

Transplants Can Redefine Their Relationship With the City

BY JACK LOURIE



AN ENTHUSIASTIC "I VOTED EARLY!" STICKER placed on a fire hydrant. Photo credit: Jack Lourie.

It's 12:45 p.m. on Election Day, and the temperature is 99 degrees. After three hours of door knocking for Zohran Mamdani, I've given myself a 45-minute break to sit in an East Village coffee shop. While my psyche is energized, I'm worried about heat exhaustion. And underneath my motivation is guilt. Until this point, my enthusiasm for Mamdani has only amounted to pressuring my friends to register to vote before the June 14th deadline. Today, of all days, was the first day I tried reaching out to strangers. I was overdue to stop shouting at people from behind social media, and talk to them in person instead.

When I shout, I am shouting at trans-

plants. These are people who move to NYC from generally upper-middle class and above backgrounds — many of whom are my friends. I'm frustrated with what their money has done to the city, and I want them to see the city as I do. While it might sound counterintuitive to dislike the influxes of wealth that transplants bring, I don't believe many have a plan or framework on how to wield it in an ethical way. They can use their funds to outbid New Yorkers on apartments, and incentivize new businesses to replace longtime local institutions. Whether NYC newcomers confront it or not, their dollars become a mandate to change neigh-

borhoods in their image. And then they leave. Many transplants view New York as a chapter in their life, instead of their forever home. Naturally, this transience should lead to less personal investment in our local politics.

I check my phone. Someone from the Zohran Mamdani Lower Manhattan WhatsApp group says they need help with poll visibility on East 10th Street and First Avenue. Poll visibility is when you stand at least 100 feet away from a polling location to engage with constituents on your candidate's policies in hope to gain their support. I say goodbye to the air-conditioned coffee shop and head back into the swampy heat. I had walked past that poll site earlier this morning where I noticed Anthony Weiner—the disgraced politician vying for City Council in my district. He was an alumnus of my high school, and I remember his brand of 2010's liberalism being powerful when I was 15. I used to be proud of him. Then he sent explicit images of himself to a minor.

My City Council race was something I admittedly did not know much about. Andrea Gordillo, Sarah Batchu, and Harvey Epstein all seemed like good candidates: they wanted more affordable housing, and were at least not outright pro-policing — unlike Weiner. When I made it to the poll site, thankfully, he was gone, and I got to meet people working on those other City Council campaigns. Most had moved here recently, but they were all more knowledgeable about my local election than I was. These were not the transplants I thought I knew. They were clearly passionate about a future politics where we could all afford to live here. I was starting to feel that enthusiasm from transplants in the mayoral race as well, but I wouldn't be satisfied unless Mamdani won.

There was a wave, before June 14th, of

continued on page 2

Erik Bottcher Joins Protests Outside Stephen Colbert's Late Show

City Council Member Erik Bottcher leads protest to call on CBS to reverse the cancellation of Stephen Colbert's Late Show

BY ARTHUR SCHWARTZ

Village / Chelsea / Hell's Kitchen City Council Member Erik Bottcher joined protests outside Stephen Colbert's *Late Show* on July 23 after CBS announced the program will be canceled next year.

The network said in a statement that the cancellation was "purely a financial decision" and was not related to the show's performance, content, "or other matters happening at Paramount."

But protesters took to the streets outside the Manhattan studio, hosting a SAVE

continued on page 10



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIK BOTTCHER speaks at the protest. Photo courtesy of Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

**George Capsis
A Farewell Message**

SEE PAGE 2

**Village Trip Festival
Coming in September**

SEE PAGE 13

August Events

SEE PAGE 26

FREE CONCERT
WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27
4:00 PM

George Capsis

Farewell to a Friend Who Helped Keep the Village Alive

BY ARTHUR SCHWARTZ

George Capsis passed away on July 24 at age 97. He was a Village institution, whose career and life were interwoven into our community. And he deserves to be honored as a visionary.

Even though the creation of *Village View* was an act of defiance, which I knew would cause him pain, I never stopped loving George Capsis. He was as cantankerous as they come, he bowed to few, and before his decline was taken advantage of by others who steered him away from his community-first focus, we usually agreed. And he knew I was his fiercest defender.

George's biggest contribution to the Village, and to our city, was the 20 years he published *WestView News*, which began as a publication of the Charles Street Block Association. It was one of those institutions, like the original *Village Voice*, and the old *Villager*, that published high quality, hyper-local news, reflecting politics, art, dining, theatre and local life. By 2013 *WestView* was distributing to doors, lobbies, stores and cultural institutions. And in this age of hyper-quick, often unreliable social media, *WestView*, at least until the pandemic, provided reliable, locally written stories reflecting issues Villagers cared about.

In 1927 George Capsis was born to a Greek father and German mother in uptown Manhattan. His childhood was marked by the Great Depression. He once told *Our Town*, an east side paper, this story – a story which reflected so much of his character. One day in kindergarten, George built a house with wooden blocks. His teacher complimented his structure and placed a slip of paper with “Do not disturb” written on it, explaining to George that it would be there the next morning for him to continue to work on. “Every day I labored over my little houses, and I decided that I was more skilled than anyone in the kindergarten class,” he recalls. “I was on top.” George carried this blunt self-assurance – and an unapologetic need for control – into his adult life.

George moved to the West Village in the late 1960s, buying the Charles Street home in which writer Sinclair Lewis had once lived. In the midst of a career in business – he worked as an executive for IBM and later as a United States Council for International Business consultant, he settled his family in their Charles Street home. Soon after, he founded the Charles Street Block Association with the goal of populating his barren slice of the Village with trees. (The West Village is now the Manhattan neighborhood with the most street trees: 5,102 per square mile.)

His two children went to P.S. 3, and at times George would talk about being active in building P.S. 2 as a non-traditional educational institution.

When he was 76, George turned what



GEORGE IN THE DOCUMENTARY *THE LOST VILLAGE*. Photo courtesy R. Paradiso.



CONCERT AT ST. VERONICA'S FEBRUARY 2018. Photo © Joel Gordon for WestView News.



GEORGE SLAPS SEN. TOM DUANE, August 2013. Photo courtesy of WNYC.

had been a block association newsletter into *WestView News*, the “Voice of the West Village.”

I worked with George on *WestView* starting shortly after its creation. I set up meetings for him with Bernie Sanders when he was running for president, Bill de Blasio when he was running for mayor, Cynthia Nixon when she ran for governor, and Jumaane Williams when he ran for public advocate. In 2017, I had a heart attack on the day my submission was due. I grabbed my laptop and called George from the ambulance. That afternoon he came to visit me in Beth Israel Hospital, along with the late

NY Times and then *WestView* photographer Maggie Berkvist. He told all the nurses that I was talking about suing to stop the hospital from closing, and that earned me royal treatment from nurses who worked with me on litigation up until 2025. By the way, he held the press while I wrote a front page piece about what it was like to think I was about to die, as I was headed to a hospital which was starting to shut down.

In 2012, George slapped a cop who had blocked him from riding his bike and then pressed George against a truck. The cop then slugged George and broke his eye socket. Wouldn't you know that the Sixth Precinct

commander had written an article in *WestView* that month? And when I arrived to get George out, a pile of *WestView* papers was in the waiting area. I got the charges dropped and the NYPD paid him \$60,000 for the assault.

In 2013 George's wife died. She needed a hospice in the end, something which once existed at St. Vincent's Hospital on 11th Street and 7th Avenue. But St. Vincent's closed in 2010, and George had to put his wife in Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. Every day he shlepped by subway to the northeast Bronx. Not long after she died, competing press events were happening across the street from St. Vincent's. On one corner candidate Bill de Blasio and Susan Sarandon were calling for a full care hospital to reopen. On the other corner candidate Christine Quinn was promoting a proposal to open a glorified urgent care center in part of the old St. Vincent's. Somehow George wound up at the Quinn event. When he heard State Senator Tom Duane say something about not getting a hospital back, George got enraged, ran up to Duane, and slapped him. For good measure he whacked Brad Hoylman-Sigal (then chair of Community Board 2). Assemblywoman Deborah Glick summoned NYPD to have George arrested. But I talked them out of it and escorted George over to the de Blasio event.

George made national news in 2014 for allowing a writer, James Lincoln Collier, to use the N-word in the headline for a story about former president Barack Obama, taunting racists in the budding Tea Party movement. George defended the headline by saying that, since *The New York Times* avoided using the racial epithet, he thought *WestView* should.

CONCERTS

In 2018 George had an idea. Holding classical music concerts at St Veronica's Church on Christopher Street, the Catholic church that had been closed down due to a lack of parishioners. The church, inside, was large, had great acoustics and a large stage. George found an orchestra leader and through the year, eight sold out concerts took place. The principal benefactor was developer Steve Witkoff, who was a regular *WestView* advertiser. (Yes, the same Steve Witkoff who Trump sends all over the world as a negotiator). At one point Witkoff proposed buying the church and turning it into a cultural center. My wife Kelly and I attended a memorable dinner at Witkoff's apartment, with Sara Jessica Parker (who was a big fan of George's) to discuss putting in a bid. Witkoff wanted a business plan and George insisted he would write one up. His old need for control took hold. In fact, shortly afterwards he fired

continued on page 10

It's funny that George thinks he needs an introduction, only because I feel like everyone in this community knows him. I think he's sort of the non-religious Godfather of the West Village. He's an extraordinary and special man. I always say yes to George (when I can) for all the reasons we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him. I think there is no better and fiercer advocate for our community than George. He is brave and tenacious and stubborn and charming. I also think these concerts at St. Veronica are divine. We are grateful for what he did, especially on February 10th—such a dreary night where we all came together to have this extraordinary experience with exquisite musicians. George, we thank you for your commitment to all of us and especially for your advocacy for all the seniors in the community. You mean so much to us.

—Sarah Jessica Parker, March 2018 *WestView News*

Tony Dapolito Recreation Center Not Saved in City Budget, So Fight Must Continue

BY VILLAGE PRESERVATION

We've got some very important news to report on the fight to save and restore the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center.

First, the bad news: the City Council's budget agreement with Mayor Adams does NOT save the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, as we, fellow downtown community groups, and preservation organizations from across New York City and State had urged local City Councilmember Erik Bottcher, City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, and other Councilmembers to do. According to Bottcher's office, the agreement does not have "any commitments about how much of the existing structure will be preserved," and contains no funding for its restoration. It is extremely disappointing that the Council failed to utilize this unique opportunity to ensure the Center is preserved, restored, and reopened, and deeply troubling that the Mayor now has funding he can use to demolish the Center, as he's indicated he intends to do.

There is some good news. After repeated calls from the above-mentioned groups and thousands of New Yorkers, Councilmember Bottcher did, just prior to the budget agreement, write to the Mayor and Parks Commissioner urging they only consider options for the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center that "retain, at minimum, the existing facades of the building, while also exploring new uses that allow for the preservation of as much of the building's historic interior as feasible," and that "preservation should be a foundational component of any future proposal."

While this statement from the Councilmember — stronger than his prior communications — is welcome, it does not obligate the City in any way to preserve the building or listen to the public input they have consistently ignored. In fact, Bottcher's letter goes on to say that "it is essential that no funds be allocated or expended on demolition until a detailed proposal is presented and thoroughly vetted



ON JUNE 1, HUNDREDS RALLIED to call upon the City Council to keep any funding for demolition of the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center out of the 2026 City budget and to fund its restoration. They failed to do so. *Photos courtesy of Village Preservation.*



by the community" [emphasis ours], leaving the demolition option a possible outcome of yet another "public engagement" process.

Village Preservation is now calling on the Landmarks Preservation Commission to force the Parks Department to repair and maintain the long-neglected Tony Dapolito Recreation Center.

The fight to save the Center therefore remains in our hands. Any future City plans for the Tony Dapolito Recreation Center are supposed to come back to the public for review via the Community Board, and any proposal to demolish the building would require a full public hearing and approval process via the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), which Village Preservation would adamantly oppose. We have already established a public record of the historic significance of this building and why the Commission should never approve demolition. And now we've also written to the LPC urging them to pursue a "failure to maintain" case against the city's Parks Department for allowing the building to fall into disrepair. We're calling on the LPC to force the Parks Department to repair the landmarked building — you can too here.

Note: Community Board 2's Parks & Waterfront Committee will receive an "Update on progress Dapolito Center planning," from the Parks Department on August 6, which likely focuses on plans for the new recreation center at the unbuilt 388 Hudson Street, and is not a public hearing. However, some useful information and opportunities to communicate concerns regarding the Parks Department's failure to restore the existing Tony Dapolito Recreation Center may present themselves.

More info and registration at cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb2

Transplants *continued from page 1*

motivated newcomers urging their circles to get involved in the primary. I saw it all throughout my social media feed. Influencers were posting videos instructing their followers on how to register to vote. Many of my friends were doing the same. It was a moment in history where we could all participate in something exciting and worthwhile: uniting ourselves against the overarching pressure points in our economy. Some folks even cast their ballot early. The age, average wages, and districts of Mamdani voters all screamed "transplant." Actually, some of the neighborhoods experiencing the worst gentrification — Bushwick, Bed-Stuy, and the East Village — had

the highest numbers of Mamdani supporters. Gentrifiers and New Yorkers voted together, forming his coalition.

Clearly, transplant energy in this election was integral. As disconnection, disappointment, and distance from the Democratic Party grows in its base, the less its base will show up for the Democratic Party. Andrew Cuomo had two advantages over Mamdani, both related to voter disenfranchisement. The first was name recognition. Voters who are disengaged will support the person with whom they have familiarity. Mamdani's meteoric rise in the polls during the last few weeks of the race was gained through fighting against this entrenched name-recognition strategy.

The second related factor was that voters already understood Cuomo's flaws. Politi-

cians come and go. They generally do not invest in the populations they represent — especially their constituents who are marginalized through legislation they likely support. In a disenchanted way, understanding Cuomo's history with corruption and sexual harassment let those who voted for him know the scope of failure they could expect from a mayoral term, and make peace with that reality. Transplants had an opportunity to contribute to this election because they could believe in a local political system they had not yet been coaxed by.

Moving forward, my hope is that transplants chase this good feeling from the primary and find new ways to invest in the city. Add your own flair to our melting pot. Go to more local stores (shop Brooklyn, not Bezos,

some would say); do more diligent research into the neighborhoods you move into, and try to imagine how you would treat NYC if it were your forever home. You might be more likely to engage in local politics, get to know your neighbors, and learn your area's history. The city will start giving back to you.

And for the ones who didn't register to vote, you still have an opportunity to do so before the general election. The cutoff date is October 25th, but according to the Board of Election officials, you should aim for early October. You do not need a New York ID, and can visit vote.nyc to register and find your poll site. See what journey you can forge by demonstrating care for NYC.

jacklourie.substack.com

The Village View

Published by Village View Media, Inc.,
a tax exempt 501c3 corporation.
Contributions can be mailed to us at
225 Broadway Suite 1902
New York, NY 10007.
Please consider contributing to
support this paper at villageview.nyc

FOUNDERS

Maggie Berkvist, Barry Benepe,
Brian Pape, Joy Pape, Roger Paradiso,
Kim Plosia, Arthur Z. Schwartz,
Darielle Smolian, Liza Whiting

SENIOR EDITOR

Arthur Schwartz

MANAGING EDITOR

Kim Plosia

TRAFFIC MANAGER

Liza Whiting

PHOTO EDITOR

Darielle Smolian

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob Cooley

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Brian Pape, Joy Pape,
Anthony Paradiso,
Roger Paradiso

CONTRIBUTORS

Nicole Cerniello
Duane Scott Cerny
Bob Cooley
Kelly Craig
Jan Crawford
Phyllis Eckhaus
Lotus Belle-Glover
Lionelle Hamanaka
Michael Jacobsohn
Keith Michael
Tom Lamia
Lynn Pacifico
Brian J. Pape
Joy Pape
Anthony Paradiso
Roger Paradiso
Alec Pruchnicki
Kim Plosia
Kaju Roberto
Ede Rothaus
Arthur Z. Schwartz
Susan Silver

**Village View is a Founding Member of
the Empire State Local News Coalition.**

*We attempt to publish all letters
received, including those with which we
disagree. The opinions submitted to
The Village View do not necessarily reflect
the views of the publisher or editors. The
Village View welcomes all correspondence,
comments, and corrections.*

*This newspaper is a grass roots effort,
proudly created by residents of Greenwich
Village. A true community effort!*



THE GOOSE. Photo by Susan Lamia.

Chaos and the Goose

BY THOMAS LAMIA

The first principles of America are in the Declaration of Independence: "... that all men are created equal ... that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, ... Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The form and structure of managing this pursuit of happiness and these rights to life and liberty are in the Constitution. Both documents are aspirational. Our founding principles and form of government require a watchful presence to defend what we declared to be rightfully ours in 1776 when we separated from a monarchy, in 1789 when we chose a form of government to build "a more perfect union" and in 1863 when our president declared on the Gettysburg battlefield that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Today those principles and that form of government hang in the balance of politics. Both the Republicans (who control all three branches of the federal government) and the Democrats are engaged in helter-skelter pursuits of ill-defined goals. Neither is a model for progress towards a solution to their respective forms of chaos.

The Democrats have not yet organized around a plan to recover from their 2024 presidential loss. Despite a lot of handwringing and recriminations, no consensus in blame-placing or in message selection has surfaced. Losing candidate, Kamala Harris, has taken most of the punches and is now so battered as to be unsupportable for any future office, state or federal. Several ambitious pretenders are circling the field, each with stories to tell but none yet in the ring. There are too many to present a credible starting point for the emergence of a future winner. The organizing force of the Democratic National Committee appears disorganized, with indications of continuing hostilities between the Minnesota and Wisconsin party leaders who stood for election to the national top spot. Valuable fund-raising and messaging work is, I suspect, being lost in the infighting. No candidate of strength, charm and popular message is emerging.

