New GVSHP Publication:
Young People Will Love Discovering Greenwich Village

Last Fall GVSHP published a very special historical guidebook for children ages 7–12. Discovering Greenwich Village, a workbook for young people, features twelve original pages filled with illustrations, descriptive text, and activities that tell the story of Greenwich Village and teach the basic concepts of Federal and Greek Revival architecture. The workbook includes an introduction to historic preservation, impressing upon children the importance of treating old, beloved buildings with care.

Discovering Greenwich Village will be used by students during the walking tour of GVSHP’s elementary school program, offering them a permanent record of their participation in the three-part program. The workbook is also appropriate for school groups to use on their own during class time, or for students to take along on an after-school walk with a parent or friend. It was designed and illustrated exclusively for GVSHP by Angela Hedeman and Adrienne Hartman of The Little Book Room, a local publishing company of non-fiction children’s books.

Discovering Greenwich Village can be purchased directly from GVSHP, for $3.95, by calling 924-3895, or at local bookstores.

1996 Will Be A Busy Year!
New Support Means New Projects for GVSHP

This year, GVSHP will be launching several new projects, thanks to significant support from a number of new funders. In coming months, members and friends will be hearing a great deal about the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project; a series of Conservation Workshops for Homeowners; the Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Design Competition; an art and architecture program for Children in Temporary Housing; and a new map and guide of the Village for visitors and residents, Greenwich Village: History and Historic Preservation.

Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project
With generous grants from FURTHERMORE, a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Elliot Willensky Fund of the Municipal Art Society, GVSHP has embarked upon an ambitious project which will document and preserve the history of the preservation (continued on page 3)
Trustee Richard B. Barnett
GVSHP Loses Founding Member

GVSHP sadly announces the passing of Trustee Richard B. Barnett, who died on December 6, 1995. Dick was a founder of GVSHP, former Board President, and Chairman of the Preservation Committee. His wisdom, integrity, and unwavering sense of duty will be greatly missed.

A resident and homeowner in the Village since 1954, Dick was an early advocate of historic preservation and a leader in the field for most of his life. He was especially well-known for his even-handedness in resolving differing opinions. He served as President of the West Village Committee, working closely with urban historian Jane Jacobs and others in defeating an urban renewal plan that would have destroyed a major portion of Greenwich Village.

He helped found GVSHP in 1980, and was its President from 1987 to 1991. During his tenure, GVSHP undertook an extensive documented study, The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront, published by NYU Press in 1989. Dick was also on the Board of the Washington Square Association, where he worked toward the much needed restoration of the Washington Square Arch. In 1992 he was honored by the Association at its annual Washington’s Birthday Ball for his outstanding contributions to the Greenwich Village community.

At the time of his death, Dick was Chair of GVSHP’s Preservation Committee, as well as a public member of the Landmarks Committee of Community Board #2. He was devoted to working with the community on achieving a landmark designated Historic District for the Greenwich Village waterfront neighborhood. GVSHP continues to work alongside Community Board #2 on this issue in hopes that Dick’s dream of a protected waterfront neighborhood can be fulfilled.

Dick’s devotion to GVSHP for the past 15 years has been generously recognized by a number of people who made contributions in his memory. They are: Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Ashworth, Bernard Atwood, Penelope Breaux, the Barnett Family, Rita and David Barnett, R. Glenn and Rosemary Bauer, Douglas Bowring, Walter and Ursula Cliff, Colonial Navigation, William and Jean Crawford, Cunard/Marilu Marshall, Stephen Darnell, Richard and Marianne Dorado, Eletson Maritime Corporation, Elizabeth Greenburg, Emery Harper, John Heuss, Hill Betts and Nash LLP, Keiser Associates, Baron and Baroness Lagerfelt, Caroline Lagerfelt, Monique Lagerfelt, Julius Maiman, John McConnell, Henry Monaghan and Nancy Hengen, Kendyl Monroe, George Moratis, Alan Neumann, Lennard Rambusch, Elinor Ratner, Julie and Luis Rinaldini, Elise Rippe, Hadley & Mary Lee Roe, J.R. and Mary John Siphron, Judith Stonehill, Teekay Shipping/Anthony Gunnar, Richard Teiman, Arbie Thalacker, and Anthony Zunino. We thank them for their remembrances, which will assist us in continuing the work that was so important to Dick.
Busy Year...

(continued from page 4) movement in Greenwich Village. The Greenwich Village Preservation Oral History Project will create a collection of interviews, clippings, materials, and personal papers that document fifty years of grass-roots advocacy for the preservation of the built environment in Greenwich Village.

