Hoylman Cancels Debate

By Frank Quinn

Brad Hoylman, the incumbent state senator running for election in the newly drawn 47th district, has not agreed to debate his opponent after repeated requests.

Hoylman initially agreed to an invitation from WestView News, and a popular Greenwich Village location was secured to host the event. But Senator Hoylman later balked during negotiations over a proposed format, and repeated attempts to contact him have not been answered.

Maria Danzilo issued the following statement to WestView News: “It’s disappointing that Brad has ignored multiple requests from our campaign and WestView News to agree to debate. Voters should be very concerned that he is unwilling to debate how we should best address the crucial issues facing our city and state. Perhaps if he were out listening to voters as much as I am he would understand how frustrated people are with the lack of responsiveness to their concerns and issues. We are going ahead with a forum with or without him, on August 8th.”

The New York redistricting fiasco of 2022 has resulted in the Democratic primary being held on August 23rd, when a low turnout is expected. Another major contest in the Democratic Primary is the newly drawn 10th district of the U.S. House of Representatives. More than a dozen candidates have announced their intentions to run for the seat, with most only declaring their interest in June. The New York Times wrote that the redrawn 10th district includes “some of New York’s most politically engaged and diverse neighborhoods,” yet no major media outlets have arranged a debate among these candidates.

No Monkey Business with Monkey Pox in NYC

By Kambiz Shekdar, Ph.D.

This article provides an overview of current information and guidance from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Monkey Pox. Access to this information in a timely and complete manner to empower people in New York City—which is an epicenter of the latest emerging pandemic—could make a difference in the health of the community, and in particular among the city’s LGBTQ+ community.

New York City leads the nation in Monkey Pox cases. According to the CDC and the NYC Department of Health, 1,092 of a total of 4,629 cases nationwide as of July 28, 2022, are in New York City. Of these, 1,068 are among men and 3 are among women (the remaining 21 cases are among transgender, non-binary or unknown individuals). In cases where sexuality has been reported, 97% of Monkey Pox cases are among the LGTBQ+ community and 3% are in the straight community.

On July 23, 2022, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, declared the current Monkey Pox outbreak a continued on page 2 continued on page 32

Exit de Blasio

By Frank Quinn

Former Mayor Bill de Blasio sat down for an hour-long visit with WestView News just days before dropping his bid for Congress. The discussion covered a wide range of subjects including his eight years in office, his desire for progressive change, and how he might assist the effort to replace St. Vincent’s Hospital.

Dr. Alec Pruchnicki, a specialist in geriatric medicine and WVN contributor, asked how government might offer improved healthcare services. Mr. de Blasio was eager to offer encouragement, but didn’t volunteer suggestions for how to pay for expanded government healthcare.

When evaluating his mayoralty, he willingly discussed the failures of his administration, but didn’t identify actionable solutions. He seemed sincere when concluding his administration did not achieve its ambitions, but would not offer concrete examples or suggested remedies.

The former mayor said he thought hoping for restoring a

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Earlier this year when the church reopened services to in-person attendance, I attended a service which included 2 baptisms. The congregation was invited to applaud the baptisms. I heard a little woof and looked back to see an attentive dog on a cushion in a pew. Afterwards I met Gabriele and Pickles, her wired haired fox terrier. She said that they loved the music at the church and that when people applaud, Pickles likes to join in.

They often walk to 10th Street from home on 116th Street, enjoying Central Park along the way. How fit they are!

Last week music director Dennis Keene played a Bach fugue for the postlude on the famous Manton organ. Pickles gave one woof, surprising the women next to me. I filled her in and she said “the dog likes Bach?”

Gabriele tell me that fox terriers are so strong willed they are impossible to train. Pickles behaves this way by her choice. She enjoys attending the weekly soup kitchen at this church. Gabriele tells me that fox terriers are so strong willed they are impossible to train.

I concluded my last piece by saying we should eliminate all free curbside auto parking. There are many more desirable uses for this new public open space than free automobile storage. These include pop-up gardens, play spaces, seating areas, unloading zones, emergency pull-offs and pop-up cafes. These tent covered cafes provide more pleasant places to eat, but add life to the street and a possible source of income to the city. Unwanted noise can be limited by prohibition of amplified music. The locations of outdoor cafes can be limited by zoning laws to commercial frontage.