Helter-skelter chaos in the Republican federal government starts at the top, where the president's style is to do everything, everywhere, all at once and leave bodies of exhausted and confused lieutenants and disciples strewn in his wake. Chaos is reflected in executive orders based on theories rather than established law, with related lawsuits filling the dockets of federal and state courts as the president tilts at personal windmills, using federal prosecutions and extortion to assist him.

This is an ugly picture. No winners, many losers. Nothing to be happy about for those pursuing happiness, and with real threats to life and liberty for those caught in the mix of resentment and retribution.

We are on the verge of a historic seizure in the conduct of government. Congress is frozen in place with no capacity for either useful debate or bi-partisan voting majorities. Republicans must vote with the president or resign. The independence of Congress is being lost to presidential power. The Supreme Court is struggling to achieve popular support for politically sensitive decisions. Unless comity and statesmanship begin to emerge from what seems a reckless political morass, we risk killing the Golden Goose that has brought us 249 years of growth, prosperity and international admiration: our founding charter of freedom, individual liberty and democracy.

Our status as the most envied and productive nation-state in the world is generally accepted by friends and enemies alike. Some claim our natural resources and productive land mass lying between ocean barriers, or some related quality of American exceptionalism, is responsible. Others see our institutions and the rule of law as the source. Yet others give credit to the military strength and fighting qualities of our people. All played a part but none were solely responsible.

It is not mere speculation to look at each of our greatest existential crises (the Revolution, the inability of 13 former colonies to succeed without a central authority, the struggle over the drafting and acceptance of the Constitution, the economic and cultural differences between north and south, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, two world wars) and ask whether our experiment in democracy or the nation itself could have survived with another form of government.

The fact that our people's republic has survived many tests and become the envy of the world should be a springboard to continue that success, not a point of dispute among political parties. The motto: "Make America Great Again" is a negative concept. It implies a failure that must be corrected. The exact opposite is true. Our history is the story of immigration and related government investments in people: land-grant colleges and universities; homesteading laws, a transcontinental railroad, an interstate highway system, government funding of scientific research. Our wealth, progress and personal security flow directly from the rule of law mandated by the Constitution, including the constitutions and laws of our 50 states. That is our system. The sanctity of contracts, due process of law, freedom from unlawful arrests and other basic personal rights, are products of that system. It works. It needs to be honored, not distorted or destroyed. Its three branches, created and governed by Articles I, II and III, are separate and equal, as they must be to prevent the autocracy of any one that would seek control over the others.

Banning Common Sense at City Hall

BY DOMINICK ROMEO

The main reason I decided to run for City Council in District 3 was due to the lack of representation for my neighborhood and particularly for my fellow building superintendents. Today, there aren't any buffers to prevent the tsunami of bad ideas that come from rambunctious politicians who seek to make a name for themselves, but who oftentimes inconvenience or outright ruin, an entire group of New Yorkers lives. There is no voice for New Yorkers at City Hall and my desire is to change that if elected.

One of my ideas is to create an innovative program that would appoint two community volunteers to each City Council committee. The Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) volunteers would work with City Council members to help perfect their legislation or object to it, before anything is passed that could eventually wreak havoc.

In total, there are 35 committees in the City Council, which means that there would be 70 CAB members. These volunteers would be drawn from an application process, then vetted and selected by each borough president. Council members would then interview and vote on the prospective appointees — similar to how Community Board members are picked.

CAB members would also work with the Public Advocate's office and have the right to object to the effects of bad policies before they are rolled out (such as sending building superintendents back to work past 8 p.m. to trick a rat into moving to New Jersey).

BANNING RODENTICIDES

City Council passed Flaco's Law, which will soon ban rat poison, or rodenticides, in favor of distributing birth control pellets in an effort to reduce rats in a selected area. The results of this pilot program will be announced in April of 2026.

You don't have to be Nostra Dominque to predict what's going to happen. Their data will be altered to show how great this program is or that the test area needs to be expanded.

The fact is, there are too many bad ideas coming out of these committees. This is why a CAB is necessary. To help push bad ideas back — but more importantly — to help push these



NOSTRA DOMINIQUE PREDICTS more bad legislation coming out of City Hall without a strong Citizen Advisory Board for our city. Photo courtesy of Dominick Romeo.

advocacy groups back. They are in bed with our politicians, who help gather votes and fund their reelections. These advocacy groups, which in reality are lobbying groups, go against the needs of New Yorkers in order to push forward their agenda by making it seem that New Yorkers want birth control for rats or more bike lanes, even though the majority of Citi Bikes are unused and left in their docks all day.

Those with deeper pockets should not be able to decide or override those of us with deeper roots here.

Currently, the Office of the Public Advocate is organized like a self-will run riot that New Yorkers are unable to influence or utilize. My legislation would force the Public Advocate to work with the CAB and with our communities to influence legislation that directly affects our lives. This would give the Public Advocate little room to pick his or her causes to advocate for — as is the case today.

BANNING GLUE TRAPS

As a third generation building superintendent, using glue traps is the worst type of death to witness but they are necessary. They are highly effective when dealing with or trying to prevent an infestation.

I also use "humane" traps that catch mice and rats in cages, but I then must submerge these rats in a five-gallon container of water, while hearing them screech to their death. I'd much rather use rodenticides, but I worry about pets accidentally eating this if not used carefully.

Rodenticides stop cells in the central nervous system from producing energy. The nerve cells swell and put pressure on the brain. Essentially, rodents bleed to death from the inside.

I guess we must choose between being infested with rodents and the diseases that they carry, such as Salmonella, Rat Bite Fever, Tularemia, and Bubonic Plague, or something that makes us feel grossed out. This is the reality of pest control; something my residents don't have to deal with on a regular basis, luckily, because their super does. Glue traps also help reduce roach infestations and other menacing bugs that could cause harm to our residents — like bed bugs.

IN SUMMARY

We must start banning bad ideas emerging from City Hall. Creating a Citizen Advisory Board will help point these things out to our politicians who are being guided by advocacy groups. This includes Transportation Alternative and Riders Alliance, the bicycle lobbying group sponsored by Verizon, Lyft, and The Durst Organization (to name a few) who bankroll their causes and contribute to politicians' campaigns to change the laws and the landscape of our city in their favor. They then have the audacity to tax us for the congestion that they helped create by turning four lanes of traffic into just two.

There isn't anything grassroots about these groups which is why we need representation at City Hall through the creation of a CAB. Our voices will continue to be drowned out by lobbyists, developers, and their corporate overlords without a strong Citizen Advisory Board for our city.

Drill Baby Drill

BY SIGGY RAIBLE

Reading one of the lead stories in *The New York Times* on July 7, 2025, was distressing. Why, you may ask, should July 7 be any different from any other day's distressing news? Well, because over the Fourth of July weekend at least 132 people perished in a deluge (four months of rainfall in four hours) that caused the Guadalupe River in central Texas to swell by an incredible 26 feet in just 45 minutes. Among the deceased were 28 youngsters and counselors who were attending Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp. In Kerr County, as of mid-July, 101 people were still unaccounted for and presumed dead. Our Texan neighbors, from young campers to older retirees, drowned in the early hours of July Fourth.

What is upsetting is the fact that so many Americans do not believe climate change is happening and contributing to the extreme weather we are presently witnessing. And worse, this administration, non-believers all, is doing nothing to combat it. The fact that so much rain fell in such a short time on July 3 should be a wake-up call to all those non-believers. As should the fires occurring in Los Angeles, Canada and in countries around the world like Greece and Turkey. And let's not forget the Wizard-of-Oz-like tornadoes that are devastating the Midwest. The planet is warming and with the warming comes torrential downpours and flooding in areas like Kerrville, Texas. While in other areas conditions are so dry that uncontrolled wildfires occur frequently, as we witnessed in Lahaina, Hawaii in 2023 and Los Angeles, California last year. This

year it is Turkey, Greece and France's turn to burn.

Our president's answer: deny climate change and cheer on the oil/gas/coal industries with the credo "drill baby drill." Maybe the mantra should be "burn baby burn" or "drown baby drown."

In a *New York Times* article on June 30, reporters David Belles, Somni Sengupta, Keith Bradsher and Brad Plumber wrote that the Trump administration "wants to keep the world hooked on fossil fuels like oil and gas ... even as the dangers of global warming hang ominously over the planet." The theory being that the U.S. produces plenty of oil and gas so why reinvent the wheel. The article continues to say that these policies will have "serious consequences for the health of the planet." They state that China does not have easily accessible oil and gas so it "is banking on a [warming] world that runs on cheap electricity from sun and wind and that relies on China for affordable, high-tech solar panels and turbines." (For an in-depth analysis see *There's a Race to Power the Future. China is Pulling Ahead*, *NYTimes*, June 30, 2025.)

The Trump administration has abandoned President Biden's clean new energy deal thereby ceding the new green market to China. What a loser! And sadly, to that end, we are all losers.

Where America was once the leader in alternative sources of energy. China has invested big time in batteries and systems that can recharge electric cars in just five minutes. It is the leading producer of solar panels and wind turbines.

Most important is its dominance in producing rare-earth magnets. The U.S. does not have access to rare earth minerals. (In a deal with Ukraine, as repayment for U.S. supplied-war materiel, the U.S. will invest in their rare earth extracting businesses. Greenland also has an abundance of rare earth minerals. Could that be why the president wants to "purchase" Greenland?)

President Trump has also, through executive orders, denied funding to many of our university research facilities some of which are investigating and improving our understanding of climate change and its effect on our planet. And he has gleefully DOGE'd our federal governmental agencies to the extent that they will no longer be able to provide information needed to adequately prepare for climate change and its effect on local weather. One of those agencies, FEMA, was formed in 1979 to deal with the aftereffects of natural disasters. On January 20, 2025 Trump signed an order withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord. In June 2025 the president stated that he wanted to eliminate FEMA after the 2025 hurricane season. How is this possible, you may ask. Well, because the Republican led congress has abrogated its legislative duties to check this president's unbridled actions.

What we do know or should know is that "drill baby drill" will in some areas lead to "burn baby burn" and in others to "drown baby drown." We live on an intricately interconnected planet; what we do or do not do has deadly consequences.

Selfishness 1, Housing 0. Again?

BY ALEC PRUCHNICKI

The first time I wrote about opposition to housing at the Elizabeth Street Garden (ESG) was in 2016 (*Westview News*, May 2016, *Selfishness 1, Housing 0*). Then and now, I felt that unwillingness to accept changes to the ESG that would build housing for about 120 people was selfish and heartless. Instead of accepting a smaller, landscaped, and reconfigured garden, ESG advocates wanted it to remain completely intact. They wanted the proposed Haven Green housing to be built



ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN. Photo by Lynn Pacifico.

some type.

What do these three sites have in common? First, none of them required the elimination of Haven Green housing in order to build. They would have been developed no matter what the final decision was for the ESG. In other words, thanks for nothing. Second, it will take years for the zoning, funding, architectural designs, and income composition of the apartments to be finalized, assuming the developers don't find a

loophole and renege

on their promises. Haven Green could have been built many years ago. Building it now could start almost immediately. Third, there is no guarantee that these final designs won't elicit local NIMBY opposition like Elizabeth Street, although the reasons would be completely different. The ESG advocates can't be the only selfish and heartless people in Manhattan.

How can we make the best of this? We can hope that the proposed extended hours for ESG (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) actually occur. We can hope that the city parks department finds a way to take over and keep the garden public, so it doesn't get privatized to a self-selected group of politically connected individuals. We can also hope that non-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity, one of the advocates for Haven Green, doesn't give up in disgust at developing housing in New York City after spending 10 years' worth of time and money. The city still needs affordable housing and non-profit NGOs (Non-government Organizations) are one way to do it. That way we don't have to be completely dependent on profit-making private developers.

As for these three sites, what will happen? I very much hope that Councilman Marte, and whatever mayor gets elected in November, manage to expedite housing with maximum affordability and maximum speed. Maybe it will be streamlining paperwork, pushing quick zoning changes, coordinating with local groups, or even a little funding. With a little luck, maybe we can get housing at those three locations in less than the ten years it took to get a decision on Elizabeth Street. But remember, there could have been housing at all four locations.

somewhere else. For 10 years advocates for housing and for the garden have been fighting in court, but last month it appeared that the court had come down in favor of housing. At the last minute Mayor Adams, with the concurrence of Councilman Chris Marte, announced that the ESG housing proposal was being dropped. Instead, three other sites would accommodate new housing and the garden would remain untouched. I went to those three sites and this is what I found.

A private developer had acquired six buildings on The Bowery (156 to 166) and tore them down, leaving a large empty lot. He promised to include 123 affordable apartments in his new building to replace the ESG/Haven Green proposal. But it was obvious that these buildings had been planned for new development no matter what happened on Elizabeth Street. He hadn't spent millions of dollars waiting for the court cases to be settled. Whatever goes there will probably be big. Since the city requires 25 percent of new housing to be affordable, there would most likely be at least 123 such apartments built anyway.

At 100 Gold Street, a city-owned building is to be demolished and another private developer is promising 1,000 new apartments with up to 300 of them being permanently affordable. But there was already a tentative agreement for this in March (*Our Town*, June 26, *Elizabeth Street Garden Saved!*) well before the decision on ESG/Haven Green.

The third site, an empty lot at 22 Suffolk Street, is a potential location for additional housing. Who will develop this and what will be put there is unclear, but it is being touted as potentially producing 200 apartments of

Willi the Landlord

BY ROGER PARADISO

According to Village Preservation, "The city is planning to develop the site of the Gansevoort Meat Market north of the Whitney Museum ... It will include a 60-story, 600-ft. tall, 600-unit apartment tower of mostly ultra-expensive super-luxury units."

I thought I'd go back in time and imagine what Willi the Landlord would say about this. Willi is an alias based on a guy I knew who passed away two decades ago. He was a guy with no money, but he had five brownstones on the Upper West Side. He was the "mayor" of his block and, along with many others, helped bring back the Upper West Side.

I met Willi in 1980 when I had my doubts about buying an apartment on West 81st where it was like the Wild West. But Willi pointed me to civilization and the newly built police precinct on West 82nd. He said, "the boys in blue will keep you safe so you can watch the money start pouring into this place." Then he laughed and offered me a cigar. I passed on the cigar and bought the apartment.

Here's what I think Willi would say about the project in the Meatpacking District.

What do you think of a 60-story apartment building in the Meatpacking District?

First off, the building is ugly. Second off, it's too big and ugly and third off it is damn stupid. Use the people's money to fix the infrastructure for these fat cats on the public's dough. Roads, sewers, heat, electric, water. You wanna have sidewalk congestion, then build an ugly scraper.

Should people have a right to affordable housing in Manhattan?

Go live where you can afford it. If it's Queens, Brooklyn, or New Jersey.

How did this happen?

Beam and Koch made that deal with the fat cats to overbuild Manhattan. In return city gets to raise the damn property tax on me. The fat cats pass it on to their commercial tenants. Sweet deal, huh? But it took the city out of bankruptcy in 1974.

How many affordable apartments should we build before we hit the tipping point?

The whole town is gonna fall over and crash in the ocean.

So, you can't live in Manhattan?

You can live in New York City—if you go tell those NYC city property managers to sell all their property. Tell those other oligarchs like NYU, Columbia, and the big boys to move that real estate they're sitting on or we gonna tax their butts. Small developers like me will snatch up some, renovate them and you will have more affordable housing in NYC. Decent people with good jobs can afford them.



MANHATTAN PLAZA towers over small brownstones in Hells Kitchen. Photo credit: Robert Rowlett via Wikipedia Attribution ShareAlike 2.5.

You mean affordable is for the comfortably affordable incomes of the middle class?

There are people who are not making enough money to live in New York City. I would flood the market with renovated affordable housing and make your head spin. But that won't cover everyone. You also gotta build shelters and services for homeless people.

So, it is more than supply and demand?

Of course it is. But here on this island there's a limit to what you can do without upsetting the apple cart. The oligarchs bought generations ago and you can't go back in time.

So, to summarize, are there a few things we can do?

Yeah, get Manhattan outta your head. Think the whole city, all five boroughs. No more scrapers. Keep low density neighborhoods full of sun and fun. Keep all properties occupied. No hording. Go back to the LaGuardia plan. Rent control, baby. And don't sell property to foreigners. Sell the empty brownstones and apartments to Willi and his boys. We know what to do with it. And that's enough of Real Estate 101 by Willi.



Located on Little West 12th Street between Washington and West streets, the ludicrously oversized structure would stand nearly three times taller than its closest neighbor... Just 25-50% of the units will be set at below-market rents, which on average will still be too expensive for the majority of NYC renters to afford.

— VILLAGE PRESERVATION



Hector's Café and Diner Served Village View Well

BY ANTHONY J. PARADISO

I wrote an article in the June 2023 issue of *The Village View* about Hector's Café and Diner titled *Hector's the Little Diner that Could*. In it, I described how Hector's was one of the hold outs of a bygone era in the Meatpacking District and that I thought they would still be there in 2030. It turns out I was wrong, as Hector's closed for good on July 18 as reported by ABC 7 *Eyewitness News*.

This comes as a shock to me. Over the years, I found a second home in that solid red brick building with the bright, comfortable interior.

I deliver *The Village View* newspapers each and every month. The staff at Hector's Café and Diner on Little West 12th Street has been kind enough to allow me to drop off 100 papers and position them at the cash register right as you walk in the front door. They have even let me have cookies for free when I came in tired after a long day of delivering *The Village View*.

