



THE ANTHEMION

Spring 1996

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

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Annual Report 1995-1996

Archive Committee Report

Elizabeth Greenburg, Chairman

The Committee inaugurated the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project with a salute to preservation pioneers on March 3rd. The event reunited preservationists who had not seen one another in many years, and included an enlightening presentation on the history of the Village preservation movement by Anthony C. Wood. Thanks to funding from Furthermore..., the Committee launched the project with group interviews and individual conversations with pioneers. Several donations were made to the Archive, including photographs from Verna Small, and papers from the late Richard B. Barnett.

Awards Committee Report

James Stewart Polshek, Chairman

The Committee is pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Village Award recipients, who will be highlighted in the Fall 1996 Anthemion. They are: El Faro Restaurant, Grace Church Restoration, Matt Umanov Guitars, Rita Lee, Sixth Precinct Quality of Life Squad, Statue of Fiorello LaGuardia, Uta Hagen and HB Studios, Village Vanguard, and our Front Stoop recipient—the pedestrian/bike path along the Hudson River waterfront.

Benefit Committee Report

Elinor Ratner, Chairman

The Committee organized a lecture by the internationally renowned artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude on April 30, at the Tishman Auditorium of NYU Law School. An enthusiastic audience of over 200 people heard the artists discuss their recently completed project in Berlin, as well as

plans for a future proposal, "The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York." Following the lecture, patrons attended a dinner party at the home of GVSHP Vice-President Elizabeth Greenburg. The Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in this special event, and reports proceeds of \$14,000.

Education Committee Report

Anthony Zunino, Chairman

The Elementary School Program has enjoyed a record breaking year with over 500 students during the fall semester alone. The recently published workbook *Discovering Greenwich Village* was made available to each student and has been such an exciting success that it has been offered to school libraries and local bookstores. Additional programs have helped introduce children to the value of the historic environment, such as the walking tour "Immigrant Families of Greenwich Village" and the "Architectural Treasures Hunt." A five day collaborative workshop for children living in temporary housing in the Bronx, sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs, brought the history of the Village and its architecture into the lives of 30 children. For information about free children's tours scheduled for this summer, or to purchase *Discovering Greenwich Village* (\$3.95), please call the GVSHP office.

Membership/Development Committee Report

Arbie Thalacker, Chairman

The Committee reports continued progress in expanding membership and development support. If projected renewals come in, membership totals will continue at about 1,000, and contributions will be up substantially. We thank the many generous

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a year of challenges met and ventures taken, a year of vigorous growth and steady progress for GVSHP. It's been a time of innovative new projects, increased membership (now numbering over 1000 Villagers and friends), a series of acclaimed children's educational programs, new funding sources, and strong leadership on preservation issues.

There's so much activity going on that it's hard to believe that GVSHP has a staff of just one full-time person and two part-time assistants (all extraordinarily energetic and well organized!). The organization is also fortunate to have the strong participation of many other people: an effective and hard-working Board of Trustees, a cadre of stalwart volunteers (vigorous enough to climb the five flights to GVSHP's office), and a remarkable number of active committee members who have taken on an increasingly important role at GVSHP.

We'd like to acknowledge those who actively participated on committees during this past year, and we encourage all of you to call to the GVSHP office to say you're willing to get involved in the activities of the coming year.

Our special thanks go to: Frank Addeo, Eric Allison, Edith Evans Asbury, Francesca Breuer, Mickey Friedman, Elizabeth Gilmore, Laura Hanson, Adrienne Hartman, Angela Hederman, Julie Iovine, Jane King, Ken Lustbader, Holly Maxson, Jack Meserole, Toshiko Mori, Jeff Mulligan, the late Mary Perot Nichols, Janet Parks, Hilary Stevens Peterson, Nezka Pfeiffer, Alice Sandler, Peter Simmons, Verna Small, Ray Sokolov, Stella Spinato, Claire Tankel, Gus Theodoro, Robert Thomas, Calvin Trillin, Arnold Warwick, Anthony Wood, and Shirley Wright.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the projects and activities described in the committee reports indicate, GVSHP is enjoying healthy growth and expansion on almost every level. We hope you, our members and friends, are pleased with our progress, and we invite your input as we plan activities for the next year.

None of the things GVSHP accomplishes would be possible without the participation of its hard-working Board of Trustees. We are very fortunate that two active GVSHP members, Fred Wistow and Anthony C. Wood, will become Trustees at our Annual Meeting in June.

Fred Wistow is the executive vice president and general counsel of Warner Music Group, and has undergraduate and graduate degrees from New York University. He's been a GVSHP member since 1985, and we are thrilled that he will now be getting even more involved.

Tony Wood is the chair emeritus of the Historic Districts Council, and has been an active preservation advocate and historian for more than 15 years. His involvement in the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project has been vital to its early progress.

We welcome both Fred and Tony!

Vicki Weiner



GVSHP

THE GREENWICH
VILLAGE SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Annual Report...

members of GVSHP for their annual donations. At this writing, GVSHP's new brochure is about to go to press (with the important support of Borough President Ruth Messinger's office). The brochure, which contains a very readable map of the Village, will be distributed to all members, and will be the focal point of an active campaign this Fall to attract Village businesses as new members of the Business Council. The Business Council program will significantly enhance GVSHP's financial support and visibility. GVSHP's fundraising efforts were rewarded this year with a number of new grants. We thank our major foundation and corporate donors for their very generous support: Chase Manhattan Corporation, Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Citibank, Consolidated Edison of New York, Corcoran Group, Dover Fund, East Tenth Street Block Association, Elliot Willensky Fund, Felicia Fund, Furthermore..., Greenwich Mews Homeowners Association, Manhattan Borough President's Tourism Grant, Natural Heritage Trust, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York Preservation Archive Project, Scholastic Inc., van Amerigen Foundation, van Itallie Foundation, Vincent Astor Foundation.

Preservation Committee Report

Arbie Thalacker, Acting Chairman

This year the Committee suffered the loss of its Chair, founding GVSHP Trustee Richard B. Barnett, who died in December. Since participating with the community on the designation of a waterfront historic district was one of Dick's goals, GVSHP has persisted in this effort. Strategy sessions with Village leaders and citywide preservation advocates will continue throughout the summer, and we hope there will be good news to report this Fall. Other Committee activities include the documentation of unprotected Federal period houses in Lower Manhattan, and work with the community on the revitalization of the Jefferson Market Library bell. The Committee plans to continue its important work next Fall, and would be happy to have new members.

Program Committee Report

Alan Neumann, Chairman

Programs for the year were designed to engage a wide cross-section of people interested in the Village's and its built environment. This year we tried to provide something for everyone—whether it was an architectural treasures hunt for kids, a lecture on terra cotta, or "field trip" to historic buildings in the Berkshires, we found that all our programs drew the enthusiastic and the curious. An important series of conservation workshops for homeowners, sponsored by Chubb and presented in conjunction with the Greenwich Village Homeowners Association, continued to provide practical solutions to conservation problems such as the proper restoration of windows, the replacement of ironwork and stoops, and the treatment of blue-stone sidewalks. Our acclaimed monthly *Preservation Cafe* discussion series continued to provoke thought and discussion on such issues as the preservation of Federal period houses, the photography of Berenice Abbott, the history of women educators in the Village, and the early (1906) preservation battle over St. John's Church (to name but a few!). See you in the fall of 1996!

GVSHP Board of Trustees 1995-1996

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