The overall goal of this proposal is to enliven our streets and make them more friendly to pedestrians and to residents and visitors alike. Traffic congestion would be reduced, our air made cleaner, and we would have a greener city.

“We would emerge from our homes into an urban environment crowned by ornate roof tops towering over a green garden shading our streets and public places.” Illustration by Barry Benepe FAIA.

Livable Cities: Part VI: Curbside Parking, No. Curbside Dining, Yes.

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2022 Greenwich Village State Senate Districts

Registered as an Independent Voter? Confused About Redistricting?

On August 23rd there is a Democratic Primary.

Most WestView readers will be voting in the 10th Congressional District where a dozen candidates are seeking to win the Democratic Primary.

For State Senate, voters in the northwestern part of the Village have a Democratic Senate Primary in the newly created 47th Senate District between Brad Hoylman and Maria Danzilo.

The rest of Lower Manhattan is in the 27th Senate District where there is a race between Brian Kavanagh (an incumbent whose District used to cover the Lower East Side and the East Village) and Vittoria Fariello, who is the Female District Leader for Battery Park City.

If you are an Independent (not registered to any party) YOU CAN VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY! You can do it on Primary Day (or on an Early Voting date) by changing your registration to Democratic at your polling location. If you want to go back to being unaffiliated (which means that you can’t vote in primaries) you can do it online the next day.

This gives you no excuse to sit out this Primary. The winners of these primaries will be your next Congress Member and State Senator!

THE 2022 REDISTRICTING FIASCO HAS CREATED CONFUSION about who will represent the West Village in the NY State Senate. The newly drawn districts split parts of lower Manhattan between the 27th and 47th State Senate Districts. There are three candidates running in the Democratic Primary for the 27th State Senate District: Brian Kavanagh (I), Vittoria Fariello and Danyela Souza Egrov. There are two candidates running in the 47th State Senate District: Brad Hoylman (I) and Maria Danzilo. Photo credit: City University of New York (CUNY) Center for Urban Research.
Greenwich Village Area Candidates
Primary Election August 23, 2022

The New York redistricting fiasco of 2022 should be decried for the failure that it is, but a silver lining in the form of several competitive races in lower Manhattan is a welcome outcome.

The following list is unofficial and includes information about known candidates. Due to the recent court decision regarding Congressional and State Senate districts, the candidates for those ballots were not finalized as of the WestView News deadline—information is based on the best sources available.

The primary for U.S. House of Representatives and NY State Senate is August 23, 2022. The New York Times wrote that the redrawn 10th District includes "some of New York's most politically engaged and diverse neighborhoods: Greenwich Village, Wall Street, Chinatown, Park Slope, Sunset Park and even parts of Borough Park, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish stronghold." The Times called the primary "a contest not so much of ideas—almost every major candidate has condemned threats to abortion rights and bemoaned the lack of strict limits on guns—as of brute force, blunt ambition and identity politics."

Axios called the district "a potential venue for Democrats to expose various internal rifts as candidates fight for a simple plurality of the vote, where the winner can advance with far less than 50%.”

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES**

**QUANDA FRANCIS**
quandafrancis.com/

Quanda Francis earned a bachelor’s degree from New York University and a graduate degree from Long Island University. As of the 2021 election, she was a Ph.D. candidate at Long Island University. She has been affiliated with Ph.D. Project, the American Accounting Association, the National Museum of African American History & Culture, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the Princeton Club of New York.

**ELIZABETH KIM**
elizabethkimforcongress.com

Raised in rural Georgia, Kim graduated Duke University in 2017. The daughter of Korean immigrants, Kim vows to fight to bridge the gap between where we are now and where we want to be, ought to be, and can be.

**MONDAIRE JONES**
jones.house.gov/

Mondaire Jones earned a BA from Stanford and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Jones’ career experience includes working with the U.S. Department of Justice, with Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and as an attorney with the Westchester County Law Department. Jones is a member of the U.S. House, representing NY’s 17th Congressional District. He is running for re-election to the U.S. House to represent NY’s 10th Congressional District.

**ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN**
www.elizabethholtzman.com

The youngest woman ever elected to Congress when she won a House seat in 1972 at age 31, Holtzman went on to serve as Brooklyn district attorney and New York City comptroller. Holtzman, who last served in Congress in 1981, said she is running because she has "the strong, proven record to take on the right wing, the forces of bigotry and racism, the forces of misogyny."