Over the years, I've gotten to know co-owners Nick Kapelonis and Freddy Manjarrez who worked the cash register. Kapelonis is a die-hard New York Rangers fan, which I share with him and we're always discussing our team's future.

In an article written by *Spectrum News*, Kapelonis is quoted as saying, "It's sad, it's bittersweet, but it's time to move on. Seventy-six years — how many people can say they had a restaurant for this long?"

Kapelonis went on to describe how the neighborhood around the High Line has changed since 1980 which, according to the *Spectrum* article, is when his family started co-ownership of Hector's. "Tourism is not the same. Most of the butchers left, so that



AFTER 76 YEAR OF BUSINESS IN THE MEATPACKING DISTRICT, Hector's Cafe and Diner closed for good on July 18 but not before making some special memories. Photo by Anthony Paradiso.

was a big hit for us. The area's changing. It's becoming corporate,' Kapelonis said. 'After COVID, it took a dive and never recovered.'"

I interviewed Manjarrez for that article I wrote about Hector's two years ago. At that time, he described how when he first started working there in 1994, there were butchers all over the neighborhood and it was very different than it is today.

I have made use of Hector's for more than just food and newspaper delivery over the years. I also had lunch there with Roberto Monticello, the self-proclaimed "mayor of Meatpacking" in 2024. I interviewed him about the topic of turning the Meatpacking District into the city's first "centralized arts district" with subsidized housing for artists, studios, galleries and performance spaces.

I learned from Monticello that the Meatpacking District used to be a hangout for meatpackers, gangs and the mafia. I was shocked because of what it is today -- a haven for high-end eateries and stores.

Instead of an arts district, the city has come up with a plan to develop the 66,000 square foot lot, where Hector's and the last Meatpackers reside, into "Gansevoort Square." According to the NYC Economic Development Corporation website, Gansevoort Square will be "a 24/7 live, learn, work, and play, community and cultural hub for New Yorkers."

After 76 years, Hector's run has come to an end. The owner hasn't ruled out possibly opening a new restaurant, but for now the only place you could go in the Meatpacking District or the Village to get cookies and ice cream for under 10 bucks is closed and I'm sad to see it go.

One More Gone

BY ALEC PRUCHNICKI

When I moved into the West Village in 1993, I walked around the neighborhood a lot. The Meatpacking District was known for meat packing plants operating in the daytime and street hookers at night. I supposed that Hector's Café and Diner served both populations of workers. Over the years extensive gentrification pushed out the hookers and most of the meat packing plants, but Hector's survived. It also managed to survive Covid somehow and is still operating as I write this piece.

But the end is near. The last single block of meat packers is being relocated -- to be replaced by an expansion of the Whitney Museum, a maintenance building for the High Line, a possible 60-story tall high rise, and a little green space. I thought that Hector's, quietly tucked under the High



Line, might survive. Yet, I was not too surprised when I saw the announcement in its window that it would close also. One more iconic location, at least for me, that will disappear. Simone Signoret once wrote an autobiography entitled *Nostalgia Isn't What It Used to Be*, which describes my feelings accurately.

In my 32 years in the Village, I said goodbye to Ray's Pizza and Grey's Papaya, Gem Spa, and probably a few other places that I forget right now. The well-known, iconic places that I think are still going pretty strong are the White Horse Tavern, Cowgirl Hall of Fame, Strand's Bookstore, Veselka, and McSorley's. But how long can Ray's Candy Store and B & H Dairy hold out? I think it's time to pay those places a visit, and say goodbye while I still can.

TERRANCE McNALLY WAY

Terrance McNally Way is my corner! And contrary to your informative but out-of-date article, there IS a sign, which was unveiled some weeks ago, with a moving celebration honoring McNally and featuring theater greats (Jonathan Groff! Francis Jue! Donna Murphy! Brian Stokes Mitchell!) performing wrenching monologues and belting out songs in front of my building. It was surreal and quite wonderful.

Submitted by Phyllis Eckhaus

Village Blueprints

BUILDING THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S FUTURE
BY BRIAN J. PAPE, AIA, LEED-AP

Another Garage on East 9th Street Bites the Dust



AS YOU CAN SEE AT THE SITE OF 220 EAST NINTH STREET, the previous structure has been demolished completely. *Credit: Brian J. Pape, AIA.*

220 East 9th Street, a seven-story residential building coming to Manhattan's East Village, was designed and developed by Arcus Development with Colberg Architecture as the executive architect. Although the *YIMBY* report by Michael Young on June 26, 2025 said the project will involve the partial demolition and conversion of a five-story park-

ing garage, the 74-foot-tall structure will be a totally new structure of 31,231 square feet and yield 18 condominium units with an average scope of 1,735 square feet. It will also feature a cellar level, a 22-foot-long rear yard, and enclosed parking for ten vehicles. Astor Nine LLC is listed as the owner of the property, which is located between Second



THIS RENDERING OF THE NEW CONDO BUILDING tries to pick up the industrial vibe of the previous garage. *Credit: Plomp.*

and Third avenues near Stuyvesant Street.

Units will come in one- to four-bedroom layouts. Each will have a distinct layout with board-formed concrete ceilings, custom oak kitchens, and handcrafted finishes using American-made materials. Seven of the homes, including the three penthouses, will have private outdoor terraces. Residential

amenities will include a 24-hour attended lobby, a fitness center with a Pilates studio, a sauna, a pet grooming station, and a Japanese-style viewing garden.

220 East 9th Street's anticipated completion date is slated for winter 2026.

West 8th Street Apartment Building Nearly Complete

The building at the southwest corner of West 8th and MacDougal streets, just one block north of Washington Square Park, is getting its finishing touches on the exterior. 181 and 177 MacDougal Street will be the addresses for the residential entrances of this new development, while 38 West 8th Street will feature the retail portion. The seven-story mixed-use building was designed by Morris Adjmi Architects and developed by the Straus Group under the Clinton Eight Realty LLC. The project includes historically appropriate renovations to an historic tenement at 177 MacDougal Street, with designs that met the CB2 and Landmarks Preservation Commission's approval to blend with the surrounding streetscape of pre-war buildings in the Greenwich Village Historic District.



181 AND 177 MACDOUGAL STREET (redder brick at left in photo) will be the addresses for the residential entrances of this new development, while 38 West 8th Street will feature the ground floor retail portion (at the center right side of the photo). The brick colors and window types differentiate the facades of this handsome building. *Credit: Brian J Pape, AIA*

The new structure treats the façade as two distinct volumes: the corner volume is clad in light cream brick surrounding large windows in six stories of height, while next to it is a seven-story portion of earthy tan brick with wide rows of loft-like windows with dark metal frames. The corner volume features intricate bond patterns and recessed windows along the retail fronts, while the narrow interior frontage window openings are close to the facade. Each will have historic-looking cornices. A community facility and commercial space with 104 feet of storefront windows are included as constructed by Empire State Contractors on the 4,775-square-foot parcel.

From the current appearance, it would be hard to guess that the structures are not three separate buildings, instead of two. As

reported by Michael Young and Matt Pruznick on April 8, 2025 in the blog *YIMBY*, the 16 condominium residences in the new building, of one- to three-bedroom layouts, will be paired with pet-friendly policies, full-time doorman and concierge service, a resident manager, fitness center designed by The Wright Fit, a library lounge, dog washing station, a communal laundry facility, and a package room. Storage will also be available for purchase.

This corner has the commemorative street sign for Norman Buchbinder Way. Buchbinder was co-founder of the Union Square Partnership, the city's first business improvement district, and founder of the Village Alliance business improvement district. He was responsible for bringing back the 8th Street area, including MacDougal Street.



LENOX HEALTH GREENWICH VILLAGE IS NOW

NORTHWELL GREENWICH VILLAGE HOSPITAL

**RAISE
HEALTH**

**Northwell's reimagined hospital
brings enhanced, expanded care
to lower Manhattan.**

From advanced heart and specialty care to a 24/7 emergency department and new inpatient unit, we've evolved to meet your needs. And it's all powered by Northwell's team of dedicated, top-tier physicians.



NorthwellSM
Greenwich Village
Hospital

Capsis *continued from page 2*

the orchestra leader and had a fight with the church monsignor, killing the project.

HOSPITAL ADVOCACY

St. Vincent's Hospital served the Village from 1849 until it closed for financial reasons in April 2010, leaving the neighborhood without a hospital. The institution witnessed the aftermath of events like the Titanic and 9/11. In 1984, it opened the first AIDS ward in the country. After 2013, the St. Vincent's closure became Capsis' – and *WestView's* – biggest preoccupation.

George repeatedly came up with ideas about how and where a hospital could be built. He met many times with folks from Northwell. It can be said that the new Northwell Greenwich Village Hospital, with a high quality cath lab about to open, owes its existence to George.

In 2022 George told *Our Town* that after decades of “battling” for the West Village, he

didn't feel adequately recognized by the community. “They take it for granted,” he said, his thorny bravado replaced for a moment by a look of dejection. “They don't realize it's tough. It's hard, it really is.” In 2020, he wrote in a similarly wistful tone, “I think of how I will be remembered — and it will only be for slapping a cop and shouting at a politician who lost St. Vincent's Hospital.”

HE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

George Capsis will not be forgotten. His house on Charles Street should have a plaque next to the Sinclair Lewis plaque. His block should be named after him in his honor. And maybe we can convince Northwell to name its new cath lab after him.

George, if you can read this from where you are, please think of *The Village View* as a continuation of your legacy. The core group here all appreciated what we accomplished together with you.

Greenwich Village will miss you.

Bottcher *continued from page 1*

COLBERT! solidarity rally to call on CBS and Paramount to reverse the cancellation of the popular show. The rally started with a march from historic Ed Sullivan Theater and headed towards the Paramount headquarters in Times Square. Demonstrators delivered 10 boxes filled with “Save Colbert” petitions to the company. More than 250,000 people had signed the petitions prior to the rally.

The petition campaign was led by led by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which condemned Paramount's decision as “blatantly political,” adding, “America needs Stephen Colbert's voice now more than ever. Save the *Late Show*.”

The next Thursday federal regulators approved entertainment conglomerate Paramount's \$8 billion merger with Skydance, which will bring Paramount's principal owner, Sumner Redstone, a \$2.4 billion payday. (Paramount owns CBS.) That same week, Congress passed a law stripping hundreds of millions in funding for NPR and PBS. Even Sesame Street was not spared.

The CBS-Paramount FCC approval was a sad day. In a pair of letters filed with the FCC, Skydance committed to a post-merger “comprehensive review of CBS,” including a promise to install an ombudsman to evaluate complaints of “bias or other concerns” at

the news network and report their findings to the new Paramount's president.

Skydance also committed to eliminating Paramount's diversity, equity and inclusion practices once it takes over. The letters touted that Skydance does not and will not have any DEI programs in place.

In six months major media has tripped over itself to figure out how to kiss Trump's Royal Ass. This includes settlements of baseless defamation suits, firings of columnists and a pledge to stop talking about civil rights.

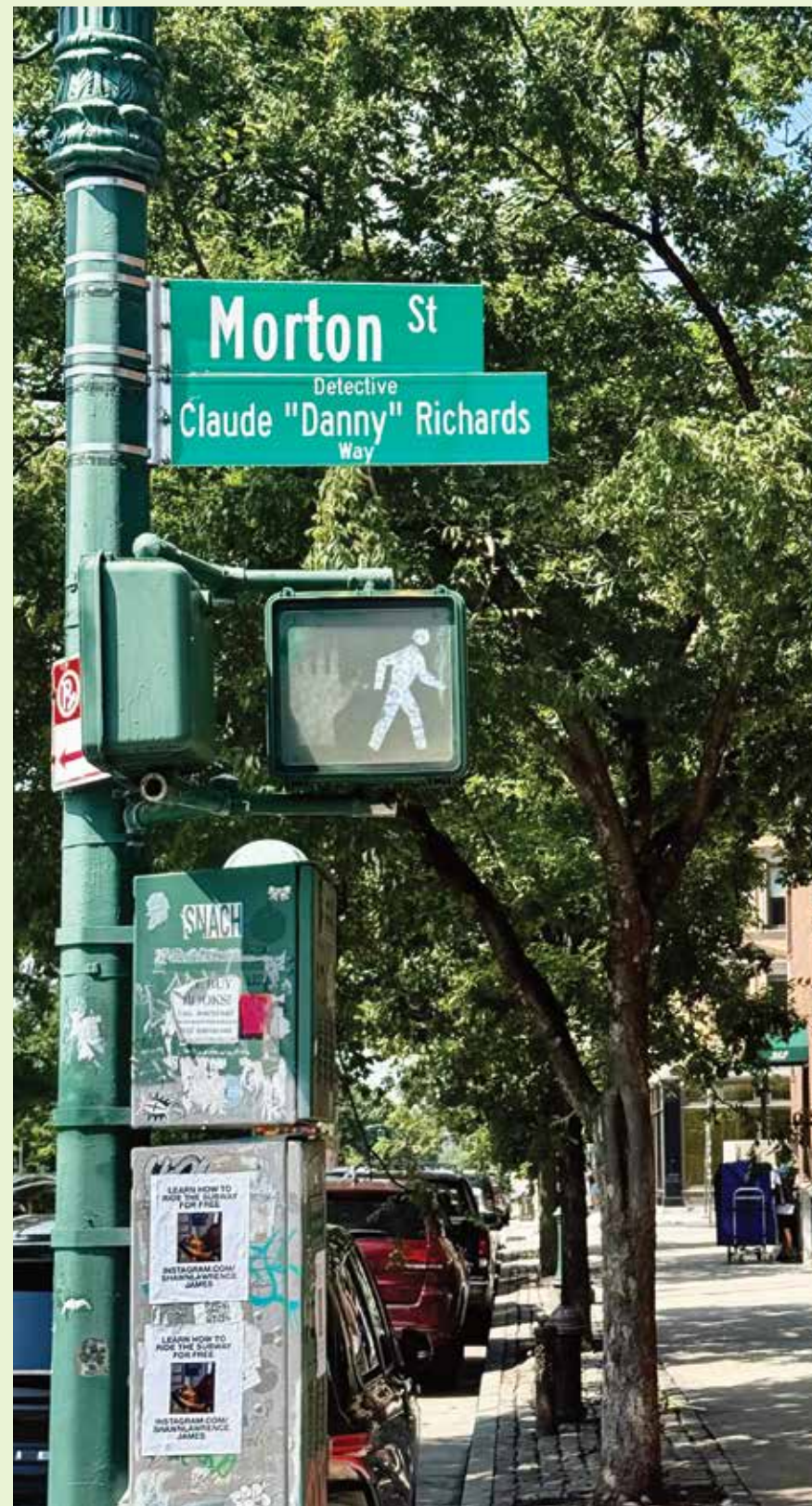
What's more, just before the Colbert cancellation Paramount agreed to pay \$16 million to Trump because of how it edited an interview with Kamala Harris in the Fall of 2024. Senator Bernie Sanders described the settlement this way: “It is a dark day for freedom of the press. Paramount's decision to settle with Trump will only embolden him to continue his attack on the media. Trump is undermining our democracy and moving us towards authoritarianism, and the billionaires are helping him do it.”

There is nothing more damaging to the First Amendment and a free press than rewarding a lawsuit which attacks the way a media outlet edits a news report. And now they are “editing” their comedy presentations.

Thank goodness we have local media like *Village View*.



A ‘SAVE COLBERT’ SOLIDARITY RALLY was held in NYC on July 23. Photo courtesy of Progressive Change Campaign Committee.



THE HONOR OF CO-NAMED STREETS

Detective Richards Way

People have been honored here in New York with co-naming of streets or places for them. Look for the special green signs below the other street signs and check out nycstreets.info/honorstreet.

Detective Claude “Danny” Richards Way is located on West Street, between Morton Street and Barrow Street. The honoree was a member of the NYPD Bomb Squad, who was killed during fire and rescue operations at the World Trade Center following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. (See Bomb Squad article next page.) City Council approved this memorial in 2002. Just a block away (located at the southwest corner of West Street and Christopher Street), Point Thank You is also commemorated with NY State signage that “grateful crowds gathered at this location to show their thanks and support for workers engaged in the rescue and recovery operations at Ground Zero.” Credit: Brian J. Pape, AIA.

NYPD Bomb Squad Relocating

BY BRIAN J PAPE, AIA, LEED-AP

The West Village is losing the NYPD Bomb Squad, an iconic institution. The Bomb Squad has operated out of the Sixth Precinct building at 233 West 10th Street, since it was built in 1970. The 2-story brick building goes through the block to the one-story 104 Charles Street, adjacent to their parking lot, with large overhead doors facing Charles Street.

As reported in the *Historic District report of 1969*, the Sixth Precinct building was built where the Village Garage stood since 1918. Before that, a screwbolt manufactory was located on this site.

Interestingly, next door at 102 Charles Street is a 'delightful' brick firehouse built in 1854 as a house for Samuel D. Chase, who then sold the property to the City of New York the next year. The City wished to house their new fire company next to the new Ninth Precinct police station at 100 Charles Street. The city's architect made an excellent conversion in the Italianate style, with double doors for the fire trucks surmounted by a handsome arched pediment of sandstone, and with similar arched pediments over the windows of the two upper floors, as it remains today. The Ninth Precinct station was demolished for an apartment block. 102 Charles is now a retail shop with residences above once again.