The project has evolved from GVSHP's growing realization that the historic Village's architectural heritage, which safeguards the nation's architectural history, has done very little to document, preserve, and interpret itself. Greenwich Village has a deeply entrenched tradition of historic preservation which can offer inspiration to young preservationists only if it is, itself, documented and preserved. This summer GVSHP will move its home of a number of preservation pioneers and was one of the earliest and strongest communities in the nation to advocate for landmarked historic district. Many of the people who actively participated in the earliest days of the movement still live in the Village, and GVSHP will learn all it can about the movement's history from those who experienced it. The documentation process will begin this spring with the interviews of several Preservation Pioneers—early Village preservation advocates.

The recorded interviews will become part of the collection itself, and will provide an enormous body of research for future contributions to the archive. Among the long-term goals for the Project is to offer a permanent home for the personal papers of Greenwich Village's preservation advocates; to house and maintain these valuable materials; and to create a research library to provide students, scholars, and the community access to the collection.

Exhibitions and other public programs for children and adults will encourage the community to make use of the collection and learn about the Village's extraodinary preservation history.

On Sunday, March 3, 1996, GVSHP will hold an inaugural reception to honor the preservation pioneers of the Village and celebrate the founding of the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive. For more information, call GVSHP at 924-3995.

Conservation Workshops for Homeowners

The Church Group of Insurance Companies has generously sponsored a three-part series of panel discussions that provides information and practical advice to owners of Village buildings within the Greenwich Village Historic District. In each session, a conservation issue is analyzed by architects, conservators, and representatives of relevant City agencies such as the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

This Fall GVSHP presented the first symposium (continued on page 4).

Busy Year...

(continued from page 3) of the series, "Historic Windows: Issues for Homeowners," which dealt with the restoration of historic windows. Co-sponsored with the Association of Greenwich Village Homeowners, the Windows Symposium offered information on the identification of conservation problems, advice on the proper way to address such problems, and tips on how to work with the Landmarks Commission on making appropriate changes and repairs. An interested audience of fifty homeowners and block association representatives enjoyed the session, and a number of conservation professionals were on hand to offer one-on-one consultations.

On Thursday, March 21, 1996 GVSHP will offer the second Conservation sponsored session, "Out From The Facade: Stoops, Sidewalks, and Building Accessories." For details, consult "Upcoming Events," page 2.

The Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Design Competition

The important and generous support of The Vincent Astor Foundation will allow GVSHP to launch its first-ever design competition. Currently being planned by a special committee, the Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Design Competition will ask art, architecture and architecture students in area schools to explore design options for an important urban space in the heart of the Village and its Historic District. The Triangle is well known to Villagers; situated at the intersection of Sixth Avenue, Greenwich Avenue and Christopher Street just south of the Jefferson Market Library. Once called Village Square, the Triangle was named for the late preservation pioneer Ruth Wittenberg, who was instrumental in the designation of the Village Historic District. Community Board #2 recently laid a plaque to Ms. Wittenberg on the site, and GVSHP hopes art and design students will generate new ideas for transforming the entire intersection into a positive contributor to the neighborhood that Ms. Wittenberg affected so positively herself. The competition will take place next fall, and the winning design will be publicly exhibited in 1997.

Art and Architecture Workshop for Children in Temporary Housing

The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, in conjunction with the NYC Public Schools, the Department of Homeless Services, and the NYC State Education Department, has awarded a grant to GVSHP in collaboration with Doing Art Together and Learning By Design. NY to conduct an art and architecture workshop for children living in temporary housing. During April break spring, 30 children, ages 8-11, will be transported from District 8 (continued on page 6).

GVSHP Preservation Advocacy

Waterfront Historic District; Jefferson Market Library Bell; Federal Period Houses

GVSHP Trustees unanimously passed a resolution in January that declared the Waterfront Historic District, which was submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for designation. The resolution calls for the preservation of the Village waterfront area based on its significant historic, Greek Revival and industrial architecture, its rich cultural history, and its views of the Hudson river which have remained largely unchanged for more than a century. GVSHP’s resolution joins those of Community Board #2 submitted annually over the past 10 years, in asking LPC for some action...GVSHP is participating with a special committee of community members interested in restoring the bell in the Jefferson Market Regional Library clock tower. Inspired by the continued vigil of Margot Gayle, the Friends of the Jefferson Market Library Bell, we have engaged the NY Public Library in the effort and have launched a fundraising campaign to get the bell ringing...LPC is interested in the possible designation of a number of Federal Period houses that have managed to survive in Lower Manhattan. GVSHP’s research intern, Columbia University preservation student Susan DeVries, has conducted a photographic survey of 80 buildings—none of which are landmarked—dating from 1802 to 1832. Susan’s photos are revealing; they offer a compelling case study of what happens to historic structures that are not protected by landmark designation. GVSHP continues to work with LPC toward the designation of some of these architectural treasures.

Historic photograph of Greenwich Street and Ninth Avenue, taken in 1876, is proposed Waterfront Historic District (from the CV Preservation Archives).

