



THE ANTHEMION

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The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

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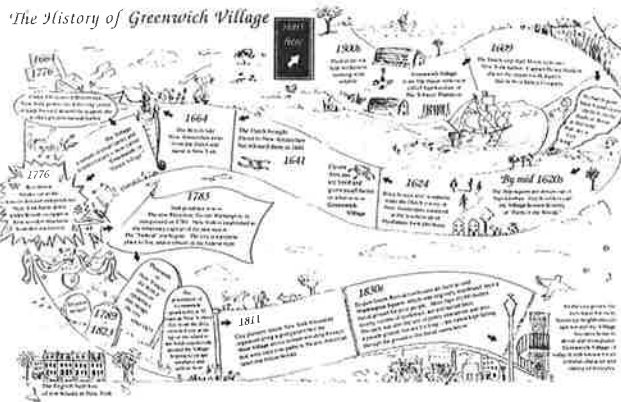
New GVSHP Publication: *Young People Will Love Discovering Greenwich Village*

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 Hederman 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.



FROM THE DIRECTOR *Are you a Preservation Pioneer?*

On March 3rd, the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project will be officially launched at a special reception (see "1996 Will Be A Busy Year" this page, "Upcoming Events" page 2 for details). GVSHP is thrilled to embark upon this important project, which will collect the stories of Greenwich Village's historic preservation movement and preserve them, along with related archival materials, for future generations.

At this time we'd like to know—are you a Preservation Pioneer?

We are in search of anyone who was involved in Village preservation issues anytime from the 1930s to the designation of the Greenwich Village Historic District in 1969. If you participated in a rally, served on a committee, or wrote letters to elected officials to protect the Village's historic architecture and urban space, we hope to hear from you.

We'd like to hear your story, and offer a permanent home to any correspondence, photographs, or memorabilia related to Village preservation that you might have. The Greenwich Village Preservation Archive will benefit greatly from your involvement.

And I hope you will plan to be present on March 3rd as GVSHP members and friends salute you, our Preservation Pioneers.

Vicki Weiner

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)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Late Winter/Early Spring 1996

INAUGURAL RECEPTION

Greenwich Village Preservation Archive
Sunday, March 3, One Fifth Restaurant and Bar, One Fifth Avenue, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. \$65 per person; \$45 Seniors & Students.

The New York Preservation Archive Project and the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive invite you to salute the preservation pioneers of the Village and celebrate the founding of the Archive at an inaugural reception. Remarks by Brendan Gill; "Village Preservation Highlights: An Illustrated Sampler" by Anthony C. Wood. Proceeds from this event will be used to match generous grants to the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive from FURTHERMORE, a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Elliot Willensky Fund of the Municipal Art Society.



Last car through Washington Square, Photographed at a rally to close the park to traffic, November 1, 1958. The park was finally closed to all traffic in 1964. (from the Tankel Collection. Used with permission).

CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

"Out from the Facade: Stoops, Sidewalks, and Building Accessories" Thursday, March 21, Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, 6:30 PM. Free to members of GVSHP and Association of GV Homeowners; all others \$15.

Join us for an evening of information, encouragement, and conversation about historic buildings in Greenwich Village. Four topics will be covered by the panel, including: cast iron accessories, Don Quick, Architectural Iron Works Company; bluestone sidewalks, Franny Eberhardt, Historic Districts Council; Plantings, Beverly Perkey, Semper Florens; and a case study by Village homeowner Richard Brown, winner of the 1994 GVSHP front stoop award. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period during a parlour reception. This session is part of series sponsored by the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.

More events, page 4...

Trustee Richard B. Barnett

GVSHHP Loses Founding Member

GVSHHP sadly announces the passing of Trustee Richard B. Barnett, who died on December 6, 1995. Dick was a founder of GVSHHP, former Board President, and Chairman of the Preservation Committee. His wisdom, integrity, and unswerving 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 GVSHHP in 1980, and was its President from 1987 to 1991. During his tenure, GVSHHP 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 GVSHHP'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. GVSHHP 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 GVSHHP 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 Bateau, 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,



Dick Barnett at the GVSHHP Annual Meeting, June, 1994

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 Gurnee, 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 1) movement in Greenwich Village. The Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and 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 preservation movement, which safeguards the nation's architectural heritage, 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. The Village is the proud 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: 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 extraordinary 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 924-3895.