Many West Villagers may not be aware of the importance of this historic bomb squad, the oldest, busiest and most sophisticated squad in the world. For more than 100 years, NYPD bomb technicians have combated explosive-related violence and threats, often risking (and sometimes losing) their own lives in the process. The NYPD Bomb Squad traces its origins to the famous — if short-lived — Italian Squad, which successfully defeated Black Hand extortionists who terrorized Italian immigrants living in New York at the turn of the last century. Giuseppe "Joseph" Petrosino, an immigrant from Salerno who became the NYPD's first Italian-American detective, waged a valiant battle against the Black Hand, a loosely-knit criminal organization that extorted money from Italian immigrants. He founded the NY Bomb Squad, the first unit of its kind in the United States, to counter the Black Hand's use of explosives in carrying out its threats. From 1905, Petrosino and the "Italian Branch," an elite corps of Italian-American undercover cops, arrested thousands of members of the Black Hand, deported 500 and reduced crime against Italian-Americans by half. Petrosino was murdered in 1909 in Palermo, Italy, where he had gone to gather intelligence about Black Hand members. Lt. Petrosino's funeral was attended by 200,000 people, and the vast funeral procession lasted five and a half hours. He was the only NYPD officer killed in line of duty outside the U.S.

Petrosino Square at Lafayette and Kenmare streets is commemorated to Lt. Joseph Petrosino.



THE NYPD IS RELOCATING ITS BOMB SQUAD to these larger quarters in Chelsea, a 1930 six-story former parking garage with Art Deco historic features. Since April, only the glazed storefront entry at the far left has been added, along with new overhead door on the far right large opening. No other work has been noticed over the past few months. Credit: Brian J. Pape, AIA.

This history goes on to include the first large-vehicle bomb on American soil (targeting J.P. Morgan Bank at Wall Street), anarchist bombings, plots by German saboteurs during World War I, the famed Black

Tom explosion, the bombing of the 1939 World's Fair, crimes of the so-called Mad Bomber, IEDs placed by Croatian and Palestinian terrorists, the relentless terror campaign of the FALN, anti-abortion bombings,

the first World Trade Center bombing, and the attempted car bombing of Times Square by Islamic radicals.

The NY Bomb Squad is a part of the New York Police Department's Detective Bureau's Forensic Investigative Division (FID), which includes the police lab, the latent print section, the firearms analysis section, and the Crime Scene Unit. As well-documented by Richard Esposito and Ted Gerstein in *Bomb Squad: A Year Inside the Nation's Most Exclusive Police Unit*, published 2007 by Hyperion Books, the squad and its protocols became fully modernized in 1940.

Despite the fact that the NY Bomb Squad officers hold the rank of detective, they prefer the title "bomb technician." For the younger bomb technicians, the initial training process takes two years. It begins months before any NYPD apprentice bomb tech is even sent to the U.S. Army-FBI Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama, where he or she earns their "license to die" in a five-week basic course. The job of a bomb technician is to stop a bomb from going off. In the first 100 years of the NY Bomb Squad, six bomb technicians had been killed on duty, including Det. Danny Richards (see previous page).

It's not unusual to get over 2,000 calls for the NY Bomb Squad every year. The training never stops.

Shelved in the squad's Sixth Precinct basement is a history of thousands of devices successfully defused.

The NYPD detectives union says 22 of the bomb squad's 45 officers have reached 20 years of service and could retire this year. The union president says the retirements could threaten the city's 24-hour bomb protection and the bomb-sniffing dogs and their expensive training as well. The number of detectives has fallen steadily since 2020, losing about 8% of its ranks. In March, NYPD Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, said, "The department is in a 'hiring crisis,'" and lowered education standards in order to boost recruitment. A spokesperson for the department said it is working to keep the unit staffed.

Now, the NYPD is relocating its Bomb Squad to larger quarters in Chelsea at 241 West 26th Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues. Originally built in 1930 as a six-story structure that operated as a parking garage, this relocation project involves renovations to the structure's 37,725 square feet on all levels. As reported by Michael Young in the *NIMBY* Blogsite on April 14, 2025, Tori Operating Corp. is listed as the owner of the site.

The exterior is largely of red brick with intricate bond patterns, carved stone blocks forming the roof parapet, and white stone with ornamental Art Deco reliefs being restored. Modest modifications to this historic exterior will retain the façade's character, while accommodating the NY Bomb Squad functions and archives.



THIS RELATIVELY QUIET NYPD Sixth Precinct location of 104 Charles Street (one-story at center of photo) has been the home of the NYPD Bomb Squad since 1970. The delightful little brick three-story townhouse (left in photo) was transformed from a residence into a firehouse in 1856 to be part of the Ninth Precinct station nearby. 102 Charles is now a retail shop with residences above once again. Credit: Brian J. Pape, AIA.

Where do I find?

THE Village View

PLEASE VISIT THESE
LOCAL BUSINESSES
FOR COPIES OF
THE PAPER

CAFE REGGIO

119 MacDougal St

CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

536 LaGuardia Pl

CINEMA VILLAGE

22 E 12th St

FERDI HOMEY ITALIAN CUISINE

15 7th Ave

GOLDEN WOK

159 Christopher St

GV ANIMAL HOSPITAL

504 Hudson St

HUDSON PARK LIBRARY

66 Leroy St

INTEGRAL YOGA

227 W 13th St

JEFFERSON MARKET LIBRARY

425 6th Ave

KETTLE OF FISH

59 Christopher St

LA LANTERNA

129 MacDougal St

NORTHWELL GREENWICH**VILLAGE HOSPITAL**

30 7th Ave

LILAC

75 Greenwich Ave

MERCER ST BOOKS

206 Mercer St

PLAYER'S THEATER

115 MacDougal St

THE RED LION

151 Bleecker St

VILLAGE REVIVAL RECORDS

197 Bleecker St

WASHINGTON SQUARE HOTEL

103 Waverly Place



SCAN ME

AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.villageview.nyc



Spa Day for George

Elise Karlak, a summer intern for NYC Parks, power washes the Washington Square Park Arch, along with interns Kaylee Wallis and Matt Goff (not pictured). Karlak said, "Roughly 20 years ago, they did a really big restoration of the arch, and ever since then we've done yearly maintenance where we come out and just do a good cleaning of the whole thing, and check that there's not anything super damaged - if you do a little bit every single year instead of letting it pile up and get really bad it's less work overall and better for the monument." The cleanup is part of the citywide Monuments Conservation Program where monuments across all five boroughs are regularly maintained. John Saunders, the Public Art Conservator for the City of NY oversees the interns and the project. *Photo by Bob Cooley*



A Tuneful Farewell

Area musicians held a New Orleans-inspired Second Line procession at Washington Square Park in remembrance of trumpet legend Tony Gorruso, who recently passed away. Gorruso was a celebrated American jazz trumpeter whose career spanned decades. He performed lead trumpet in powerhouse ensembles and on Broadway, touring with the likes of Buddy Rich (1984) and Frank Sinatra (1985-1991), and played with countless top names including Sting, Tony Bennett, and Ray Charles. The Second Line is a New Orleans funeral tradition rooted in West African, Caribbean, and African American culture. Marked by joyful, exuberant jazz, it follows the more solemn First Line - the formal procession led by family and musicians, often accompanied by dirges. The Second Line turns mourning into celebration, honoring the life and spirit of the departed. *Photo by Bob Cooley*

THE VILLAGE TRIP™

BY LIZ THOMSON

“It’s the artists of the world, the feelers and thinkers, who will ultimately save us; who can articulate, educate, defy, insist, sing, and shout the big dreams...”

It was June 1970, and Leonard Bernstein was giving the Berkshire Music Center Welcome Address. Its title was *The Principle of Hope* and, just weeks after the killings at Kent State and then Jackson State and with the Vietnam war raging, hope probably seemed in short supply. But it wasn’t all hopeless: PBS had recently been established, Earth Day had been observed for the first time, and President Nixon would shortly announce the start of the Environmental Protection Agency. The counterculture – an idea to which Bernstein and his wife Felicia were very alive – would surely change the world.

Fifty-five years on, as the United States

town’s rich heritage and its unique melting pot. A festival celebrating the neighborhood where, across 150 years or so, countless people dreamed big dreams of a better, fairer and more fulfilling life. Labor rights, voting rights, women’s rights, gay rights – the right to free expression, to live life on your own terms – all those good fights were fought in the Village. And free expression transformed theater, poetry, art, and music with revolutionary movements in which Greenwich Village and the East Village played leading roles. In this most challenging of times, freedom of expression is what The Village Trip, a festival celebrating culture and community, seeks to honor.

My own crazy dream arrived almost fully formed around 15 years ago, inspired by a book project I was working on. But it wasn’t until 2015 that – supported by my long-time friends at the historic Washington Square Hotel – I began assembling a coalition of the willing that led to the first three-day, music-focused events in 2018 and 2019. Through the Covid-ether, I met West Villager Cliff Pearson, and the two of us have shared artistic direction (and bottle-washing duties!) ever since, developing The Village Trip into a respected and eagerly anticipated late-summer fixture.

We’ve been fortunate in the process to make a lot of good friends who seem to appreciate what we’re trying to do. They have inspired us, dared us to dream bigger. Among them is Jamie Bernstein, the Maestro’s daughter, who spent a sunny afternoon dancing in Washington Square Park in 2021 to the infectious beat of Bobby Sanabria and His Multiverse Big Band with special guest Janis Siegel. It was Janis who introduced us and since then Cliff and I have been fortunate to work with them both, often cooking up ideas over cocktails and canapes. *Wonderful Town*, a cabaret-style presentation of Leonard Bernstein’s great Village musical (debuted in 2022 and reprised), was the first fruit of our friendship.

And this year the Bernstein legacy is at the very heart of The Village Trip, with two concerts benefiting Artful Learning, the teaching model founded by Jamie’s brother Alexander that puts their father’s educational philosophies into practice. The first, *Classical Cool!* (September 20), is a family concert hosted by Nina Bernstein Simmons, the youngest of Leonard and Felicia’s three children. She will narrate a performance of that whimsical family favorite, *Saint-Saens’ Carnival of the Animals*.

The following day (September 21), *Bernstein Remix!* will see a star-studded line-up of Jamie’s friends from across the musical spec-

trum turning out to offer their unique take on various slices of Bernsteiniana. Among them: Colombian harp virtuoso Edmar Castañeda, actor-singer Darius de Haas, classical guitarist Sharon Isbin, and singer-songwriter Janis Ian, whose talent Bernstein championed way back in 1967 on his TV show *Inside Pop: The Rock Revolution*. We’ll also welcome two of



JANIS IAN

the great names in jazz, vocalist Janis Siegel and pianist Pete Malinverni, and The Queer Urban Orchestra (QUO) who will play a rarely heard arrangement from 1935 by 17-year-old camp counsellor Leonard Bernstein! Based on a concept supplied by D J Spooky, who will perform with The Ahn Trio, the evening will be hosted by Jamie who notes: “*Bernstein Remix!* is a wonderful way to remind today’s listeners of my dad’s musical multiplicities, reflected off the many facets of these brilliant musicians. Plus, we get a blazing new expression of Bernstein’s lifelong devotion to using music to make our world a better place.”

Amen to that.

Music has always been central to the Village and another of our concerts, *Musica Poetica* (September 26) features work by Gershwin, Ives and Piazzolla who at various times made their homes on its crooked streets and found inspiration there. In the 1960s, of course, it was Bob Dylan and his confrères who drew the world to the Village – what a shame not a single scene of *A Complete Unknown* was shot here! We celebrate them too – that era when there was “music in the cafés at night and revolution in the air,” as Dylan sang on *Blood On the Tracks* (1975), written while he was studying art with Norman Raebein, who is the subject of a lecture by Dylan and Raebein scholar Fabio Fantuzzi (September 24).

And speaking of movies, we have a screening of *The Cornelia Street Café in Exile*, Michael Jacobsohn’s acclaimed documentary about a much-missed Village fixture on whose rickety basement stage Suzanne Vega launched her career and Eve Ensler developed *The Vagina Monologues* (September 25).

Framing the Village, the annual art show curated by artist and historian Marc Kehoe,

runs throughout the festival: *FREEDOM-LAND!* is its theme. The Village Trip Lecture will be given by *New York Times* journalist Clay Risen about his book *Red Scare*. And let’s not forget our salute to the Beats with *Howl* a special seventieth-anniversary performance with percussion and cornet by Justin Jay Hines and Kirk Knuffke (September 23), plus the *Beat Generation Live Poetry Tour* with the irrepressible Marcos de la Fuente and Analisa Mari Pegrum (September 20). Kennedy Administration, supported by rising star Dali Rose, will drench Washington Square Park in an intoxicating fusion of jazz-R&B-hip-hop-and-pop at our signature free concert (September 27).

The festival’s own living legend, David Amram, now in his eighth year as Artist Emeritus, opens the proceedings (Septem-



KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION



JAMES C. MARTIN

ber 19) with the world première by baritone James Martin of *Five American Voices*, a song cycle reflecting the diverse pieces of America’s cultural mosaic.

So come on down, all you angelheaded hipsters, and do as Maestro Bernstein commanded us do: Sing. Shout. Dream big! We can’t wait to see you all.

The Village Trip takes place at venues across Greenwich Village and the East Village/Lower East Side from September 19-28. Look out for the full program in September’s Village View and at www.TheVillageTrip.com



NINA BERNSTEIN SIMMONS



JAMIE BERNSTEIN

prepares for its 250th anniversary in 2026, the national mood is rather darker. Which means we need to insist harder, sing louder, dream bigger. If we build it they will come.

That was always the somewhat crazy motivation behind The Village Trip, which kicks off this year’s festival on September 19 and runs through to September 28 with some 35 family-friendly events reflecting down-

IT'S ALL MY FAULT

Uplifting Lyfts, Lies and Life Lessons

BY DUANE SCOTT CERNY

I think it's fair to say many of us have been in a bit of a funk as of late, somewhat dispirited or noticeably depressed; perhaps not clinically but if the elevator to the "dumps" is working correctly, we're all moving downward.

Given most of us were not responsible for pressing the DOWN button, it is further disheartening. Still, if one-third of Americans sent us in this direction, we're all headed south together. And no, it's not to a Mar-a-Lago pool party where the water ripples a murky orange, and the ever-so-handsome lifeguard is a former Fox News weatherman. Or was he a water sports announcer?

Though I'm an upbeat, positive person, lately it's been increasingly difficult to present my stand-up comedy self when it feels the world is sitting on me. I am rarely triggered by the news of the day, month, or administration, but the past few weeks have sent me spiraling into a person I do not particularly enjoy. I'm simultaneously sad and angry, often shouting at the television — scaring my cats — or crying in the bathroom. I bend the ears of equally depressed friends and sometimes strangers. I've been barred from a West Village coffee shop for using too many napkins to dry my latte-infused tears. In short, I'm no fun. And not funny. Not a good look for a humorist whose funny bone has been sharpened into an unused dagger.

In a state of dark moodiness I scheduled a Lyft service to LaGuardia. Nothing like a packed flight to Chicago to deflate one's spirit. I am always pleasant to drivers but not in an overly chatty way. I ask how they're doing, how's traffic, have they had a colonoscopy (just kidding). Most acknowledge my inquiries with words, or a grunt, then continue chatting on their cell phones with someone who's oddly come along for the



"THE NEW LAGUARDIA TERMINAL is now more efficient and almost attractive in that suburban shopping mall kind of way. Oh, look: Another Magnolia Cupcake dispensary!"

ride. That said, I've also had drivers speak of their background, their family, or their thoughts on the end of the world as we know it, the latter often a wrong turn toward Staten Island.

But today's trip would be very, very different.

"Hi, Duane," says the driver. "What's your security code?" (Apparently this a recent Lyft security feature.)

"Hi, Raj!" I say, noting his photo badge on the dashboard. "It's 0606." I pause. "How are you doing this morning?"

Raj says with a sigh, "You know, I'm just okay."

I half smile as I buckle my seat belt. "Exactly how I feel." I pause. "So, the usual terrible traffic?"

"I'm returning from the Bronx," he says, turning up Bleecker. "Some people. There is no explanation for them. I'm on a single-lane street; the driver in front of me stops, gets out of his car and simply walks away and down the block. So many cars behind me honking, angry. But I've nowhere to go.

I had to get out of my vehicle and find him."

"Wow!" I am intrigued. "Where was he?"

"Picking up something from a store," Raj continues. "And he was upset with me! But you can't abandon your car in the street, in the middle of traffic. Every day I am continually shocked at the selfishness. That is the issue. No consideration for others."

"Do you think it's worse since COVID or perhaps the election?" I ask, tiptoeing into such topics.

Raj then begins a soft, thoughtful, and slowly spoken narrative about life and living, and how we can be responsible only for ourselves and never the acts of others. He speaks eloquently about extending kindness, not only to people but the earth itself. Why do we not awake each day and embrace it as a blessing?

Yes, shockingly, and most appreciatively, for the next 15 to 20 minutes, Raj gave Deepak Chopra a solid run for his master class. And Raj killed! His words are so powerful, I am hesitant to interrupt. "My favorite word is empathy," I add simply.

"Yes," Raj nods as he pulls onto Manhattan Bridge congestion. "The lack of empathy in others reflects their emptiness inside. We only occupy this space between birth and death. This time is all we know. And regardless of one's troubles with family or illnesses, you move forward with your empathy, your compassion and concern. You must live in truth."

Raj clears his throat. "The worst thing you can ever do in life is lie to yourself. That is fatal. Do not convince yourself of things you know are false. To lie to yourself distracts from the very purpose of why you are here on this planet."

"Oh, yes!" I echo in agreement. "Lies and lying. It makes me think of a certain someone."

