GVSHP Celebrates Anniversary
15 Years of Preservation Leadership in Greenwich Village

This Spring, thousands of people all over the city celebrated the fact that if the NYC Landmarks Law was a building it would now be old enough, at age 30, to qualify for landmark status. In the late 1970s, however, the Law was still a teenager, with only a small group of supporters. Many New Yorkers felt that it infringed on their property rights.

A handful of preservationists in the Village, including Ruth Wittenberg, Verna Small, Hilda Holler, Jack Meserole, Royce Rowe, and Peggy Campbell, sensed this resentment, and set out to do something about it. They recognized the need to build a constituency for preservation in the Village, where the largest historic district in the city was designated in 1969. Meeting at the dining room table of the late Ms. Wittenberg, they worked with the Community Board and the Association of Greenwich Village Homeowners to put the Greenwich Village Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

In 1980, they organized more formally as the Greenwich Village Trust for Historic Preservation (GVT), and set out to educate residents as to the value of living in an historic district.

The timeline on pages 3 and 4 charts the progress of the organization, now the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. From its educational programs to its advocacy projects, GVSHP has indeed built a constituency for preservation. Each year we happily continue to expand upon the goals and ideals set forth 15 years ago.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
Its Been A Busy Year...

The past year has certainly seen a number of milestones for historic preservation all over New York City—the Landmarks Law is 30 years old, the Greenwich Village Historic District turned 25, and GVSHP is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its founding. Commemorating these milestones is important because it gives preservationists a chance to look back at their roots and cast an eye toward the future.

Last September we launched our new discussion series, Preservation Cafe, with a session on the history of Village preservation, presented by Anthony C. Wood. The large crowd at our first Cafe indicated a real interest in examining the Village’s preservation movement. This inspired us to plan the March 1995 symposium on the Greenwich Village Historic District’s past, present, and future. During the symposium we heard from a number of remarkable people—all of them pioneering preservationists, and all still extremely active in shaping preservation today.

The symposium has inspired another project, the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project, which GVSHP plans to undertake in the next year.

While fundraising has only just begun, we hope the Archive will become a resource for the Greenwich Village community as well as the National preservation movement. By collecting the personal experiences of the earliest preservationists through interviews, correspondence and photographs, we will preserve a record of the incredible people that have devoted their lives to preserving the past for future generations. We think it will be a fascinating collection, and we feel it’s a great way to start celebrating the next set of milestones and anniversaries a little early.

If you feel you have something you’d like to contribute to the Archive, call us at (212) 924-3895. We’d love to hear from you.

Vern Small

5th Annual Village Awards
To Be Presented at the June 26th Annual Meeting

The Fifth Annual Village Awards—for people, places and organizations that contribute significantly to the quality of life in the Village—will be presented by GVSHP on June 26 at Milbank House, 11 West 10th Street. The ceremony will be emceed by renowned architect James Stewart Polshek, a GVSHP Vice-President and Chair of the Awards Committee. Recipients will be honored with a special citation and the donation of books to the Jefferson Market Regional Library (that venerable institution and beloved Village landmark will itself be receiving an award—see page 2). And the winners are...

Verna Small One of the city’s most devoted advocates for preservation, Verna has been working to preserve the Village for over 30 years. As a resident and Community Board 2 Member, she was instrumental in the designation of the Greenwich Village Historic District 26 years ago. She served on the
Village Awards...

Landmarks Committee of CB 2 since its inception, and retired this year as Chair. She has been involved with GVSHP since its founding, serving as Trustee and Advisor. She has received numerous honors, such as the Landmarks Commission’s Elliot Willensky Award for 1994, and is certainly a Village treasure.

**Jefferson Market Regional Library Restoration**

With funds from Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger and the City, this restoration has beautified what may be the best-loved of all Village landmarks. Architect Joseph Pell Lombardi conducted the restoration of the exterior to its original state— including the restoration of the clock. The project was managed by the Department of General Service, and demonstrates the importance of such capital improvement projects to communities all over the city.