Conservation Workshops for Homeowners

The Chubb 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)

GVSHP Preservation Advocacy

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

GVSHP Trustees unanimously passed a resolution in January for a **Greenwich Village Waterfront Historic District**, which was submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The resolution calls for the preservation of the Village waterfront area based on its significant Federal, 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 vigilance of Margot Gayle, the Friends of the Jefferson Market Library Bell 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 photograph survey of 80 build-

ings—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, in the proposed Waterfront Historic District (from the GV Preservation Archives).

Busy Year...

(continued from page 3) of the series, "Historic Windows: Issues for Homeowners," which dealt with the restoration of historic windows. Co-presented 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 Chubb 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, design 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's 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 student ideas 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 NY 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 spring break, 30 children, ages 8-11, will be transported from District 8 (continued on page 6)



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 Archives).

Continued from page 2

PRESERVATION CAFE

The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers: Sex and Culture in 19th Century New York by Amy Gilman Srebnick, Author. Monday March 25, Gus's Place, 149 Waverly Place, 6:00 PM. Free, cash bar.

An author and History Professor at Montclair State University, Amy Gilman Srebnick 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. Srebnick will discuss why this tale'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 allusive 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, children under 16 attend for free.

Children accompanied by an adult are invited to join 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 Modernist Transformation" Monday April 29, Robert McKean Thomas, Preservationist, Gus's Place, 149 Waverly Place, 6:00 PM.

Mr. Thomas will discuss the cataclysmic 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...

BULLETIN BOARD

News bits, hot tips and other items of interest...

CELEBRATION

Grace Church Sesquicentennial Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00pm, Barnes & Noble at Union Square. For additional information call (212) 254-2000.

Village Landmark Grace Church observes the 150th anniversary of the consecration of its building at 10th Street and Broadway. A special program at Barnes & Noble will feature presentations by noted speakers on the history of this Greenwich Village treasure.

LECTURE/WALKING TOUR

Municipal Art Society Village Tour Saturday, March 30, 1996 at 1:00PM. Lead by Francis Morrone, architectural historian. For more information about this tour and the entire series call (212) 935-3960.

As part of its Architectural History of New York City series of lectures and walking tours, MAS will present a tour of Greenwich Village lead by Francis Morrone, author of *The Architectural Guidebook to New York City* and leader of last spring's river-to-river walking tour of 10th Street.

EXHIBITION

Fred W. McDarragh, Former Village Voice Photo Editor March 1-23; Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm, Art Et Industrie Gallery, 52 Thompson Street. Call (212) 966-6800 for more information.

The photography of Fred W. McDarragh, award winning photo-journalist and long-time Village Voice picture editor, will be shown in an exhibition entitled "The Artist's World and The New York School." On display will be vintage photographs taken between 1958 and 1978.

TOUR

Stanford White's Greenwich Village presented by the Beaux Arts Alliance, Saturday, May 11 at 1pm. Lead By David Garrard Lowe. Call (212) 639-9120 for more information.

The erudite David Garrard Lowe will lead a special tour through the Village focusing on the life and architecture of Stanford White. A reception at the Merchant's House Museum will follow.