**QUANDA FRANCIS**
quandafrancis.com/

Goldman served as lead counsel for the impeachment investigation of President Donald J. Trump for abusing his office for his personal interest regarding Ukraine. In that role, Goldman led depositions and questioned witnesses in public hearings, and testified before the House Judiciary Committee. Prior to that, Goldman served 10 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York working with Preet Bharara.

**MAUD MARON**
maudmaron.com/

Maud Maron was born in New York, New York. Maron graduated from Barnard College in 1993 and earned a J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University in 1998. Her career experience includes working as an Attorney with the Legal Aid Society. Maron co-founded FAIR and PLACE NYC.

**JIMMY LI**
www.jimmylifornewyork.com

Jimmy Li, a lifelong Democrat, is not a career politician. Growing up as the son of immigrants, he understands the issues and struggles immigrant and working families face daily. He is an everyday New Yorker and a well-respected grass-roots community advocate for his immigrant and working-class neighbors for more than a decade.

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Carlina Rivera was born and raised in NY-10 on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Growing up in Section 8 housing with a single mother who emigrated from Puerto Rico to Brooklyn, she has an intimate understanding of the issues everyday New Yorkers face. Rivera has been a New York City Council Member since 2018.

Brian Robinson was born in Monmouth County, New Jersey. He earned a bachelor's degree from Tulane University in 2005. Brian is a longtime resident of Tribeca, a small-business owner, and a fast-approaching public school parent who cares deeply about our city.

Yuh-Line Niou is a progressive leader for low-income, immigrant, and working families. She immigrated to the U.S as an infant, when her parents came from Taiwan with all of their possessions in just six suitcases. A proud CUNY Baruch graduate, she was elected to represent New York's 65th Assembly District, becoming the first AAPI woman in the NYS Assembly and the first Asian-American to represent Chinatown in the State Legislature.

Xiong Yan is a Chinese-American human rights activist, military officer, and Protestant chaplain. He was a dissident involved in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. Yan studied at Peking University Law School. He came to the US as a political refugee in 1992, and later became a chaplain in U.S. Army, serving in Iraq.

Kavanagh earned his B.A. from Princeton University and his J.D. from New York University Law School. His professional experience includes being an attorney and advocate, serving as a chief of staff, as an aide to multiple mayors and as a policy director for the New York City Department of Homeless Services.

Vittoria Fariello earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a J.D. from the Cardozo School of Law. She is an attorney with extensive experience in anti-corruption, having investigated organized crime in New York and Italy and corruption in the NYC Dept. of Buildings. Currently works at Balestriere Fariello, a law firm representing #MeToo clients, consumer fraud victims, whistleblowers and human trafficking victims, among others.

Josephine Simon was born in Yonkers. A first-generation college student, she earned a BA from Iona College. She later earned a Master of Arts degree from Gallaudet University, and a Juris Doctor from the Fordham University School of Law. She is a member of the New York State Assembly from the 52nd district since 2015.

State Senator Brad Hoylman, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, represents New York’s 27th State Senate District. Brad is a longtime grassroots activist, serving previously as a Democratic District Leader and three-term chair of Manhattan Community Board 2. He is the past president of the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats and a former board member of Tenants & Neighbors and Citizen Action.

Maria Danzilo earned a bachelor’s degree from City University of New York, Brooklyn College in 1978, a law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1981, and a graduate degree from New York University in 1982. Her career experience includes working as a lawyer and conflicts of interest policy manager. She has served with the Copyright Society of the USA as trustee and OneCity Rising as founder and executive director.
Don’t Let This Go Too Far

By Tom Lamia

As I settle in on a mid-July day, hoping to get ahead of the deadline for these columns, I am concerned about the consequences of caution when action is necessary to protect a vital interest. Hesitation to avoid responsibility for stepping out front, is not acceptable simply because the action necessary is unprecedented or the consequences unknown. To not act only reinforces the problem for a future crisis.