"Oh, him!" says Raj, shaking his head in dismay. "He is a most damaged person. Very sad, really. And look at what his lies have done to the world. He lies to others but first he lies to himself. It will be a fatal mistake. These lies, tens of thousands of lies, he owns them all. Each lie has chipped away at him, revealing an empty man. Soulless. An empty suit."

I half laugh as we pull into Terminal B. "And a badly fitted one, at that!"

Raj jumps from the car, laughing. "Oh, so true. Everything's a mess... including him!" He starts to hand me my luggage, but instead, and without any hesitation, we embrace.

Today, I needed a Raj.

Duane Scott Cerny takes the blame for most everything in his monthly satirical column, It's All My Fault. Best-selling author of "Selling Dead People's Things" and "Vintage Confidential," he is the co-owner of Chicago's Broadway Antique Market and is a guest favorite among fearless podcasters. Contact him at E-ThanklessGreetings@yahoo.com

ADVERTISE IN THE VILLAGE VIEW!

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

Please direct all correspondence to articlesforvillageview@gmail.com

VILLAGE VERSES

A GREATER WIND

For Valentin Ramirez, 2009-2022, Killed by a Car

A greater wind than is known
has swept you away,
sunflower gold
now pulverized, its spirit-bud beheaded
blindly by a Universe brutal.
"Come back!" we cry,
but the way back is beyond and verboten.
"Why?" we implore,
seeking the healing mercy of reason,
to be mocked by silence like ungracious granite,
held aloft by the roaring rush
of a greater wind than is known,
a wind unyielding of its secrets
to the mere mortal mind,
a greater wind.

© 2022, 2025, Susan M. Silver
Previously published in *Breath & Shadow*
literary journal, Fall, 2022.

MODERN COMFORT
STYLISH LIVING





New York City is one of the foodie capitals of the world—and even the most sophisticated palates will savor the variety of menu offerings from our signature restaurants.



This elegant, pet-friendly community offers upscale living spaces and amenities, accompanied by unique programming and living options ranging from Active Independent and Assisted Living to Memory Care.



Wellness comes in many forms—for the mind, body, and spirit—and we incorporate it into everything we do at The Watermark at Brooklyn Heights.

Experience modern comfort and stylish living **The Watermark at Brooklyn Heights**. With upscale residences, gourmet dining venues, customized care, and unrivaled amenities such as concierge service and an on-site spa and salon, here you'll find a host of opportunities to enjoy an exceptional lifestyle. The Watermark at Brooklyn Heights stands as the premier choice for Active Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care in Brooklyn, offering a lifestyle that blends comfort, sophistication, and a vibrant community atmosphere.

RESIDENCES
Starting at **\$8,500**

Schedule Your Tour Today and
Enjoy Lunch on Us!

THE WATERMARK
AT BROOKLYN HEIGHTS
ÉLAN COLLECTION

347.227.0010 | BrooklynHeightsSL.com
21 Clark St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
ACTIVE INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE



©2025 Discovery Management Group. All Rights Reserved. Prices, plans and programs are subject to change or withdrawal without notice. Void where prohibited by law. License #331-S-016. WMBH-0037 3/25.



WRITE FOR THE VILLAGE VIEW This is **YOUR** neighborhood and **YOUR** news.
Please contribute! Direct all submissions to articlesforvillageview@gmail.com

We the Seniors

When seniors unite, we all win.

“WE THE SENIORS” LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE COALITION TO SOUND THE ALARM ON DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

In response to escalating threats from the Trump administration to dismantle the American social safety net, undermine the rule of law, and betray this country’s founding democratic values, a new coalition of senior-led activist organizations is uniting to fight back. More than 33 groups from across the country have joined forces under the name “We The Seniors,” declaring that the generation that helped build this coun-

try will not stand by as it is torn apart.

“We raised families, built businesses, fought wars, and paid into the system our entire lives — and now we’re being told our government is slashing our benefits to cut taxes for the wealthy.” said Mary Mulvihill, founding chair of Seniors Taking Action, a national advocacy group based in New York. “Let me be clear: the so-called ‘Big Ugly Bill’ is an attack on the benefits we earned and

paid for. We’re not going to watch in silence — we’re going to organize, mobilize, and push back.”

“This isn’t just about seniors, it’s about our children, our grandchildren, and the country we’re leaving behind,” said Ron Burd of The Grand Connection, a member organization. “We know these policies aren’t just numbers on a spreadsheet. They’re destroying lives. And we’re going to make sure the country sees that.”

The group is also raising alarm about worsening delays at Social Security offices and the gutting of federal agencies that serve millions of Americans.

“We’re hearing from seniors who can’t get their checks, can’t reach anyone for help, and are being told to just wait. That’s not just bad policy, it’s cruelty by design,” said Mulvihill. “But we are not helpless, and we are not alone.”

This powerful new alliance aims to coordinate messaging, amplify grassroots organizing, and mobilize seniors in every state not just to protect essential safety net pro-

grams including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid but also to sound the alarm about broader damage to core democratic institutions and norms, like the deportation of immigrants. Member organizations span from coast to coast and include urban, rural, red, and blue communities.

“We The Seniors” vows to tell the stories of Americans affected by the federal government’s profoundly detrimental policies, and to hold lawmakers accountable at the ballot box. We have experience, expertise, resources, and most importantly, we vote. We built this country. We won’t let it be dismantled. We invite seniors from all over the country to join us in this effort.

Mary Mulvihill, Founder
Email: marybmulvihill@gmail.com
Phone Number: (646) 732-5023

Judy Loeb, Founder
Email: wetheseniorsusa@gmail.com
Phone Number: (917) 459-2800

Church of St. Luke Shows A Parish Hall Design

BY JOY PAPE



THIS ARTIST'S VIEW OF THE PROPOSED PARISH HALL is looking southwest from the Hudson and Christopher street intersection. The Archive Building dominates the background. Credit: BKS K.

On July 21, the Community Board 2 (CB2) Landmark Committee held a public hearing open to all. I joined nearly 100 other interested people to see the presentation of the designs for a new Parish Mission Hall of the Church of St. Luke in the Fields.

Reverend Caroline Stacey, rector for the past 20 years, made introductory remarks emphasizing the long history of St. Luke, built here by Trinity Church in 1821, when the little chapel was surrounded by fields.

As early as 1836, city maps show that the church block had rowhouses built by the church surrounding the chapel around the entire block, remaining until at least 1940, as shown in historic photos. Sometime before 1969, when this area was included in the Historic District designation report, all but the 10 current rowhouses had been lost, and a school building had been built along Greenwich Street. That left the other three corners of the block open for other uses: a SW corner parking lot, a SE corner garden, and a NE corner fenced school playground. On March 6, 1981, the Parish Hall was destroyed by fire but not rebuilt, while the damaged chapel was rebuilt.

For the 20 years Mother Stacey has been rector of the church, and for some outreach programs even longer, the little church has provided many services to help the surrounding community. With the building of a new Parish Hall, St. Luke intends to continue those programs as before, but to answer many worried inquiries, Mother Stacey strongly assured the attendees that there would be no homeless shelter, overnight shelter, transitional housing, drug injection center, no Narcan distribution, and no soup kitchen.

Mother Stacey then introduced the design team from BKS K Architects, who showed

their design concept for the new hall, including new floor plans and exterior views in realistic renderings. The single-story hall will be about 6,000 square feet of interior space, going almost as far back as the rowhouse back yard depth. The corner of Hudson and Christopher streets is a busy, heavily trafficked area for both cars, buses and pedestrians. The church's master plan for the campus was reportedly approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 2013, and the church has a right to build on their property. There are now four schools within a block of this location. The design team assured the attendees that they had explored every other possible location, and even digging basements, but none fit the size or budget limits.

Since the purpose of this hearing was to consider the historic preservation aspects of the design, the architects showed images of the church's buildings, other one-story neighborhood buildings (all commercial), and one-story pavilions for city parks. There were images of the new materials selected for the façades, mostly reused red brick and dark green terra cotta vertical panels.

Despite their best attempts to explain why their design responded to historic precedent, the committee and attendees were not convinced that this would be an appropriate building for this site. Of the 20 or so who signed up to speak from the public, about half were for and half against this proposal. The dark colors and lack of windows, plus a lack of anything that would remind anyone of the historic context of the church, led the committee to recommend denial of this design, with the suggestion that the design team return with a better design.

Village View will continue to report on the progress.

Breathing New Life Into the Iconic Village Cigars Corner



SOME EXCITING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: Mamali NYC, a small coffee and wine bar, has just opened its doors at the iconic Village Cigars location — right at the heart of Christopher Street. The space breathes new life into this historic corner. Featuring delectable Georgian cuisine, Mamali is rooted in warmth, nostalgia, and the everyday poetry of coffee shared between friends. They've preserved the spirit of the spot, while offering a new kind of gathering place for locals and visitors alike. Photos courtesy of Mari Mushkudiani.



THE PINT-SIZED PALATE

Phillippe Chow Downtown

Chubby Wubby Chinese with a Blow Torch

BY CHURCHILL STONE



WE ARE OBSESSED WITH CHUBBY WUBBY BEAR, Philippe Chow's mascot. Photo credit: Katrina Robinson.

PHILIPPE CHOW DOWNTOWN
355 W. 16th St.

Where to go to celebrate Father's Day, my sister's half birthday, and my mother leaving for a long business trip? Philippe! Philippe is our favorite Chinese restaurant. We also love Chubby Wubby Bear, their mascot. That was one of the best reasons to go and so was the Baked Alaska, but we'll get to that later.

In February, we went to Mr. Chow for my mom's birthday. She thought that Mr. Chow and Philippe Chow were the same owner and the same place, but it turns out they are not! Apparently, Philippe "Chau" worked at Mr. Chow for 25 years. Then he left, changed his name to Chow, opened a restaurant a few blocks away and created Philippe by Philippe Chow. Philippe is less expensive than Mr. Chow, but the quality is just as high and the Baked Alaska is always my highlight.

So this time we went to Philippe on W. 16th St. under the Dream Hotel. First my sister and I had to pose in a clear giant box, acting like we were drinking a huge bottle of champagne. Then they took us to a room

that was basically like having our own private place — and the waiters were really nice.

We ordered Shirley Temples, Honey Glazed Spare Ribs, Beijing Chicken, Wonton Soup, Pork Soup Dumplings, Salt and Pepper Calamari, Filet Mignon with Sugar Snaps, Shrimp Fried Rice, and Crispy Duck. We were five adults, two kids, and one baby so we needed a lot of food. But I knew to save room for dessert.

The Shirley Temple was bright red and very sweet, with the cherry floating around, just the way I like it. I was super happy when my baby brother accidentally knocked mine over because I already drank half of it and now I got another one!

The Wonton Soup was good, but the wontons were a bit salty so I just had pork soup dumplings which were way better. The Salt and Pepper Calamari was perfect and I loved it. I thought my sister would like it too, but when we're at Philippe, she only eats white rice. She voted Philippe number one for white rice in NYC — "Not too moist, and not too dry," she explained to me.

The spare ribs were perfectly cooked.

The glaze was sweet with some spice — my grandma really liked it. I think the Beijing Chicken was my favorite dish. The chicken was delicious and the sweet and sour was my favorite part. It is very rich, so you probably shouldn't eat too much of it, but it was so good that we kinda did.

Now for the best part of Philippe — the Cotton Candy Baked Alaska. This was my favorite part of my whole day, and trust me I had a pretty good day! Baked Alaska is very difficult to find at a restaurant or probably more difficult to make at home. Philippe's Baked Alaska is a little different — it arrives as a high dome of cotton candy. Then the waiter pours rum on top of the cotton candy, pulls out a blow torch, and lights it all on fire. It is so dramatic and so cool. Inside is strawberry and vanilla ice cream and sponge cake — all covered with toasted meringue, the best part. It's the best \$20 dessert in New York because it fed everyone at the table and there were fireworks too!

So, whether you're a kid or an adult, Philippe is definitely a great place to go!

3 1/2 Stars

Open NEW Hours
M-F 3pm-4am
S-S 12pm-4am

Good Times!



Est. 1950

kettleoffishnyc.com

59 Christopher Street, NYC (near 7th Avenue)

212-414-2278

\$5 Beers
Darts
Pinball



MCF
Rare Wine, Ltd.

249 West 13th Street
T: 212.255.8870
Now Open Mondays



SEVILLA
RESTAURANT AND BAR

AUTHENTIC SPANISH CUISINE

62 Charles Street and West 4th Street
NYC, NewYork 10014

212 • 929 • 3189 | 646 • 329 • 5158

www.sevillarestaurantandbar.com

Est. 1936

GOLDEN WOKS

159 CHRISTOPHER STREET
Near Greenwich Street

212-463-8182

Fast Free Delivery

Open Monday - Saturday 11am-10:30pm - Sunday 12pm-10:30pm

The Best Chinese Take-out in New York City

VILLAGE PET PAGES

BY JOY PAPE AND BRIAN PAPE

MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON 2

Chili the Dog Survives After 10 Days Lost, Rescued from River by Kayakers

BY PHIL O'BRIEN, REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM W42ST.COM

On a recent Saturday, a tiny, shivering dog was pulled from the Hudson River by a group of kayakers near Pier 26. He was barely paddling, coated in oil, visibly exhausted — but alive. The rescue has been dubbed “a second Miracle on the Hudson” by neighbors, a reference to the dramatic 2009 plane landing just a few miles north on the same river. This time, the survivor was a scrappy eight-month-old Chihuahua mix named Chili.

“I still don’t understand how he made it,” said Gabby Porter, who lives with her partner Gianni Calistro near Hudson Yards in Hell’s Kitchen. “He’s never even been in the water, not even for a swim. Only baths.”

Chili had been missing for 10 days after slipping out of his harness in the West Village. “We were just leaving dinner at Mémé with a friend and her golden retriever,” Gabby recalled, speaking at the couple’s walk-up apartment where Chili now wanders around happily, attentive but still skinny. “He didn’t want to say goodbye. He started backing up and wriggled right out of his harness. One second he was there, the next he was bolting across Hudson Street.”

Gabby chased him as far as she could. “A taxi pulled up and may have lightly hit him — but the noise just spooked him more. He ran so fast, we lost him almost immediately.”

That night, the couple searched until 2 a.m. The following morning, they printed 200 flyers and started canvassing the neighborhood. “We went hard. Staples as soon as it opened. Posters everywhere — especially along the Hudson River Park. We were just hoping someone would spot him.”

By day two, they had tracked down footage



CHILI AND GABBY relax at home on Sunday after 10 days apart and a dramatic rescue. Photo: Phil O'Brien.

from security cameras on Pier 40 in Hudson River Park, showing Chili darting onto the pier around 11:30 p.m. on the night he went missing. “It was a relief to know he was alive,” Gabby said. “But it was also torture. Every time we went to the pier — four days in a row — we just cried. It was traumatizing.”

The surveillance showed Chili pacing, scared and alone. No one ever saw him leave.

Over the next week, the couple tried everything. They upgraded their flyers with waterproof sleeves. They promoted posts on social media. Gabby posted tearful TikToks, one of which reached over 350,000 views. Friends and strangers alike shared the word. “The community support was overwhelming,” she said. “Complete strangers texted, called, searched different neighborhoods just to look out for Chili. It meant everything.”

Then came the hoaxes. “I got 10 or more prank calls — people barking, saying horrible things, pretending they’d eaten him,” Gabby said. “It was beyond cruel.”

But then, just before noon on Saturday, her phone rang again.

“This guy says, ‘I found your dog in the river,’ and I thought, please not another prank. Then he sent a photo. It was Chili. Wet, scrawny, covered in black oil. But alive.”

The kayaker — who gave his name as Joe — was paddling near the boundary markers off Pier 26 when he spotted something bobbing in the water. “He thought it was a trick of the light,” Gabby said. “His friend didn’t believe him at first. But he paddled over, and sure enough, it was a tiny dog trying to stay afloat.”

“I jumped into an Uber so fast, but the

traffic was crawling. It felt like forever,” Gabby recalled. “When we finally got there, Chili was in shock — but he recognized us. He gave us a few licks. He was safe.”

Gianni captured the reunion on video — a moment of tearful relief after 10 nights of fear and uncertainty. “We’ve only had him six months,” said Gabby. “He’s our baby. We couldn’t imagine losing him.”

When Chili was first spotted in the Hudson, Sarah, a patrol volunteer with the Downtown Boathouse, was flagged down in the northwest corner of the embayment. With help from other nearby kayakers — Sarah managed to get the exhausted, oil-covered dog into her boat. “He seemed very tired, scared and fatigued,” Martin Sweeney, a member of the board of directors for the all volunteer-staffed free kayaking program told us. It was a true group effort, with about half a dozen people working together to get Chili to safety. Joe recognized him from the missing posters, and within minutes, he was on the phone with Gabby. “Everyone was just happy to get him out safely,” said Martin. “And reconnecting him with his owner so quickly was a great bonus.”

At the vet, Chili was examined and given bloodwork. “He was malnourished, with cuts on his paws and oil matted into his fur. We tried Dawn soap to get it out, but ended up just trimming it away. His pads were torn up, and he had some abrasions, but the vet was shocked at how good his overall condition was.”

After days without food, Chili is getting small meals throughout the day so his body can adjust to eating again. “He’s already a

slim guy, but now he’s like a little skeleton,” Gabby said. “We’re taking it slow.”

As for what Chili endured for those 10 days, no one knows. “We still don’t know how he got into the water — or how long he was there. He might’ve been hiding under the pier, living off scraps. It’s all a mystery.”

The couple is ordering a new triple-strap harness and a GPS collar before taking Chili out for walks again. “We’re not taking any chances,” Gabby said. “He’s staying right by our side.”