**LaGuardia Corner Garden**

The work of about forty Village gardeners beautifies LaGuardia Place with hundreds of plants and flowers bedded out among paths of pebbles and wood chips. Benches, trellises and vine-covered arches enhance a landscape so well designed it’s hard to believe that all the members make up their own minds about what to plant.

**The Village Alliance 8th Street B.I.D.** has begun to make a real difference on 8th Street. From the red-suited sanitation crew to the graffiti overpainting project, the B.I.D. has demonstrated concern for its historic storefronts and for the quality of Village life. The B.I.D. hired architect Norman Mintz to design store-front prototypes that show property owners how to eliminate violations to the Landmarks Law. GVSHP hopes the good work of the B.I.D. continues.

**Be Seated**

This little store is stacked to the ceiling with articles of such beauty that it seems like a museum of folk art. Located on Greenwich Avenue for 35 years, the shop specializes in unusual handmade objects from Third World countries. Jean Koefoed is the accommodating co-owner who will help you choose from among Indonesian baskets, Columbian hand-built clay cookware, and Middle Eastern embroidered textiles.

**Garber’s Hardware**

In the age of the superstore, we salute this neighborhood shop established in its present location on Eighth Avenue in 1884. Owned and operated by four generations of Garbers, the current owner, Henry Garber, was born in an apartment above the store in 1912, and still lives there. Henry and his staff provide household, garden, and auto supplies for Villagers, sometimes pulling the most obscure items out of surprising locations. The gentlemen at Garber’s, like their store, are what make the Village “Villagey.”

**Front Stoop Award: Facade Restoration at 68 Morton Street**

Renowned artist and long-time Villager Jack Levine recently completed the facade restoration of his delightful 1846 house. The effort included paint removal, brick repointing, repair of woodwork, and a restoration of the brownstone steps and facade. This was an altogether remarkable job, and GVSHP applauds the result.

This year we’re proud to present a brand new category for our awards: **The Village in the Arts.** The premiere award in this category goes to “Mad About You.” In its weekly portrayal of Paul and Jamie Buchman, a happy Village couple residing at 51 Fifth Avenue, this delightful television show promotes, with humor, the positive aspects of life in Greenwich Village. 51 Fifth Avenue is often pictured alongside its neighbor, the Salmagundi Club. “Mad About You” brings our eclectic community into the consciousness of mainstream America.

GVSHP thanks the Awards Committee: James Stewart Polshek, Chair, Penelope Bareau, Angela Hederman, Martin Hutner, Shelly Fremont, Arlene Nance, Ray Sokolov.
15 Years of Preservation Leadership


- GVHP is based on the Greenwich Village Trust for Historic Preservation (GVT), whose mission is to safeguard Greenwich Village's unrivaled cultural and architectural heritage against exploitation and decline.
- First Board of Trustees: Richard Barnett, Meryge Boyar, Ruth K. Dunn, William D. Eppes, Eve M. Senay-Elliot, Hilda Holler, Vice-President, John McGuire, Jack Meserve, President, Royce Shiver, Vice-Secretary, James Show, Elizabeth Shulman, Treasurer, Steven F. Zieben, Rockie Wilk, Vice-President, Ruth Witmer, Honorary President
- Goal is to safeguard the Greenwich Village Trust honors long-time Village resident and famed choro-

ragnir, Agnes de Mille
- New York State's National Heritage Trust provides a grant of $27,500, thanks to the efforts of William Perrinco, then member of the New York State Assembly.
- GVT moves to the Sarnaged Club
- First GVT-sponsored lecture on Village history by Barry Still, urban historian and NYS professor
- GVHP initiates and sponsors as architectural lip-up of Sheridan Square
- Regina Killman's named GVT's Executive Director
- Members work on the restoration of the 1855 Spanish-Portuguese Cemetery of Congregation Shearith Israel on West 11th Street
- GVHP Honorary President Ruth Witmer is honored by Community Board 2 with the renaming of Village Square in Ruth Witmer Triangle
- Lecture by Charles Lockwood, author of Brocks and Brownstones: The New York Townhouse
- GVHP sponsors a study of the history and architecture of the Greenwich Village Market in collabora-