Washington Square, June 27, 1927, "transformed for an old-fashioned lawn party" complete with dance floor, refreshment tables, and live swans (from the GV Preservation Archive).

Continued from page 2

PRESERVATION CAFE

The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers: Sex and Culture in 19th Century New York by Amy Gilman Sennrich. Author. Monday March 26, 9 P.M., 149 Waverly Place, 6:00 P.M. Free, cash bar.

An author and History Professor at Montclair State University, Amy Gilman Sennrich will discuss her acclaimed new book, The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers—the intriguing story of the violent death of a beautiful woman in New York City in 1841. Ms. Sennrich will discuss why this tax’s ramifications remain at the center of public and political debate. A grotesque reminder that the study of history is an act of detection on the Abbyseful body of the past.

FAMILIES WALKING TOUR

"Architectural Treasures Hunt for Families" Saturday, April 20, Meets at the Arch at Washington Square Park at 1:00 PM, and will be followed by a party at Barnes & Noble Books at Union Square. $8 members, $12 guests. Child under 16 attend free.

Children accompanied by an adult are invited to join in an "architectural treasures" hunt through the Village. Participants will be sent into a defined area—map in hand—in search of evidence of the 19th century. A concluding party will be held for GVSHP in the children’s books division of Barnes & Noble at Union Square, where prizes and treats will be distributed.

PRESERVATION CAFE

"The Graphics Art District: A Modenist Transformation" Monday April 29, Robert McKean Thomas, Preservationist, Gra’s Place, 149 Waverly Place, 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Thomas will discuss the catalytic transformation in the early part of this century of a small scale neighborhood, characterized by Federal Era homes, into the graphic arts district, containing the type of concrete factory buildings which inspired European Modernists. The current graphic arts district retains vestiges of both its former Federal residential character as well as the later industrial infrastructure. How might these two time periods be preserved?

More events, page 6...

"New York" magazine, Volume 13, Number 3, 1996.
Summer Walking Tours
GVSPH’s Tours for Children will Continue in 1996

The inaugural season of children’s summer walking tours in Greenwich Village began with a bang in last July’s humidity. Participants included summer school children in the Grace Opportunity Project; the successful remedial program of the Grace Church School, as well as children from a similar program initiated by St. Luke’s-in-the-Fields. Tour guide Nezka Pfeifer, who wrote and adapted the tours, lead groups of 1st-4th graders all over the Village, pointing out various historical landmarks and architectural elements. In all, Ms. Pfeifer lead 12 tours, each focusing either on the history of immigration in the Village, or the architecture of the Village’s many houses of worship. The immigration history walking tour brought the children to Washington Square Park, the Italian immigrant neighborhood south of Bleecker Street, and to the Minetta Street area—the site of Little Africa from the 1920s to the 1960s. The children learned a great deal about the lives of immigrant children, their education, work, play and survival in a new country.

In the tour of historic houses of worship, Ms. Pfeifer lead us to many of the special religious sites in the Village, including Catholic and Protestant churches, Jewish synagogues and the Jewish cemetery on 11th Street, and the site of Abyssinian Baptist Church across from the Northern Dispensary. The children were given a checklist of architectural elements in order to encourage visual analysis of the Village’s built environment.

The children’s summer walking tour series would not have been possible without the generous support of the Chase Manhattan Foundation, Giribaldi, and the New York University University Community Fund. GVSPH plans to offer the free series of tours again this summer, and has added two tours to the repertoire: Federal and Creek Revival Architecture in Greenwich Village, and Sayakamakan: The First “Village.” For more information about scheduling a tour, or to volunteer as a tour guide, please call 924-3895.

continued from page 4
GVSPH ANNUAL BENEFIT “An Evening with Christo and Jeanne-Claude” Tuesday, April 30, New York University, Law School Auditorium, 6:30 PM. Lecture $25 per person. $20 GVSPH members, $15 Seniors and Students. Lecture and Dinner with the Artists, $300 per person.

GVSPH is pleased to announce that Christo and Jeanne-Claude will discuss their internationally renowned work at a benefit. This extraordinary evening will include an illustrated lecture on the recent wrapping of the Reichstag, and two works in progress. Over The River, Project for Western USA; and The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York. Patrons of the event will join Christo and Jeanne-Claude post-lecture for dinner party, in the home of a GVSPH Trustee. Be a part of this rare opportunity to spend an evening with two of the world’s most intriguing artists.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY AND JUNE EVENTS: Some exciting events are being planned, including: a very special walking tour of the Gansvoort Meat Market; a Conservation Symposium for Commercial Property Owners—Using History to Improve Greenwich Village Storefronts; a bicycle tour of East Village Community gardens; GVSPH’s Annual Meeting and the presentation of the Sixth Annual Village Awards; and two Preservation Cafe sessions.

Call GVSPH at 924-3895 for reservations.

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