The kayakers who saved him have asked to stay out of the spotlight, but Gabby hopes to meet up with Joe soon. “He’s a hero. I want to take him out for dinner. Chili will be there too — on much better terms.”

Reflecting on the ordeal, Gabby gets emotional. “There were so many points we could have lost hope. But it was the kindness of strangers — people reposting, calling, checking in — that kept us going.”

She added later: “I also forgot to mention all of the amazing New Yorkers that would text and call me and try to give me tips and tell me that they were searching around the West Village or a different neighborhood just to look out for Chili. Complete strangers, but they wanted to help in any way they could.”

Now, Chili is curled up on the couch in their Hell’s Kitchen apartment, finally getting some well-earned rest.

“He slept like a rock last night,” Gabby said with a laugh. “Under the covers, above the covers — he’s always moving. But he’s home. He’s safe. That’s all that matters.”



CHILI with one of the rescuers.



THE COUPLE PUT UP POSTERS all along the West Side, appealing for help.

A Mystery Silently Waiting To Be Solved

BY JAN CRAWFORD

I met a woman I'll call Grace at a conference for lesbians with disabilities in the mid-1970s. As Grace wheeled herself into the group of 25 women whose discussion I was leading, I was impressed that her wheelchair was as tech-outfitted as your average spaceship and that she controlled it with the one finger she could use. The rest of her body was collapsed and horribly twisted. I couldn't even begin to imagine the physical pain she must have been in. And the question quickly passed through my mind: how could anyone survive in a body that decimated?

Within moments, however, that thought was completely overshadowed by the force of her smile and presence. I was astonished to see and feel how much joy could pour out of one human being. It was almost like being temporarily blinded by another driver suddenly turning on their bright lights as they approached on a dark road.

I asked each person to take a few minutes to say whatever they wanted to say. After about half the participants had spoken, a very frightened young woman in tears said she had just been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. There was a gentle silence in the group as we all responded with support and concern. And when it was Grace's turn to speak, with her continuous beatific smile, she turned to that woman. It seemed to be heartbreakingly difficult for her to make her words comprehensible. After several minutes of struggle the woman who was assisting Grace told us that she was telling the young woman, "It will be all right."

It would be arrogant of me to assume what Grace or anyone else was feeling, but I felt I was witnessing one of the most generous acts of love I had ever seen. It has taken me many decades to understand what I now be-

lieve Grace may have been manifesting and teaching us. And that is true only because, in these final years of my life, I have experienced glimpses of a dimension of reality where joy, an ease of being, more compassion toward oneself and others, and a sense of timelessness are as natural as the sun rising every day.

For me and many others, those glimpses seem to be primarily related to years of inner work. However, they can arise at any moment under any condition. For example, people often speak about these realizations spontaneously occurring when they are deeply absorbed in nature. For one man it was the joy he experienced during the birth of his child. And we know music or great beauty of any kind, especially if we allow ourselves to be completely permeated by it, can expand us beyond those conditioned-limited selves.

They can even occur during overwhelmingly difficult times. My late friend, raised Mormon, fled into the first church she saw, a Catholic church, horrified that people in the streets were "celebrating the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki" during World War II. What she experienced on her knees before a statue of Christ changed her life forever: she became a Benedictine nun.

Such moments, whether in a lesbian disability discussion group, a West Village sanctuary or listening to music are opportunities we can cultivate and celebrate no matter how difficult that may sometimes seem. In his book, *The Book of Life*, philosopher and scholar Peter Kingsley describes how much we sacrifice when we do not acknowledge what an opportunity this life could be. If people only recognize how

continued on page 21

Local Basketball Team Wins Gold at Special Olympics Tournament

BY ANTHONY PARADISO



THE NEW YORK EDGE BEACON PROGRAM'S LOCAL BASKETBALL TEAM the City Hawks practice and play at City-As-School at 16 Clarkson Street but here they can be seen winning gold at Queens College in the Special Olympic games this past June. *Photo credit: New York Edge.*

A local basketball team called the "City Hawks" (also known as the "Unified Banner Team") just won gold at the Special Olympic games held at Queens College in June. This comes just six months after a New York Edge Beacon Program floor hockey team picked up silver.

The team was formed thanks to New York Edge, an organization which is New York City's "largest provider of school-based after school and summer programming" according to Samantha Howath, an account executive at Marino PR.

The basketball players were part of a specific program within New York Edge called the "Beacon Program" which "transforms its host school into a resource for the whole community by offering an integrated range of programming tailored to meet each individual community's needs." Beacon Program Director Darius Nazario said that the program "offers opportunities for all ages throughout the year, Monday through Saturday," and that the program runs throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The Beacon Program operates out of City-As-School, a high school located at 16 Clarkson Street in Greenwich Village. The school was recently designated as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School by the New York City Chancellor's Office, which recognizes schools that have a "deep, sustained commitment to creating an inclusive climate," according to Howath.

Nazario shed some light on how the City Hawks were formed: "Through partnership with both City-As-School and MOTC 721 (Manhattan Occupational Training Center), participants began practicing together as part of the Unified Banner program. After successfully being formally recognized as a unified school, we developed the team to attend the Special Olympic games."

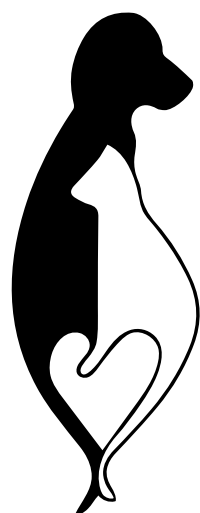
Athletics are not the only objective of the Beacon Program nor does its work end when the participants graduate as Nazario points out. "The Beacon Program is designed to run throughout the day from 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. This wide time frame allows us to support the players in the classroom, on the court, and with their growth socially. Our unique offerings and staffing also provide opportunities for their growth regarding 'next steps.' We also continuously attend trainings or professional developments to add to our toolkit for offerings."

The City Hawks would not have gotten where they are today without a rigorous practice schedule. From Monday through Friday, the City Hawks players practice twice a day at the school. On Saturdays, the gym is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., which many players take advantage of.

This is what sports and work environments are about, bringing together people from different backgrounds to achieve a common goal. Learning sportsmanship is part of the Beacon Program's mission which is to "bridge the opportunity gap among students by providing them with programs designed to improve academic performance, self-confidence, and leadership skills for success in their future."

The City Hawks head coach is Maria Bermudez, and she alluded to the spirit of inclusivity with these comments about her team's gold medal winning performance: "Seeing our school community rally around these students reminded us why we do this work. You championed collaboration over competition, kindness over judgment, and celebration over barriers. Simply put, you helped create a space where every student could shine."

And this all happened in Greenwich Village! Bravo to the City Hawks. *The Village View* staff wish them the best of luck in the future.



GREENWICH VILLAGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

504 Hudson Street | 212-691-1100
M-F 8am-5:30pm | www.gvah.com

**"A terrific practice with excellent
vets and great staff! Friendly, kind
and compassionate."**

Susan F, client

Critters 101

BY KEITH MICHAEL



A CENTRAL PARK RACCOON family standing in for our West Village reveler. Photo by Keith Michael.

Whoa! A raccoon's crawling up that construction shed, dragging a white garbage bag with him for dinner under the stars. What a romantic! At least someone's making an amenity from all the summer scaffolding in the West Village.

I'm frequently known as The Bird Guy, but I'm easily distracted by any other fauna or flora that might be around other than birds. It continues to surprise me that most people are still skeptical to learn how much birdlife and wildlife, in general, there is in NYC.

When it comes to mammals, nearly everyone can raise their hand that they've seen rats, mice, or squirrels, but after that, the number of people who have to sit down with their hands in their laps starts increasing exponentially. Because I'm out and about the whole city chasing birds, I consider myself lucky to have seen a small ark of urban wildlife. After coming upon something new, city destinations literally vibrate for me: What might I be missing by staying home? Since it's the summer birding doldrums anyway, here's my short list of urban mammals (buy me a martini to elaborate if you dare).

Humpback Whale Yes, you can go whale watching in New York City! I'll champion American Princess Cruises out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, for their responsible, knowledgeable, enthusiastic approach to viewing the 464 individual whales that

they've cataloged since 2011 in the New York Bight. Full body breaching, lunge-feeding, and tail-slapping are just a few of the boat-side WOWs that'll knock your socks off!

Bottlenose Dolphin These can be seen by the dozens to hundreds, sometimes just surfing the waves right off of the beaches of Queens and Brooklyn.

Seal While you're sweating in the summer heat, try to conjure up these winter-time guests plying the frigid waters around the city. A few do hang around all year, and might be seen popping up in Jamaica Bay or even on a dock in Hudson River Park.

Red Fox These elusive, shall I say sly, charmers have a stronghold on Staten Island. Likewise sly, my ramblings have brought me to vivid encounters multiple times.

Groundhog Not only on February 2nd do they come out to play, shadow or no shadow. Every borough has their own adorably chubby residents.

Skunk What a beautiful animal with their black and white striped lush fur! I once watched one clear a basketball court in Inwood (no one got sprayed) and another mosey along a fence in broad daylight in Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx. Check out Riverside Drive after dark for the after-hours parade.

Opossum My favorite sighting was at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens: a mother with a raft of babies clinging to her

back. Others have crossed my path in Van Cortlandt Park, The Bronx and Shirley Chisholm State Park, Brooklyn.

Chipmunk Find a woodland, and you'll see these brown-striped bundles of activity. Their cheerful chirps and chatters confuse bird-watchers searching for that elusive, nearby chatty bird.

Bat Ooh, I love to see bats. I've seen several sleeping during the day in Bryant Park, right off of 42nd Street, of all places, but getting to watch their mosquito-elimination dexterity at dusk is thrilling. Find free front row seats close to home in Hudson River Park. Watch the winking fireflies while you're at it.

White-tailed Deer Probably most people don't get too excited about seeing deer, but if you still do, head to western Staten Island or Hunter Island in Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx. They might follow you through the woods.

Cottontail Rabbit Bunnies trigger a higher cuteness-response from the general public than many of our four-legged denizens. They're shy but populous throughout the city's green spaces. You'd be shy too if you were trying to avoid becoming lunch for our urban raptors.

Coyote Nothing conjures up the image of wilderness like a coyote, but they are also a staple of urban life. My best views have been in Van Cortlandt Park, The Bronx, and much further north at Croton Point Park in

Westchester. Did you know there's been a resident couple, Romeo and Juliet, in The Ramble of Central Park for over two years?

Muskrat I haven't built dams with the Bronx River beavers, Jose and Justin, but muskrats are fairly common in wetlands around the city. I like seeing their furry brown noses parting the water as they swim back to their lodges.

Squirrel I know, I know, gray squirrels are everywhere swindling peanuts from the tourists, but head further north and you'll see less entrepreneurial black squirrels. For a really memorable sighting, hang out at the Vale of Cashmere in Prospect Park, Brooklyn to wait for Bumble, the all-white, leucistic not albino, squirrel to make his showstopping appearance.

Flying Squirrel Wait. What? Yup, that's right, there are flying squirrels in NYC. I've never seen one, and it's at the top of my Wish List like seeing a bald eagle soar over Perry Street. They're small, frustratingly nocturnal, and extraordinarily secretive, but people do spot them. Fun fact: Their white bellies glow in the dark under U/V flashlights!

I hope that this gives you a summer *To Do List* to take your mind off of how to beat the heat. Or, if these don't strike your fancy, you could go out looking for turtles, lizards, snakes, frogs, toads, butterflies, dragonflies, trees, or wildflowers around the city. All right, I'll shut up now.

VILLAGE VIEWS



Rats!

AN OLD FRIEND APPEARED IN THE VILLAGE RECENTLY on the corner of Perry and Bleecker streets. The inflatable union rat was being used to protest in front of the Brooklinen store because of construction work being done at another Brooklinen site at 225 Varick Street. They were using a contractor named “Upright Installation Service Corporation” according to a flyer the New York City District Council of Carpenters was passing out. These contractors were alleged to be using “substandard wages and benefits” for their employees. *Photo by Alec Pruchnicki.*



Bus Fire at Northwell

SPARKS WERE FLYING even before the July 4th holiday weekend started. A large white unmarked bus spontaneously broke out in flames during the early afternoon of July 2 while parked directly in front of the Northwell Emergency Room entrance at 7 Seventh Avenue South. The fire and subsequent thick plumes of smoke were seen from West 15th Street to Sheridan Square. The New York Fire Department responded rapidly. There were no injuries reported at the time of this writing and the cause was unknown. *Photo by Ede Rothaus.*

Mystery *continued from page 19*

fragile this short-lived gift of human life is, they would all get together and plan to live consciously and honorably and not fritter their time away in making war or money. But they won't because they can't. And they can't because this is one of the best kept secrets—that people are not yet human. And human life is the mystery that's silently waiting to be lived.

For me, St. Luke's sanctuary has been a place of great comfort and occasional revelation in my meditations. Particularly in my more revolutionary days, I never imagined that I would be a little old lady - who had been a breath away from death several times - sitting in a park feeding and enchanted by

the birds. I am grateful that I seem to be getting not so much what I thought I wanted in this life, but clearly what I needed. There is great pleasure and even amusement as I recognize that part of what I needed was to be more human in the sense of allowing the struggling part of me to relax and allow my true nature to just be. And paradoxically, I also needed to be less human, less unconsciously identified with the concretized assumption of what a human being is.

For each in our own way, these days I often wonder if our attempts to solve the mystery of what life is and what we are, is one our most urgent opportunities and challenges. Perhaps it is even why we are here?

JOY IN THE MOMENT

This Too Shall Pass

BY JOY PAPE, FNP CDCES

When going through a tough time we may think of the words, “This too shall pass” for solace.

But, do you ever think of this saying in relationship to what you may consider as something good?

Living in the moment shines bright on this.

There's a saying of a King, who had everything this world could offer him, except peace of mind. So, he searched out a wise person and offered to pay anything if this wise person could help him.

The wise person told the King, “The price is very high for peace of mind, it is more valuable than anything you have.” Then the wise person gave the King a ring with the saying inscribed, “This too shall pass.”

The King was told to look at this beautiful ring often, and remember, that things which may be painful, beautiful or meaningful shall pass. There is nothing to be attached

to.

Either the seemingly bad or the seemingly good, it is what it is at the moment and it will pass or change.

This lesson of non-attachment helps us to remember not to get too upset about things and not to get fearful about losing something you care deeply about.

This doesn't mean there won't be sad or hard times, nor does it mean not to enjoy good or beautiful times.

Just know, “This too shall pass,” whatever it is. It can help you have joy in the moment which can bring you peace of mind.

Joy Pape, FNP-C, CDCES, CFCN is a board-certified family nurse practitioner, Certified Diabetes Educator and Specialist in Weight Management & Obesity at Weill Cornell's Comprehensive Weight Control Center and has a private practice in the West Village.



Follow us on Instagram @villageviewny

Frank Zappa and The Mothers of Invention

GARRICK THEATRE, NEW YORK, NY, MAY 24, 1967

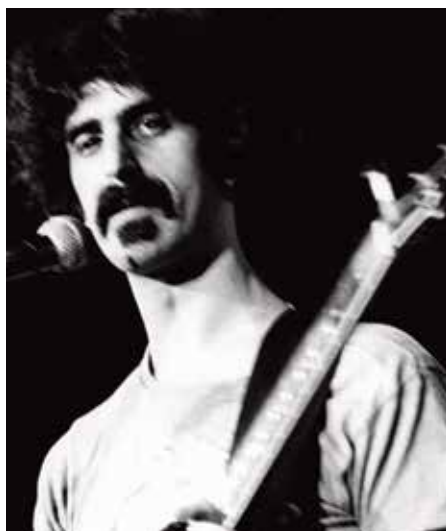
BY ROGER PARADISO

The Garrick was an old and narrow theater above the Café Au Go Go on 152 Bleecker Street across from the Bitter End. Frank Zappa wanted his band, the Mothers of Invention, to have a residency in New York like the Beatles had in Hamburg. The Garrick was a place where the Mothers played every night and experimented with their act and musical sound. Originally scheduled to just last a couple of weeks around Easter, Frank took over the theater and paid to stay until Labor Day.

They stayed through a typically hot New York summer and, to add to the misery, the theater's air unit broke and the landlord didn't have the money to fix it. Memorable songs to come out of this period were *Who Are the Brain Police?* and *Call Any Vegetable*. Two albums were recorded in this period: *Freak Out* and *Absolutely Free*.

Frank met his wife, Gail, at LA's Whiskey a Go Go in 1966 and dragged her to New York. Here are some excerpts from her 1990 *Billboard* interview with Drew Wheeler.

"I thought that Frank was probably one of



FRANK ZAPPA, 1973. Photo credit: Jay L. Handler via Wikipedia.

the grubbiest creatures I'd ever seen," Gail recalls, "but he was compelling. He had a compelling glare. He had major magnetic charm, I would say.

"New York proved to be no Fun City, and

the Zappas were "Desperately poor," remembers Gail, "It was dreadful, we were living in a horrible hotel, sharing it with very large cockroaches. I remember, in the dead of winter, the milk cartons on the window ledge outside – no refrigerator of course. I think I lived off grapefruits and Frank lived off peanut butter...

"And coffee – we made coffee from the bathtub because the water that came into the bathtub was so hot you could really scorch yourself. You did not need to boil it. It was frightening. Instant coffee. Milk on the window ledge."