tion with Columbia University's graduate program in Historic Preservation
- GVHP develops consultation services for the community regarding resources and materials for the restoration and maintenance of historical buildings in the Village, consulting on the restoration of the Northern Dispensary and many private homes
- GVHP changes its name to the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSP)
- Film "Community: G", based on GVHP's architectural documentation of Sheridan Square, wins a Louis B. Mayer Award for outstanding documentary
- Lecture by Catherine Linn and Frank Matsas on 19th century missions
- On the history of the college on Jane Street and the Netherland-York on 14th Street
- Phase I of an historic paint color study, taking paint samples from more than 80 historic Village buildings, is completed
- Lecture by David Garmash on "The Interiors of Esther Whitman's Day"
- Walking tours by Scott Mandel of "Esther Whitman's Old New York"
- Panels and seminar on Historic Preservation graduate students using two Federal period Village houses
- Charles Hendebeck becomes GVSP President
- GVSP conducts building research on Bleeker Street from the Bowery to 7th Avenue, and Broadway from Houston to 14th Street
- Walking and talking tours of "Old Churches of Greenwich Village" by Scott Marshall and others
- GVSP testifies before the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the City Planning Commission, and Community Board 2 on the historic character of Greenwich Village
- Interior tour of 5 Washington Square North
- Lecture on New York's "Lettus Miss"
- Walk in the Village: Norman Brooks, an established retired business of a 19th century commercial building
- Edward Griggs becomes GVSP President
- GVSP hosts its long quest for a Greenwich Village Waterfront Historic District with the publication of the booklet The Greenwich Village Waterfront: An Historical Study
- Lecture by George Cavanagh on The Conversion of the Jefferson Market Library and the Public Theater
- Silk visit of the Samuel J. Tilden mansion on Cranberry Park, home of the National Arts Club
- Richard B. Barnett becomes GVSP president
- GVHP takes the first step toward achieving the designation of a Greenwich Village Waterfront Historic District with theencyclopedia style and comprehensive report on the architecture of the Village waterfront area
- Waterfront research is presented to the Landmarks Preservation Commission
- Lecture and tour of the church and gardens at St. Luke in the Fields
- The Staff of the St. John's Ink factory overlock the Historic River
- Lecture and tour of the 19th C. John V. Godfrey House
- GVSP's work is a Greenwhich Village Waterfront Historic District continues with the publication of The Arcadiares of the Greenwich Village Waterfront by NYS Press
- GVSP provides preservation leadership on such issues as the opposition to the PATH vankila towns at the foot of Mort Street, opposition to the permanent dock being a massive prison barge on the 40, and the improvement and protection of Washington Square Park
- In an effort to bring the public for a question of West 14th Street drama, GVSP mounts an extensive exhibition on the cultural and historical architecture of the Greenwich Village waterfront, "The Greenwich Village on the Water's Edge," at the Municipal Art Society
- Lecture by Scott Marshall on "Henry James and Edith Wharton's Washington Square"
- Site visit to Rambusch Studios and a restoration lab on West 13th Street and founded in 1889
- Tour of Green Church
- Tour of the Greenwich West Market area at dawn
- Public tours of the newly restored Cooper Union building
- Long range planning study for GVSP funded.
- Scott Marshall is named Executive Director
- GVSP, with the Old Merchants' House, launches an elementary school program, "Greenwich Village: History and Historical Preservation" for second through eighth grade students in Village schools
- Lectures by Jane Berman, author of Rebel on Eight Street about Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and the Whitney Museum, and Regina Killman on the History of "Colesterol Red" by the Incarnation Map Company, a Village cartographic firm