During Watergate, Congress and the Justice Department were faced with the issue of presidential criminal accountability for abuse of the office and labored long over what to do. The result satisfied many because it provided an exit ramp for Nixon, but I fear that it has left the country without a clear path to presidential prosecution for any crime committed by a president while in office. The advisory opinion of the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel issued in Nixon’s time has served since as a shield for sitting presidents. The Mueller Report relied upon that opinion in not indicting President Trump on several counts of obstruction of justice. The implication was that such crimes were open to prosecution in a post-presidency. After two failed attempts at impeachment of Trump for actions during his presidency, there is a growing popular belief among both detractors and supporters that he will not be prosecuted because any prosecution might fail, with disastrous consequences, even civil war.

This amounts to a practical get out of jail free card for anyone holding the office even if their means of getting it or keeping it have been clearly, even flagrantly, illegal. Regardless of how distasteful it might be, prosecution is necessary to preserve criminal remedies when political remedies have failed or proven inadequate. A failure to prosecute a former president out of an abundance of caution would mimic, reinforce and extend the Nixon “baby with the bathwater” precedent. It would be letting things go too far; of accepting a grievous injury to avoid a potentially fatal or lifesaving confrontation.

This contetems over what to do about a criminal president brings to mind other situations in which power has been withheld or misused while events transpired, only to be insufficient when finally deployed. The first four are dated and behind us, but the last two are highly relevant to our current situation.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The British were confident in the 1770s that their empire, with its unsurpassed army and navy and its record of successful colonial administration around the world, could not see revolution coming so failed to take ameliorative action to avoid it or prepare for it.

THE WAR OF 1812

An unprepared and over confident United States declared this war out of deep resentment of British impressment of American sailors on the high seas and other righteous causes, but soon discovered their many shortcomings as a fighting force, not the least of which was a failure to have each of its constituent states on the same page about causes and effects. Only offsetting problems for the British, who were fighting Napoleon at the time, allowed an honorable exit. Our still fledgling federal government was eager to show itself confident and capable on the world stage when caution and careful assessment of its capabilities was the wiser choice.

THE CIVIL WAR

The Union was so unprepared for war when the Confederacy seceded in 1861 that years passed before reliable military leadership was in place and defeats turned to victories. U.S. Grant was a cashiered officer with a history of alcoholism when the war started. With the shortage of West Point trained officers to call on, Grant was given command of a local Illinois state militia and went on the offensive in a series of river battles in Confederate territory. With military skill, chutzpah and courage, Grant won battles and gained the attention of his Commander in Chief in Washington, D.C. Lincoln put Grant in command of the Army of the Potomac ending the failed strategy of avoiding contact with Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and a march on Richmond began.

VIETNAM, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN

All illustrate the hazards of limited war. Each one devolved into stalemate when aggressive unrestricted engagement was possible but inadvisable because of the risks of escalation and lack of popular support. The process of measuring the level of warfare that would strike a happy medium in cost, risk and result was never going to bring clear-cut victory. Allowing this impasse to settle into a permanent condition may have avoided worse outcomes, but it also prevented definitive results.

THE 1876 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COMPROMISE

The presidential election of 1876 resulted in a failure of our then governing law to produce a result that all interested parties, could accept. To get to a compromise a special commission formed under an Act of Congress was empaneled. There were fifteen members: five Senators, five Representatives and five Supreme Court Justices. The law called for an even split between Republicans and Democrats, but the independent Supreme Court justice appointed as chair refused to serve and was replaced by a Republican justice. The commission deliberated and decided by an eight-seven vote, with the chair casting the decisive vote, awarding an electoral victory to Republican Hayes over Democrat Tilden. The matter did not end there as the Democrats threatened to prevent Hayes from governing. To put an end to the matter Republican Hayes agreed to remove federal troops from the three southern states still under federal Reconstruction control. That ended Reconstruction and gave rise to Jim Crow segregation throughout the south that continued through my time as an undergraduate at the University of Mississippi in the late 1950s. One could say, with justification that the compromise settled an immediate issue of choosing a president by sacrificing a fundamental constitutional issue of racial justice. The Electoral Count Act of 1887 was thought to have solved the vote-counting issues of 1876, but the 2020 presidential election and the insurrection that followed leave considerable doubt on that score. To save the country from an unthinkable future of anarchy, authoritarianism and mob rule, the January 6 Commission must now act decisively to find a cure for this imperfection in our Constitution and laws. Make it simple and let it be done.