Summer Walking Tours

GVSH's Tours for Children will Continue in 1996

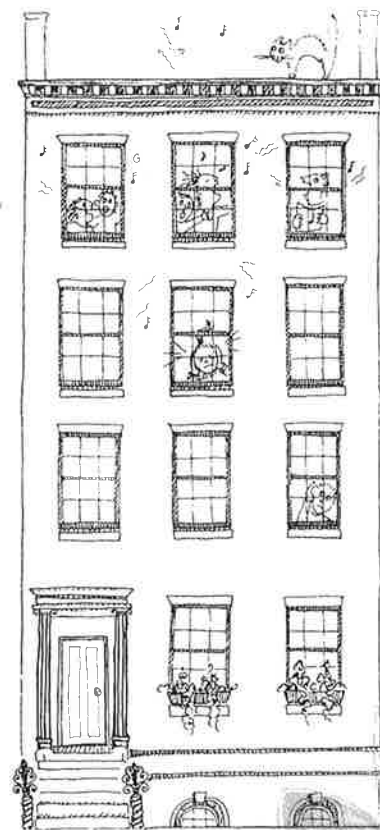
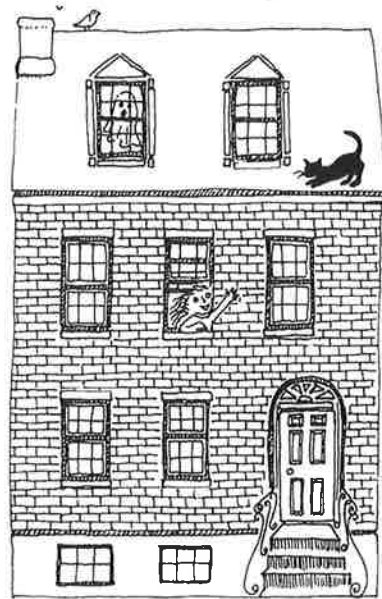
The inaugural season of children's summer walking tours in Greenwich Village began with a bang in last July's humidity. Participants included summer school children in the Grace Opportunity Project, the successful remedial program of the Grace Church School, as well as children from a similar program 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 1820's to the 1860's. 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 groups 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, Citibank, and the New York University Community Fund. GVSH plans to offer the free series of tours again this summer, and has added two tours to the repertoire: *Federal and Greek Revival Architecture in Greenwich Village*, and *Sapokanikan: The First "Village."* For more information about scheduling a tour, or to volunteer as a tour guide, please call 924-3895.



Illustrations of Federal and Greek Revival style rowhouses from *Discovering Greenwich Village a workbook for children.* (©1995, The Little Bookroom)

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GVSH 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 GVSH members, \$15 Seniors and Students. Lecture and Dinner with the Artists, \$300 per person.

GVSH 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 a dinner party in the home of a GVSH 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 Gansevoort Meat Market; a Conservation Symposium for Commercial Property Owners—*Using History to Improve Greenwich Village Storefronts*; a bicycle tour of East Village community gardens; GVSH's *Annual Meeting* and the presentation of the *Sixth Annual Village Awards*; and two *Preservation Cafe* sessions.

Call GVSH at 924-3895 for reservations.

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Additional Writing: Shelly Freeman and Nezka Pfeifer

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SOCIETY FOR
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Busy Year...

(continued from page 4) in the Bronx to Greenwich House, which will be their working site for five days.

After breakfast each day, the children will become young architects, learning how to read city maps and blueprints, investigate place names, and use architectural terms to describe buildings in the Village. The children will keep journals and draw architectural elements during guided explorations of the West Village. Art workshops after lunch will engage the children in construction projects, clay modeling, and completing a group mural of the past, present and future city.

On the last afternoon, the children's constructions and journals will be exhibited, and their parents will join them in celebrating the completion of the workshop. The teaching staff for the workshop includes Doing Art Together artist/teachers, an architect from Learning By Design: NY (a committee of the NY Chapter of the AIA), and Vicki Weiner from GVSH. If you are interested in volunteering to assist the teachers, call 924-3895.

Greenwich Village: History and Historic Preservation, a map and guide

GVSH is a proud recipient, for the second time, of a Manhattan Borough President's Office Tourism Grant. With the Borough President's

support, GVSH will provide residents and tourists of Greenwich Village with a newly designed map and guide to Village historic sites. The map and guide will highlight the wonderful examples of diverse architecture which offer a rare view into the City's past. In an easy to read, easy to use format, *Greenwich Village: History and Historic Preservation* will encourage residents and visitors to walk through the neighborhood with an enhanced understanding—and a greater appreciation—of its still-visible history.

GVSH will engage the entire community in the historic significance of Greenwich Village by providing area restaurants, stores, banks, and cultural/recreational centers with this useful map and guide for distribution to their patrons and customers free-of-charge.

GVSH is extremely grateful to all of its generous new funders: FURTHERMORE, the Elliot Willensky Fund, The Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, The Vincent Astor Foundation, The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Manhattan Borough President's Office. Thanks to them, 1996 is going to be GVSH's busiest and most fulfilling year ever!