- Walking tour of the "Old Churches of Greenwich Village" repeated by popular demand
- Holiday party at the historic: The Club on 10th Street
- Kendall Monroe becomes GVSP President
- The school program expands to reach children in Manhattan's public and independent schools both in and outside the Greenwich Village neighborhood
- Walking tour with Susan Turek of "The Clay Metropolis: Greenwich Village Tile and Terra Cotta"
- Walking tour with Stewie Blot of the many edible and medicinal plants found in the Village
- Weekend tour of Edith Villard's Bethesda
- GVSP presents the Third Annual Village Awards to Dr. Joyce Williams, St. Mark's Church in the Bowery, Jackson Square Park, The Royal Reconstructed, Broadway, Grace Opportunity Project, Greenwich Village Little League and Soccer Club, and Goodfella's Pizza
- Lecture by David Garmash on "Stard's White New York"
- Lecture by Christopher Moore and walking tour with Alan Neuman on "Greenwich Village Before Sommers: Black Farms to Little Africa"
- Panel discussion with the authors of the book Greenwich Village: Culture and Counterculture: "Inside Look" at the Northern Dispensary
- Walking tour focusing on the "Terrace Houses of Greenwich Village"
- GVSP Benefit: "Greenwich Village is a Carte: A Food Journey Into the Past"
- Vicki Werner is named Executive Director
- The Greenwich Village Historic District celebrates its 25th Anniversary
- GVSP's elementary school program reaches 1,000 students in its founding, and expands to serve school children outside Manhattan with workshops in Brooklyn and New Jersey
- A new Preservation Committee begins to focus on preservation issues in the Village and expands GVSP's relations with other preservation organizations and committees city-wide
- Preservation Cafe is launched to offer a public forum for preservation issues such as the history of the preservation movement in the Village, historic preservation theory, and design of sensibly "fit" with historic districts
- GVSP presents its Fourth Annual Village Awards to: Terry Miller, Cooper Union for Public Affairs, The Pina Teasocks, the Lesiaw and Gay Community Services Center, Sir Lay Chiossoula, Fair Fanny, and the stoop restoration at 25 West 10th Street
- Lecture by Pauline Mattera on "Edith Wharton and Design," and Joseph Rose, Chair, NYC Planning Commission
- "The New Historical Greenwich Studies at St. Barbe's Chapel restoration with an all-day tour of "Greenwich Village: from the Village to the Connecticut Town," and at a Museum of the City of New York, "The Photographic Project of Jessie Tarbox Bessie"
- Judith Stover becomes GVSP President
- GVSP celebrates its 15 Year Anniversary
- GVSP continues to expand its elementary school program with the design and publication of a 32-page booklet discovering Greenwich Village for Perkins school children
- GVSP's Preservation Committee becomes active in the attention on the vulnerable Greenwich Village waterfront, meeting with representatives from city agencies in an effort to get a "calendar date" at the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a special waterfront historic district
- Preservation Cafe sessions analyze issues such as "preservation of Landmarks Law violations, the City's plans for restoration of the Washington Square Arch, and the need for educational outreach in preservation"
- GVSP sponsors a special symposium, "The Greenwich Village Historic District: How Come It's Been, and Where's It Going?"
- GVSP launches a building conservation series with "Custodie and Greenwich Village: A Workshop for Owners and Organizations"
- Walking/Biking/Touring: with Francois Moreme of 10th Street, from river to river
- GVSP presents its Fifth Annual Village Awards to: Verna Small, the Village Alliance B.D., Jefferson Market Library, La Quinta Corner Studios, Gartner News, Home, Blood, Bo Sato, the restoration of 58 Morton Street, and the television show "Med About You"

