encore presentations.



TASTE OF GREENWICH VILLAGE

The Altman Building

135 West 18th St.

Tuesday, May 14 from 7-9 PM

\$125-\$400

greenwichhouse.org/taste

Taste of Greenwich Village is back for the 22nd year! Embark on a culinary journey featuring celebrated chefs from across the city! All proceeds earned directly benefit Greenwich House, supporting their essential work in arts and education, older adult services, behavioral and mental health, and workforce development. Join them for a mouthwatering experience and raise a glass to our community.

Reset your home search for today's market.

Get back into the market with renewed buyer power and clear expectations. If you were unable to purchase a house recently, it may be time for you to succeed in the market.



Here's what we've heard from buyers recently—and our best advice for you.

Is now still a good time to buy?

If you're prepared, it's always the right time to build equity and hedge against rent inflation. We'll work together to make sure you're prepped and ready to buy.

What do market conditions mean for my home search?

Shifting market conditions create new opportunities to buy. It's important to first understand what your local conditions are—which can vary even from neighborhood to neighborhood. We'll chat through the nuances of the area you're searching in together.

What are the benefits of buying today?

Less competition means you can make an offer on your own terms. Take advantage of the market when crafting an offer—whether that means you have more time to make a decision, or the option to add in contingencies that protect your purchase.




Debra Kameron

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