RADICAL POLITICS, FREE SPEECH AND GOVERNANCE

The rise of right wing politics and the denial by so many of its adherents of the freedom and justice guaranteed by our Constitution and laws, has been inexorable from the earliest days of our country. Every step along the way has roots in the failure of the Constitution in its original form to satisfactorily address the fact of slavery and its legacy. The Civil War Amendments (13th, 14th, 15th) and federal legislation enacted to give practical meaning to them have not provided either a pathway to equality or a roadblock to racism. The Ku Klux Klan, segregation, Dixicratts, McCarthyism, and Bircher have come and gone, but we still labor to agree on and implement our “guarantees” of equality, justice and freedom for every American. Our politics and our idealism have not had the practical effect of creating a national symposium for respectful and effective governance. Trump and Trumpism will go, too, but at what price? Making future presidents immune from prosecution for crimes committed while in office is too high a price.

To the January 6 committee and the Department of Justice, the message is clear: The iron is hot—STRIKE!
OPINION:
Why I am Supporting Mondaire Jones for Congress

By Arthur Z. Schwartz

Our community and the rest of Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn Heights and Park Slope have been combined to form what is probably the most liberal/progressive district in the United States. It is called the 10th Congressional District, and the current Congress member, Jerry Nadler, is running in a different district. The primary on August 23rd is a historic opportunity, and we have the opportunity to elect an amazing man to represent us – one who is already in Congress, and who has been redistricted out of his former district.

His name is Mondaire Jones. Mondaire made history when he was sworn in on January 3, 2021 as the nation’s first openly gay, Black member of Congress. A New York native, Mondaire grew up in Section Rockland County district against the incumbent Congress Member, Nita Lowey. Lowey decided to retire and Mondaire won in a field of 5 candidates. (For the record, I was his election lawyer.) Since his arrival in Congress, Mondaire has taken advantage of every opportunity to fight for his community in Washington. He was elected unanimously by his colleagues as Freshman Representative to House Democratic Leadership, making him the youngest member of the Democratic House leadership team. He was appointed a Deputy Whip of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Co-Chair of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus. He serves on the House Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Ethics Committees, where he has established himself as a leader on issues of democracy reform, civil rights, childcare, and climate. In 2021, the publication Axios rated Mondaire the most active freshman member of Congress.

I first met Mondaire at a dinner in a friend’s apartment in 2018 with young progressive Black leaders considering running for office. He was impressive! I had litigated to increase school funding in his home school district and understood the inner fortitude that it took for someone to even graduate, much less get into Stanford and then Harvard Law. We stayed in touch. In 2020 he announced that he was going to run in the Westchester-Rockland County district against the incumbent Congress Member, Nita Lowey. Lowey decided to retire and Mondaire won in a field of 5 candidates. (For the record, I was his election lawyer.) Since his arrival in Congress, Mondaire has taken advantage of every opportunity to fight for his community in Washington. He was elected unanimously by his colleagues as Freshman Representative to House Democratic Leadership, making him the youngest member of the Democratic House leadership team. He was appointed a Deputy Whip of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Co-Chair of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus. He serves on the House Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Ethics Committees, where he has established himself as a leader on issues of democracy reform, civil rights, childcare, and climate. In 2021, the publication Axios rated Mondaire the most active freshman member of Congress.

But then redistricting happened. His home was placed into the district of his friend and colleague Jamaal Bowman, one of the more progressive new leaders in Congress, who Mondaire did not want to challenge. “We both need to continue our work in Congress,” he told me when he called and asked what I thought about running in the new 10th Congressional District. I told him that it would be amazing to have him represent my home community. He talked about how the Village had been a safe place for young gay and lesbian people of color, and how he considered it to be his second home. I said, “welcome home!” Electing Mondaire to represent us won’t be electing someone who needs to start exploring the halls of Congress. He is already deeply engaged and is considered a leader.

His most important bill is his proposal, widely co-sponsored, to expand the size of the Supreme Court. As a staunch advocate for democracy reform and voting rights, Congressman Jones co-authored and helped pass the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act in the House. He has authored and championed proposals for universal childcare and lowering costs for working families through antitrust legislation. Recently, Congressman Jones delivered $8.2 million in community project funding for his constituents.

Mondaire is just part of a group of interesting (plus one billionaire) people running for Congress. He stands head and shoulders above the group (not just because he is 6ft tall). I urge my neighbors to sort through all the mail we are receiving, go to vote on August 23rd (or vote early or by mail), and vote for Mondaire Jones.