LOOKING TOWARD OUR 16TH YEAR

The Trustees and staff of GVHP have big plans for a number of exciting projects in the coming year. Here's a sneak preview.

Conservation Workshop Series

Thanks to generous underwriting support from the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, GVHP will offer the Conservation Workshop series starting in October, that will help Greenwich Village Historic District homeowners tackle some of the most challenging maintenance and restoration chal-

lenges. Issues such as window replacement, facade improvement, stoop restoration and sidewalk maintenance will be addressed by expert preservation consultants, architects, and conservators. Each workshop will offer practical information as well as news about the latest policies and programs of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Elementary School Program Scholarships

School Program has achieved a great deal of success and reached over 1,000 child-

en city-wide, many schools are left out because they lack budgets for special activities. A new Scholarship Fund will be established so that GVHP can offer the three-season school program, and the cost only by the GVHP with Discovering Greenwich Village, to eligible public schools-less than charges.

Ruth Wittenberg Triangle Public Participa-

tion Design Competition Fund Projects are currently being sought for a competition which will unite the Greenwich Village community to join artists, architects, designers, and engineers in exploring design options for the important triangle at the heart of Greenwich Village. The Competition will involve the community in coming up with theoretical solutions to the "design problems" posed by the confluence of Greenwich Avenue, Sixth Avenue and Christopher Street. The Triangle now has a plaque denoting the late Ms. Wittenberg, and commemorating her im-

portance as a preservationist in the community. The competition will be followed by an exhibition of entries at Cooper Union.

GVSP Brochure and Detailed Map of Greenwich Village Historic District, GVSP brochure, which now present its most up-to-date information a new brochure describes the programs of the organization and provides a three-color map showing all of Greenwich Village Historic district main sights. The brochure includes a brief history of the district, description of designated landmarks, and two suggestions for enjoyable "journeys through the neighbor-

hood," it will be useful not only for GVHP mem-

bers and area residents, but for visitors as well. GVHP hopes to produce local calendars with the brochure and map for distribution—free of charge—to their customers.
Program Committee
Alana Marks Cho
This year, our programs looked both inside and outside of the Village Historic District. At home, we walked the perimeter of the district with Alan Neumann, Regina Keleman led a twilight walking tour of the waterfront, and Nezza Pfeifer looked into the lives of immigrant families. We left the Village for a special tour of the J.T. Beals bohemian Village photographs at the Museum of the City of New York. We discussed issues important to the waterfront and the future of the Village with Joseph Rose, the Commissioner of City Planning, and our holiday festivities were highlighted with a lecture by David Gareard Lowen on the Magnificent Interior of New York. Held in the Salmagundi Club. We held a symposium celebrating the 25th anniversary of the district with its founding pioneers, and co-produced a major removal workshop at the Landmarks Conservancy at the Merchants House Museum. Francis Morales led a biking/walking tour of Tenth Street from river to river. Our Annual Meeting will be held in the historic Milbank Playhouse, a magnificent interior not open to the public.

Education Committee
Anthony Zunino, Chair; Frances Brown, Shellie Fremon, Pi Gaddis, Elana Ramirez, Donald Steinhart, Shirley Wright, members.
The Committee proudly announces the publication of an original children's workbook, Discovering the Village, a new book from the Greenlvich Village. Produced for GVSHF by The Little Book Room, the workbook offers 12 illustrated pages of activities that teach children Village history and the importance of preservation. It will be used in the School program, and was made possible by generous donations from the Felicia Fund, Scholastic Inc., and GVSHF Trustees.

This year F.S. 180 and F.S. 244, both in Brooklyn, and the new Museum School on West 17th Street, joined the program. GVSHF will launch a free summer walking tour for four series of children, funded in part by the Chase Manhattan Foundation and the NYU Community Fund.

Committee member Shirley Wright has been working in the office as School Program Coordinator. For information about summer tours please call (212) 934-3895.

Preservation Committee
Richard Barnett & Jack Mesereau, Co-Chairs; Rebecca Bruch, Pi Gaddis, Stephen Kastner, Ken Latchford, Hal Little, Rona New, Andrew Paul, Alex Sandor, Robert McKeen Thomas, members.