One regular fan had this to say about Frank's Garrick Theater shows: "One never knew what to expect, there were some nights that you just heard pure music, and ... sometimes Frank would just sit in a chair and glower at the audience. Sometimes there were more people on stage than there were in the audience... I remember Stravinsky being played, I remember droning music going on for ages, and then in the middle of all of that,

the song that then became *Oh No, I Don't Believe It*, sort of breaking through the clouds, and I mean it just shocked me, how anything could be so beautiful, and how such beautiful music could come out of such bizarre looking people." - *Cashbox* 10 June 1967

When I was a teenager I bought a bass and tried with some other friends to play Zappa songs. We couldn't really do it because I sucked and the music was too complex. After college, I ended up writing films and plays and somewhere in there I started an underground paper. Our first paper had Nixon on the front page. We made him look like Hitler. I saw a picture of Trump dressed like Hitler recently and I thought, well, history does repeat itself. I stuck with Zappa, seeing him at the Filmore East in the East Village. I also saw his movies. They were funny and odd indie bombs from iconoclastic *Mother Fockers* which is what he wanted to call the band until his record company intervened. He ended up being a modern composer as good as any of them.

Goose-Stepping On History: "Leni's Last Lament"

BY DUANE SCOTT CERNY

I recently attended a Paradise Factory performance and talkback of *Leni's Last Lament*, a riveting one-woman show that explored the controversial life of Hitler's favorite filmmaker, Leni Riefenstahl. This uniquely crafted production was the trifecta star of Edinburgh's United Solo Fest, winning Best Actor, Best Script and Best Director.

With the stage as her editing room and vintage German cinema posters surrounding the walls of the theater, long strips of film hang like discarded garments from a tall rack. On a rear screen are projected images of happy pre-war Germans, Jesse Owen's athletic physique from the 1939 Olympics, and clips from Riefenstahl's most famous film, *Triumph of the Will*.

Obie-winner Jodie Markell brilliantly consumes the unenviable task of bringing Riefenstahl not only to life but into the 21st century. (Leni lived to be 101.) Whether she's pouting her "lament" or seducing you with familiar German songs, Markell normalizes a figure most abnormal, a character obsessed with her search for success, even if found on the wrong side of history.

This startling true story name-drops celebrities like empty film canisters: Charlie Chaplin, Walt Disney, Marlene Dietrich, Mick Jagger, Jody Foster, even Albert Einstein (but only theoretically). Yes, with her questionable notoriety came a certain fascination by many notables wishing to meet the infamous Ms. Riefenstahl. Her long legs beckoned fans and lovers alike, one handsome fellow being some 40 years her junior. Or as we now say: Cher and share alike.

In a work that's comically dark, psychoti-

cally smart, yet still intimately personal, playwright Gil Kofman is creating a creepy cabaret act wherein Riefenstahl attempts to sanitize her disturbing path to fame, not only to the audience and the world, but seemingly to herself. Accordionist Spiff Wiegand musically segues each of Riefenstahl's songs, thoughts and memories through scenes revisited both before and after the war. What unfolds is a multi-media extravaganza in a simple black box staging.

Riefenstahl was unquestionably a cinematic genius, and with *Triumph of the Will* regarded as one of the top 100 films of all time, her influence can be seen in works as dissimilar as *Citizen Kane* and the *Star Wars* franchise. (The latter is shown in a shot-by-shot comparison, a fact that once visualized is difficult to contradict.)

Still, I single out one scene from *Leni's Last Lament* and it is not a spoiler alert: Riefenstahl stands atop a ladder, facing the audience, camera in steady hand. She requires one final shot of average people, plain faces of no one in particular, to complete the editing of her film. (Her use of peasants and prisoner inmates to capture a similar shot is a prickly sticking point in her Nazi-funded past.)

It is then, shockingly, that Riefenstahl begins to toss red armbands emblazoned with swastikas into the audience. Some land at people's feet and remain on the floor; others catch the armbands, then toss them behind to another audience member, each cringing as if a tarantula had been catapulted at their face. It is a clever if not terrifying moment, these armbands connecting Riefenstahl's life directly into one's squirming lap. It is

in that moment when fascism morphs from an historical blip into something you must confront.

At the talkback, an audience member asked about this scene: "Do all audiences react the same?" Director Richard Caliban responded that at one Edinburgh performance a few audience members slipped the armbands on. After the show, an elderly gentleman was asked why he had donned the armband. His answer was chilling: "I saw others do it, so I followed."

To the credit of New York audiences, this act of "following" has not re-occurred. However, playwright Kofman noted the Edinburgh production occasionally needed to re-order armbands because audience members thought they were theater swag.

Comically, as he related this issue, a woman seated directly to my front began frantically digging in her purse, finally finding her purloined armband and nonchalantly placing it on the seat beside her, as if nothing had happened. I say comically as everyone, both the talkback cast to her front and an entire audience behind, had watched her actions.

Riefenstahl would have you believe she is both victim and misunderstood artist, her filmmaking and editing being her art, her life inescapable from the times she lived. Her 600-plus-page autobiography echoes this explanation to the exhaustion of the reader.

Was she as integral a propagandist to the Nazi party as Joseph Goebbels? That question Riefenstahl never asks, even to herself. Instead, she paints an ever-changing cinematic personal portrait, explaining away what is often inexplicable at best and geno-

cide-supported evil at its worst.

Even Riefenstahl's grandiose ego and sociopathic hunger for artistic fame could not excuse the result: following Hitler not only with a camera but with the captured images, catapulting the 1930s into the present.

Today, Riefenstahl could be Stephen Miller's far right-hand lens. It takes little imagination to see her climb the ranks of propagandistic Fox News only to be fast tracked into a cabinet post like some 20 Fox personalities before her. For those of us so woke, it would be witnessed as the *Triumph of the Unwell*.

Leni's Last Lament played thru June 14th. Our lament and/or victory plays until the end of the Trump regime.

Speaking of the future, playwright Kofman and director Caliban are developing *Trump: The Musical*. And as uncomfortable as the idea may sound, I am certain this duo will skewer the man and the MAGA movement with the same grit if not gusto. Perhaps, if we're lucky, it will be a musical autopsy of these historic times.

Paradise Theater is a non-profit venue located at 64 East 4th St. The building used to be the Paradise Ice Cream Factory, where the ice cream cone was invented in the 1920s. It then became a hat factory that eventually burned down. The condemned building was unoccupied until Tom Noonan and Jack Kruger built a theater and rehearsal rooms, breathing life back into the building. Years later the City of New York and Borough President Scott Stringer granted \$5 million toward a total renovation.

REDEFINING REALITY

William Greaves' Legacy Beyond the Robert Flaherty Way

BY MICHAEL JACOBSON

Before I ever had the chance to make 16mm films as a teenager, Robert Flaherty's name was etched in my mind. Flaherty and his crew ventured to Inukjuak, Quebec, Canada, to film *Nanook of the North*. Released in 1922, this landmark work is widely considered one of the first feature-length documentaries. It portrays the daily life of an Inuk hunter named Nanook and his family in the Canadian Arctic, illustrating their traditional survival skills in a harsh environment. This captivating narrative was screened globally, offering audiences a glimpse into other world cultures. Flaherty went on to create several other notable documentaries. Over the years, his filmmaking techniques have sparked debate, particularly his propensity to feature photogenic protagonists in dramatic, sometimes perilous narratives raising questions about their authenticity. Some of Flaherty's documentaries are available on the Criterion streaming service.

Seventy years ago, Frances Hubbard Flaherty, Robert Flaherty's wife, became the driving force behind the founding of The Flaherty Seminar, an annual gathering of documentarians from around the world. Frances Flaherty was a vital collaborator on nearly all of Robert Flaherty's classic films including *Nanook of the North*, *Moana*, *Man of Aran*, and *Louisiana Story*. This year's opening event, held at MoMA, treated a full house of enthusiastic participants to an evening of William Greaves' documentaries. Greaves, a groundbreaking and celebrated Black filmmaker, built an extensive five-decade career leaving a legacy that I believe stands on par with Robert Flaherty's work. The evening's highlight was *From These Roots*, an engaging work-in-progress documentary currently being expanded into a feature film by Liani Greaves and Anne de Mare.

Liani Greaves, William Greaves' granddaughter, is dedicated to completing *From These Roots*, a passion project her grandfather unfortunately could not finish during his lifetime. The film explores the extraordinary artistic, cultural, and political flourishing that defined Harlem during the 1920s, often referred to as the "Roaring Twenties" for its vibrant cultural scene. Original music, specially composed and performed by legendary jazz pianist and composer Eubie Blake, enhances the period's authenticity and atmosphere. The film chronicles the contributions from numerous influential Black artists, writers, musicians, and intellectuals of the Harlem Renaissance including A'Lelia Walker, James Van Der Zee, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Josephine Baker, Ethel Waters, Bessie Smith, Fats Waller, Florence Mills, Paul Robeson, Marcus Garvey, Aaron Douglas, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and scholars like Arturo Schomburg.

I had the opportunity to speak with Liani Greaves about her grandparents. I learned that Louise Archambault Greaves, William Greaves' wife, played an equally important role in the body of work they produced. They met in an



70TH FLAHERTY FILM SEMINAR flyer.

acting workshop in Canada and, in 1964, founded William Greaves Productions in New York City. Louise Archambault Greaves served as co-producer and chief researcher on various projects, and was also a filmmaker in her own right. Crucially, she oversaw the preservation and promotion of their films. After William Greaves' passing, Louise Greaves was actively involved in safeguarding his work and ensuring its accessibility.

Liani Greaves spoke passionately about her extensive efforts to transform *From These Roots* into a feature documentary in time for next year's 100th anniversary of William Greaves' birth. This formidable task includes digitizing 60,000 feet of 16mm film—approximately 30 hours of footage—and synching the original quarter-inch audio tape recordings to the digitized film material. Of course, the ongoing challenge of fundraising to complete the project remains significant.

We also discussed Greaves' controversial 1968 film, *Sym-*



WILLIAM GREAVES. All photos courtesy of the Greaves'.

biopsychotaxiplasm: Take One, a groundbreaking and highly experimental fiction/documentary hybrid that delves into the filmmaking process itself. Set in New York City's Central Park, William Greaves, playing himself as a director, orchestrates a seemingly chaotic film shoot. I must commend Greaves for crafting such an audacious title and for unapologetically revealing the filmmaking process to the viewer. While Flaherty could be manipulative in staging sequences in his documentaries, Greaves frankly shares the behind-the-scenes realities of his experimental, unconventional documentary. The film initially found no immediate commercial distribution and was largely shelved by Greaves. It was deemed unorthodox, difficult to categorize, and perhaps too experimental for mainstream audiences and distributors at the time. It only began to gain a cult following after its rediscovery in the early 1990s, particularly after screenings at festivals like Sundance where it captured the attention of filmmakers such as Steve Buscemi and Steven Soderbergh, who championed its re-release. Liani Greaves cherishes fond memories of being part of the 2005 production of *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take 2 1/2*, a sequel to the original film that includes an on-camera appearance by Buscemi. Both of these films are available on the Criterion streaming service. Criterion is also remastering Greaves' *Ali, the Fighter*, an early 1970s film that chronicles the lead-up to and the execution of the iconic "Fight of the Century" between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. This documentary will be available for viewing next year on Criterion. Ironically, Liani Greaves explained that her grandparents viewed themselves as perpetually "starving filmmakers," fueled by a dedication to use their documentaries to address societal wrongs. To learn more about the Greaves and their films you can go to their website: williamgreaves.com.

Another Flaherty Seminar documentary that particularly resonated with me was *The Bus*, made by celebrated cinematographer and director Haskell Wexler. This film chronicles a bus journey to the 1963 March on Washington. It offers an intimate look at the historic March for Jobs and Freedom. Instead of focusing solely on the events in Washington D.C., the film details the three-day cross-country journey of a busload of civil rights activists from San Francisco to the nation's capital. I appreciate the raw feel of the black-and-white footage, which captures the genuine, heartfelt participants embarking on a trip of a lifetime. This impactful documentary is available on the MUBI streaming service.

Michael Jacobson is an independent New York filmmaker. His recently completed documentary, *The Cornelia Street Cafe In Exile*, which will screen at the IFC Center on Thursday, September 25th. He also curates and hosts a bimonthly screening of short films by New York Metropolitan filmmakers at New Plaza Cinema.



WILLIAM AND LOUISE GREAVES.



BLACK JOURNAL CREW in Harlem.

FROM SOUTH POLE TO NORTH POLE

An Art Journey to the Extremes of the Earth

BY KAJU ROBERTO



MARISA DE LAS NIEVES DELGADO, the first woman born in Antarctica shows where she was born on Esperanza base. Photo by Kaju Roberto.



JIA-JEN LIN, interdisciplinary artist displays her works inspired by Svalbard. Photo by Kaju Roberto.

From South Pole to North Pole is an ongoing exhibition that delves into a fascinating journey into the art associated with the extremes of the earth, namely Svalbard and Antarctica, as it is related through the experiences of the artists themselves who have lived through it and created art from it.

This is part of the Taiwanese American Art Council's (TAAC) Eco Art on Island, a series of exhibitions in which artists, curators, medical professionals, and environmental experts respond to island and terrestrial ecologies. The exhibitions will be running through early November in House 17 on Governors Island and is free to the public.

Eco Art on Island, in association with Tenri Culture Institute, invites artists to observe, experience, and respond to island ecologies through cross-disciplinary creative practice, recognizing that no one is external to the social, cultural, and ecological systems shaping today's climate crisis.

Recently I met with artists Marisa De Las Nieves Delgado and Jia-Jen Lin for interesting conversations about their exhibitions.

MARISA DE LAS NIEVES DELGADO How Antarctica Chose Her

In Antarctica, there are no worlds to divide us, as it is covered by the Antarctica Treaty, an agreement shared between all participating countries which states that this land will only be used for scientific research and exploration.

Throughout history, only been 11 people have been born on the Antarctica continent, the coldest and most inhospitable place on earth. In 1978, Marisa became the first female to born on the Argentine military base

of Esperanza where her father was stationed as a scientific team assistant on the Antarctica peninsula. It was his third station to Antarctica, and one where Marisa's mother reluctantly agreed to accompany him.

Today Marisa travels the world and speaks about how being born at the bottom of the earth has shaped her life philosophy and her relationship to fragile ecosystems. Even in a seemingly uninhabitable and harsh place, life finds a way to flourish.

Facilities in Antarctica

Marisa told me that in 1978, there was only one building on base which served as a medical facility staffed by one doctor. In 1979, a fire destroyed that building. It has since been rebuilt, and there are now several medical facilities with doctors and nurses, a church, a post office, a museum, a school, and even a radio station in Esperanza, which is the only operating radio station on the entire continent.

Antarctica as Art

Marisa explained the relationship between art and Antarctica as the search for truth in silence. Art is a place where we are forced to confront ourselves. Antarctica is like standing in front of a blank canvas, where we confront the infinite — just as when we are standing at the edge of the world in front of the ever-expansive polar landscape. Both challenge us to find beauty where others see emptiness. To find connection where others see isolation — just as the severe winter Antarctica storms sculpt ice into ever-changing forms.

Marisa has expressed that her life has been a bridge between these two worlds - the

silence of ice and the voice of art. Through her work, she tries to bring the invisible stories of Antarctica to life.

Preserving the Heartbeat of Antarctica

Together with the ten other Antarctica-born people, Marisa created and is the president/founder of the organization Native Antarcticans. Their mission is five-fold:

- To protect the symbolic power of Antarctica as a beacon of peace
- To remind the world that people have lived and loved in desolate beauty
- To inspire new generations that Antarctica is a vital part of our shared story, a place that exemplifies when nations choose cooperation over conflict
- To show that in Antarctica the impossible is possible, through education, culture projects, art exhibitions, and environmental initiatives
- To show a place with no borders can unite a world divided
- To stand for the preservation of the continent's natural purity, and that a fragile earth must be cared with the same tenderness that brought life to this distant frozen place

Antarctica is The Heartbeat of our Planet

Antarctica has been ravaged by climate change in recent decades like many other places in the world, particularly at the northern and southern extremes of the world. Marisa wants the world to know that Antarctica is the heartbeat of our planet, with its glaciers holding the majority of earth's fresh water. Its cold currents regulate the oceans. Its storms shape the weather patterns of the

earth. When Antarctica suffers, the whole world does.

To follow the work Marisa De Las Nieves Delgado: Facebook: *Native_Antarcticans*, Instagram: *@native_antarcticans*, Website: *taac-us.org*

JIA-JEN LIN Interdisciplinary Artist

Jia-Jen Lin is a Taiwanese artist born in Taichung. She was traditionally trained as a painter and holds a BFA from the National Taiwan University, before later receiving her MFA in Sculpture, Installation, and Multimedia from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in Boston. She moved to New York City in 2007.

As an artist specializing in an interdisciplinary approach, Jia-Jen has drawn upon her diverse training and has carved out a unique career by creating installations spanning several media, including sculpture, photography, video, sound, text, and performance art. Her practice explores human experiences and conditions. She creates visual presentations to investigate the human body and its surroundings as a reflection of our psyche.

Since the start of the pandemic, Jia-Jen has been deeply disturbed by the destruction and social violence that has plagued New York City. With climate change, social movements like Black Lives Matter, and Asian hate crimes all happening at the same time, she was compelled to express her feelings through her art. This includes employing the concept of "landscape" visualized as a

continued on page 25

Art Journey *continued from page 24*

battleground and extension of the human body, while exploring the concept of “post-landscape” where nature, human activities, digital media, and materiality intersect.