This year, in meetings with the Director of the Office of City Planning and the Chair of the Landmarks Committee, the Committee has been discussing a special Historic District for the Greenwich Village waterfront. The committee continues to follow restoration plans for the Washington Square Arch and the Spanish-Portuguese Cemetery, and is monitoring violations within the Village Historic District, as well as the “certificate of appropriateness” applications submitted to the Landmarks Commission. The Village Cafe featured Historic Districts Council President Emeritus Anthony Zunino as the guest speaker. A former Columbia student, William Higgins, architect James Stewart Foulshem, author Roberta Gratz, City Parks Museum curator Jonathan Kuhn, Landmarks Commission Legal Counsel Michael Campbell, and Colin Woof, Greenwich Village Association member, and Landmarks Commissioner Christopher Moore.

Memorial Committee
Marilyn Seid, Chair; Jane Isaacman, Stephanie Davenport, Regina Keleman, Arlina Nance, Hillary Peterson, Jennifer Zunino, Donald Steinhart, Amanda Weatherly, members.

Design and Layout Paul Bourgoin Writing and Editing Mike Connor Photography Nostalgic Images, Inc.

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The year has seen substantial progress, but much remains to be done. If expected renewals continue, our membership total will approach 1000, including 148 new members. The Committee consulted with various volunteer marketing experts this year: Hillary Peterson, a marketing consultant, and Mark Linder, national director of marketing for KPMG Peat Marwick. The Business Council will take a more active role under the leadership of newly appointed Chairman Craig Bero, owner of Anglers’ & Witches’ Cave Inn and other Village restaurants. In the fall the Council will involve local businesses with the distribution of GVSHF’s new brochure. As we grow and become more visible in the community, we believe that the growth process will become increasingly self-sustaining.

Benefit Committee
Gina Calhoon & Tania Hardy, Chairs, William Taylor & John Thalacker, Vice Chairs, Steve Perina, Junior Committee Chair, Andre Bischoff, Senior Committee, Brendan Gill, Honorary Chair.

The Committee presented the gala Greenwich Village Folklife: A Review of the History of Theater in Greenwich Village at the Bayshore Theatre on April 24, 2008. Our theme was “Motion”, which was directed by Robert Moss, narrated by Larry Seckerman and Brendan Gill, and featured Andre Gregory, Cynthia Harris, Jean-Claude Van Itallie, Sarah Jessica Parker, Ron Rifkin and the Manhattan Vocal Project. Produced by Lincoln Center’s Andre Bischoff and Bernart Gersten, the show charted the history of Village theater from the 18th century to the 20th. A party and dinner at Nell’s followed. The Committee thanks everyone who worked to make this special event possible, and reports net proceeds of $19,000.

Nominating Committee
Elizabeth Green, Chair; Tania Hardy, Alan Neumann, Elana Ramirez, members.

In accordance with the by-laws of GVSHF, the Committee has submitted the following nominations to be voted upon at the June 30th Annual Meeting. Nominated to serve a first three-year term as Trustee: Shellie Fremont. Nominated to return as Trustee for an additional three-year term: Richard B. Barnett, Gina Calhoon, Kendy J. Monroe, Judith Stonehill.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the many years of dedicated and enthusiastic service of Jack Mesereau, a founding Trustee and first President who will retire from the Board to become an Advisor. Joining the Advisory Board are Laurie Beckerman, Jay Iselin, Cynthia Harris, Toshiko Moris, Stephen Raphael and David Rothenberg.

From the President
This is a year of celebration for GVSHF, the 15th Anniversary of our founding. What we are really celebrating, though, is Greenwich Village itself an historic enclave of 19th century houses, graceful doorways and small gardens, cross-streets giving themselves against the grid, an astonishing number of schools and churches, and a waterfront that was once burgeoning with fishing vessels, ferryboats, and a fleet of oyster barges at the foot of 14th Street. And, always, we celebrate generations of villagers.

In describing the Village in his novel Washington Square, Henry James noted that “this portion of New York seems to many persons the most delectable. It has a kind of established repose...the look of having had something of a social history.” We hope you’ll join us this year as we celebrate the Village.