Treading on Thin Ice

These concurrent events beginning in 2020 inspired Jia-Jen to create a series called *Treading on Thin Ice*, her collection contemplating human conditions under progressive catastrophes resulting from social issues and climate change. This deep reflection, inquisitiveness and exploration into her own interdisciplinary work is what has guided Jia-Jen to pursue her two fascinating trips to the Arctic. These were important art research trips in 2022 and 2024 to the world’s northernmost inhabited lands of Svalbard, which is an isolated Norwegian island archipelago hundreds of miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Both trips were made possible by the Arctic Circle, a program bringing artists, scientists, environmentalists, writers, and performers together on the same boat to sail around Svalbard. However, her first scheduled trip to Svalbard was postponed in October 2020 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions. Meanwhile, Jia-Jen continued to work on her concept of *Treading on Thin Ice*.

In 2022, she secured a new art show in Miami which was her first *Treading on Thin Ice* exhibition. She presented a man-made environment which juxtaposed the familiar and unfamiliar, including a backyard-like installation resembling sculptures of concrete pavers and artificial grass. During this time, Jia-Jen also collaborated with laboratory scientists and actors to create natural and artificial landscapes which culminated

in her video of a scenic panorama captured on Mars!

Breaking New Ground

Jia-Jen finally received clearance to sail with her group around Svalbard after her Miami show in 2022. Thirty to forty scientists, artists, actors, writers, and performers lived in close quarters on a large sailboat for two weeks. They started out in the central west near the town of Longyearbyen and set sail to uninhabited Bear Island, the northernmost island on the archipelago.

On her first visit to Svalbard, during hiking trips while on polar in-field research, the group was required to carry a rifle at all times. This is by law, as on Svalbard it is a common occurrence to see polar bears. Based on this amazing trip Jia-Jen was able to create a three-channel generative visual called *Collapsing Landscape*, which employed video, sound, generative visual, sculpture, and text to reimagine where we, as humans, stand amid our changing land. It was shown around Taipei in 2023 as part of the Video Bi-Annual.

Her second trip in 2024 was a vastly different experience; it was a Special Circumnavigation Expedition. She was on a large ship with over 100 people onboard. Borne from this Svalbard trip Jia-Jin, in collaboration with a writer and music composer, produced a virtual mixed reality work in 2025 which showed in Berlin. It was centered about the trash in Svalbard!

To view Jia-Jin’s work, visit *Governors Island House 17*. Website: taac-us.org

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



UNDER BLUE-EYED SUMMER SKIES, a Village sweet spot is LaGuardia Corner Gardens, sitting along the east side of La Guardia Place. LCG actually consists of 26 separate plots which, with the Time Landscape, form a “river of green” from West 3rd Street halfway to Houston. Full to brimming during the growing season with vivid perennials like marigolds, roses, daylilies, and a sumptuous bouquet of green delights, this award-winning community garden was founded in 1981 by devoted volunteers who transformed a vacant lot into a prized urban pocket park. Photo by Susan M. Silver.

This Fall: the Jefferson Market Archive!

BY CORINNE NEARY

This upcoming Fall is a highly anticipated time for us at Jefferson Market Library, as something we’ve been working towards will be coming to fruition. As regular readers will know, we have an extensive archive, one that has exponentially grown in the past couple of years as we unearthed some previously unseen files, and have had them professionally organized, or “archived” as we say.

For some time now, these archives have been safely stored in archival boxes, awaiting their forever home. In the next few months, that home, a specially designed archives cabinet, will be constructed in our basement. Not only will it be beautiful, the cabinet will keep our archives safe, super organized (at the library, this is something we love) and most importantly, publicly accessible!

To celebrate this development, we are working on a September exhibit which will showcase some lesser-known items from the archive, and we hope it will get people excited about using the archives for their own research. We have lots of information about the building before its current life as



FROM THE ARCHIVES - a child’s drawing of the library from the 40th Anniversary of the library!

a library, as well as during the renovations, the library and garden in past decades, and

a bit of neighborhood ephemera.

For now, we thought we’d dip into some

archival reader favorites: Jefferson Market Library reference questions from the past! This time, August of 1972. What were library users asking librarians about in the dog days of summer, 53 years ago? Here’s a sampling:

- Is pilsner beer 12 percent alcohol?
- Pictures of Carmen Miranda
- Divorce laws
- How to make perfumes
- Definition of “Camp”
- Migrant labor
- History of Ouija board
- How to make various cocktails
- Termite control
- Where was Nathan Hale done in?
- Pictures of a crow
- Colleges in New York that offer phys. ed. curriculum

These reference questions were recorded in books by librarians after every patron interaction, and what you see above is exactly how they were jotted down. Stay tuned for more archive news, and as always, please check our website for upcoming programs!

August 2025

EVENTS

in and
around the
West
Village

MUSIC

MUSIC, WINE, AND SLAB PIES IN THE VILLAGE: VIOLIN AND PIANO DUETS

Monday, August 18 at 7 PM

Saint John's in the Village

218 West 11th Street

stjvny.org/arts-upcoming

Violin and piano duets, featuring beloved classical works, and exciting contemporary classical music showcasing American, British, and Mexican composers. Stay after the concert, meet the artists, make new friends and enjoy the homemade Eastern European slab pies, cheeses, and fruit. Program Highlights include Paganini, Schubert, Coldplay, Queen, The Jacksons and Kaoma.

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK FOLK FESTIVAL

August 16 2025, 1:00-5:00 PM

Garibaldi Plaza

washingtonsqpark.org

The 15th annual Folk Festival, presented by the Jalopy Theater & School of Music!

JAM SESSION HOSTED BY KYLE COLINA

August 5, 11:45 PM - 4:00 AM

Smalls

183 West 10th St. basement

smallslive.com



RAENA WHITE - DEAR WHITNEY

A Heartfelt Tribute to Whitney Houston

Honoring the Icon's Life and Legacy

August 9th, 7 PM & 9:30 PM

Joe's Pub

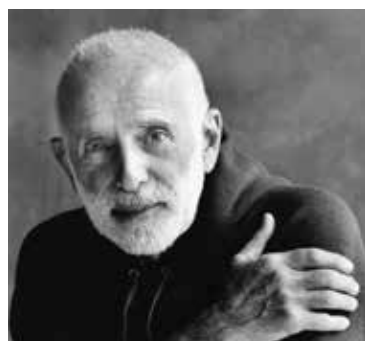
425 Lafayette Street (At Astor Place)

publictheater.org/joes-pub

Acclaimed Broadway actress and powerhouse vocalist Raena White continues to make waves on the music scene with her return to the legendary Joe's Pub for a special evening celebrating the life and legacy of the one and only Whitney Houston. To be held on Houston's birthday on Saturday, August 9, Dear Whitney is a moving tribute to the beloved icon.

DANCE

The Joyce Ballet Festival: Jerome Robbins



Tue Aug 12 - Sun Aug 17

Joyce Theater

Curated by Tiler Peck

175 Eighth Avenue

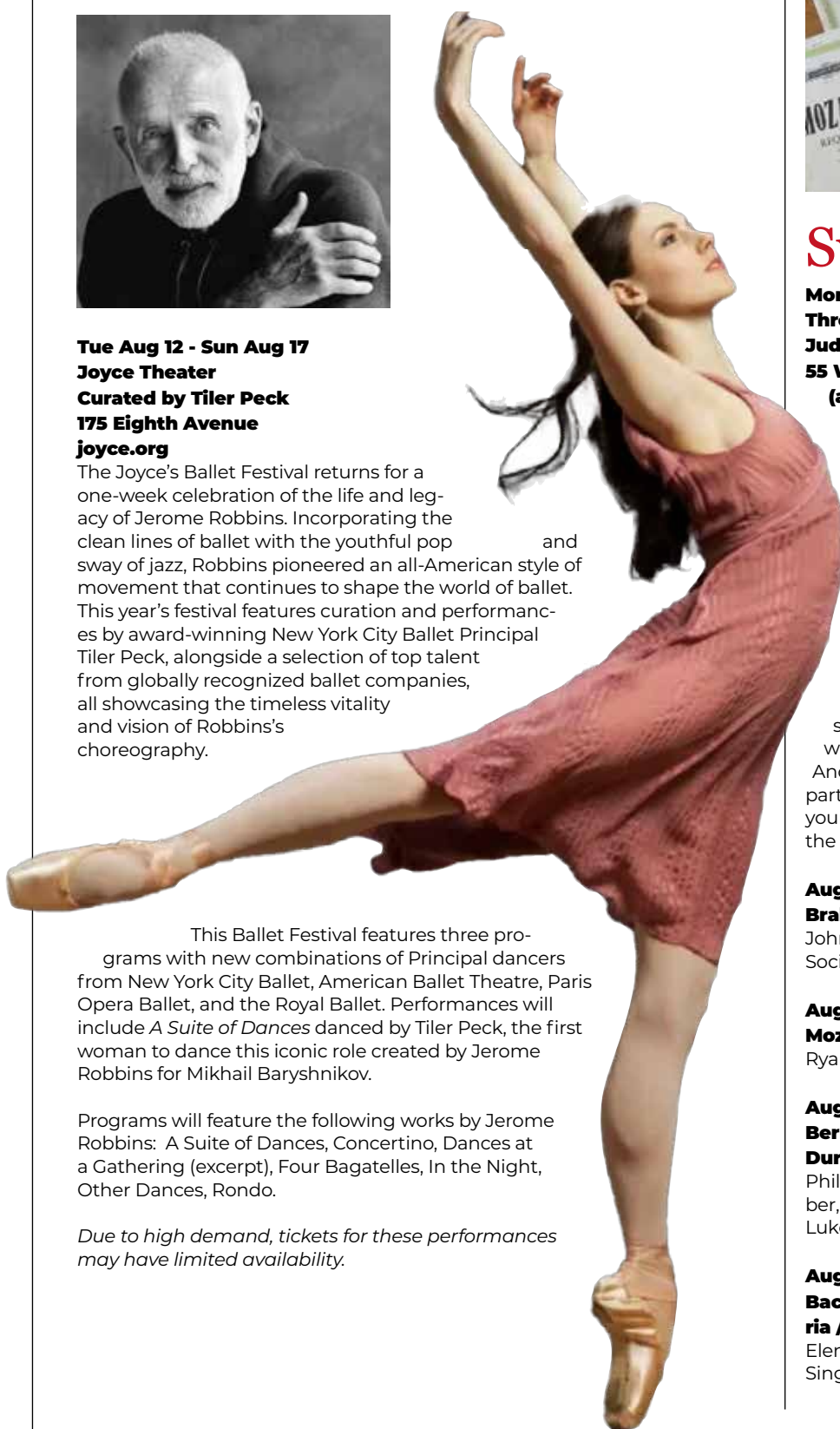
joyce.org

The Joyce's Ballet Festival returns for a one-week celebration of the life and legacy of Jerome Robbins. Incorporating the clean lines of ballet with the youthful pop and sway of jazz, Robbins pioneered an all-American style of movement that continues to shape the world of ballet. This year's festival features curation and performances by award-winning New York City Ballet Principal Tiler Peck, alongside a selection of top talent from globally recognized ballet companies, all showcasing the timeless vitality and vision of Robbins's choreography.

This Ballet Festival features three programs with new combinations of Principal dancers from New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Paris Opera Ballet, and the Royal Ballet. Performances will include *A Suite of Dances* danced by Tiler Peck, the first woman to dance this iconic role created by Jerome Robbins for Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Programs will feature the following works by Jerome Robbins: *A Suite of Dances*, *Concertino*, *Dances at a Gathering* (excerpt), *Four Bagatelles*, *In the Night*, *Other Dances*, *Rondo*.

Due to high demand, tickets for these performances may have limited availability.



Summer Sings

Mondays @ 7:30 PM

Through August 25th

Judson Memorial Church

55 Washington Square South

(at Thompson Street)

Accessible entrance available at

243 Thompson Street

Summer Sings—begun by founding director, Gwen Gould, in 1972(!)—are open sings of (mostly) well-known choral works, designed to offer singers and choral enthusiasts the opportunity to keep their vocal and sight-reading skills in shape while most area choruses are on their summer hiatus. And you don't need to have sung a piece to participate in a particular week's Sing—in fact, for some Sings of very popular pieces, we've welcomed people who just like to listen! And you're welcome to try out a different part than you usually sing—if, say, you find your soprano self experiencing alto envy on the Fauré Requiem!

August 4th

Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem

John Maclay, Music Director, The Choral Society of Grace Church

August 11th

Mozart: Requiem (K. 626)

Ryan Brandau, Artistic Director, Amor Artis

August 18th

Bernstein: Chichester Psalms

Durufié: Ubi Caritas

Philip Cheah, Freelance Conductor, Member, Professional Choir of The Church of St. Luke-in-the-Fields

August 25th

Bach: Magnificat / Stravinsky: Ave Maria / Thompson: Alleluia

Elena Williamson, Director, Park Slope Singers



Rolling Stone Presents: Amplified NYC

Until August 31
Artechouse NYC
439 W 15th Street
nyc@artechouse.com
AMPLIFIED offers a 50-minute im-
mersive journey into the music, history,
imagery and culture of rock 'n' roll,
encompassing over 1,000 photographs,
200 videos, 1,300 Rolling Stone covers,
and featuring over 300 iconic artists
whose music changed the world. Nar-
rated by actor/musician Kevin Bacon,
the unprecedented audio and visual
experience transports audiences
utilizing ARTECHOUSE's cutting
edge, 270-degree, floor to ceiling
18K-resolution digital canvas and
state-of-the-art surround sound.s

CLASSES

**FLYING TRAPEZE, AERIALS
AND CIRCUS**
Circus Academy New York
Pier 40, 353 West Street
circusacademy.com/flying-trapeze
Experience the joy of flying through
the air with the greatest of ease! Our
Flying Trapeze classes let students
safely experience the exhilaration of
this extraordinary circus art, regardless
of fitness level or athletic background.

THEMED CLASSES
Retired But Not Tired (21+)
A flying trapeze class geared toward
flyers age 50+. Each week we will
train flying trapeze, followed by a
sipping-and-socializing excursion to
a different local happy hour, specially
curated by flying coach and cocktail
connoisseur, Stuart! All levels wel-
come, beginner to advanced.
Date Night (18+)
A perfect date night activity. Bring a
date, bring a friend, or just come on
your own! A second attendee is not
required. Enjoy the flying, the sunset
and the vibes! All levels welcome,
beginner to advanced.

HUDSON RIVER PARK

WETLAB LOOK-INS - PIER 40
Free Throughout August
Tues & Wed 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Saturdays 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
hudsonriverpark.org
The Park's Wetlab aquarium features Hud-
son River wildlife and provides guided tours
for visitors of all ages.

BIG CITY FISHING - PIER 26
August 7, 14, 21, 3:00 - 6:00PM
hudsonriverpark.org
Anglers ages 5 and up are invited to par-
ticipate at this program, with parental su-
pervision required. Our River Project team
provides all the necessary equipment and
an on-site fishing tutorial.

TERRESTRIALS PRESENTS
WILDERNESS WONDERLAND
August 6 and 7, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Little Island
littleisland.org/event/radiolab
Bring your littles for a FREE one-hour activ-
ity series featuring nature-inspired fun. Kids
will sing, crawl, buzz, and bloom through a
choose-your-own-adventure-style experi-
ence celebrating the wildlife of the land,
sea, and air on and around Little Island.

ART

LUCIENNE WEINBERGER:
A LIFE OF ART
August 8-24
Westbeth Gallery
55 Bethune Street at
Washington Street
westbeth.org
A retrospective exhibition of paintings,
mixed-media collages and sculptures by
the late visual artist Lucienne Weinberger
(June 23, 1942, October 22, 2024).
The show is curated by Valérie Hallier.
Lucienne dedicated her entire adult life to
making and teaching art.

FILM

MOVIES IN THE SQUARE
Union Square Park - North Plaza

THE TAKING OF PELHAM
ONE TWO THREE
August 7, 6:30 - 10:00 PM

13 GOING ON 30
August 14, 6:30 - 10:00 PM

Summer Streets

August 2, 9, 16
Brooklyn Bridge to Dyckman Street,
along Lafayette Street
and Park Avenue
nyc.gov/pedestrians/
summerstreets.shtml



The largest-ever Summer Streets
program is set to return, and will run
in Manhattan for three consecutive
Saturdays in August. From 7:00 a.m. to
3:00 p.m. each Saturday in August, New
Yorkers will enjoy miles of streets open to
pedestrians, cyclists, and families — free
of cars and full of free programming,
art, fitness, and cultural activities. This
year marks a historic expansion of the
program, with a continuous route span-
ning the length of Manhattan, from the
Brooklyn Bridge to Inwood.



8 Questions Sellers Should Ask Brokers..... Before they Hire One!

COMPASS

The difference
between a successful
sale and a stressful
one starts with
selecting an agent
you can trust.



Price and commission
are important
considerations. But, is
that all?

1. What is your marketing strategy? What steps will you take so I receive the maximum market exposure, hence the maximum price?
2. What is your valuation and pricing strategy for my property? How will you help me price my property so I get the top dollar for it and do not leave money on the table? But in the same time we do not scare most of the buyers away.
3. How will you protect me from the risks of sale not closing with buyers with mortgage contingency in the sales contract?
4. How will you protect me from losing all buyers in the multiple bids situation?
5. Is now the best time to place my property on the market? Why? If not, when is it and why?
6. Please explain in detail the difference in the range and quality of services I should expect from you and your firm? And how is that different if I hire a discount broker?
7. Why do you think you are the best person for this assignment?
8. Is there anything else I should be asking you?



Compass is a licensed real estate broker, licensed to do business as Compass RE in Delaware, Idaho, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, Compass Realty Group in Kansas and Missouri, Compass Carolinas, LLC in South Carolina, and Compass Real Estate in New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Washington, DC., Idaho and Wyoming and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.



Kelly Craig
Lic. Assoc. R.E. Broker
M: 917.656.5682
kelly.craig@compass.com