Arthur Schwartz is the Democratic District Leader for Greenwich Village.

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REAL CHANGE

DEMOCRAT

MONDAIRE JONES

FOR CONGRESS

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8 月 23 日星期二投票

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MONDAIRE JONES
PROGRESSIVE CHAMPION

He’s an agent of change, a progressive champion, and a New Yorker raised in Section 8 housing and on food stamps by a single mother. He’s the first openly gay, Black person ever elected to Congress.

As the youngest member of House Democratic leadership and the most legislatively active freshman member of Congress, Rep. Mondaire Jones has just gotten started in his fight for:

✓ Medicare for All
✓ Affordable housing
✓ Ending gun violence
✓ Criminal justice reform
✓ Expanding the Supreme Court

ENDORSED BY:

SEN. CORY BOOKER (D-NJ)
SEN. ED MARKEY (D-MA)

END CITIZENS UNITED

EQUALITY VOTES PAC
National Nurses United
RWDSU

VOTE MONDAIRE JONES
FOR CONGRESS

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Alden: City Authorities are planning to elevate the few questions for you. So, first off, I would of Wagner Park in Battery Park City. concerned the elevation and two-year closure community members. The event was mostly concerning. Alden: So, lower Manhattan is subject to intensive flooding mainly sea level wise. Like a storm surge. And what we’re really work-ing on is a sweep of projects across Bat-tery Park City that will help prevent future flooding, and protecting our Manhattan. And we’re starting off with Wagner Park and will begin construction by the end of the summer on elevating the park. Alden: Just saying I am not for one side or the other because I’m new to this issue and gathering information at the moment, but a few other people that I have talked to are concerned about how long it will take to execute this project, with supply chain and other disruptions. What are your thoughts on that? Nick: Well, it will only take a few years and we will work as quickly and as safely as we can, but we’re just trying to prevent future flooding.

These have been my interviews. I hope you enjoyed them, and took something from them. We all know how long construction can take in NYC. Is Wagner Park built on an old landfill and has the environmental impact of that been assessed? Can we all agree to preserve and save the soil? Is there a way to protect all the trees, while protecting future flooding also? Let’s get creative and figure out how to preserve what we have now, and conserve with an eye to the future also. The Billion Oysters Project is a good example of that. By the way, I’d like to know how much all this will cost and who is paying for it? Thank you, and have a great rest of your week!

Shame on Village Independent Democrats!

By Arthur Z. Schwartz

65 years ago Greenwich Village was blessed with a unique political organization, a precur-sor of the progressive movement of the 1960s, named the Village Independent Democrats (VID). Greenwich Village, for decades, had been the center of boss-run “Tammany Hall” politics in New York City under Democratic-Ist District Leader Carmine Desapio, who served from 1943 until 1961. This new club was organized by Eleanor Roosevelt, and the nascent organization beat Desapio, and his organized crime friends, in 1961.

In the 1960s VID became a central hub of movement politics in the Village. It fought the war in Vietnam, supported the Black Panther Party against attacks, was an early supporter of the newborn gay rights movement and fought hard to legalize abortion. It became a hub of activity against pro-war politicians, and generally supported candidates who had the most progressive politics. It was the home base of Bella Abzug, leader of the Women’s Strike for Peace and Freedom, who lived on Bank Street; VID played a central role in Bella’s successful run for Congress in 1970 against a 14-year incumbent, Leonard Farbstein. VID was always out there supporting the most progressive of leaders, like Paul O’Dwyer, Mark Green, Jesse Jackson, and David Dinkins (who toppled Ed Koch—he started his career as VID District Leader).

You could always count on VID to take the most radical of positions on any issue and translate that into candidate support. But in the 1990s the organization started to weaken. When I went to my first VID meeting in 1994, as a probable candidate for District Leader, only four people were there. In 1995 I got elected with the support of VID core regulars (who knew how to run a campaign) as did Aubrey Lees, and the club started to rebuild. But it has rebuilt over the last 25 years as simply another slightly liberal Democratic Club. The VID of today is not in the middle of the progressive wave in either New York or nationally.

It supported Hillary over Obama in 2008, Hillary over Bernie in 2016, Hochul over Jamaaue Williams in 2018 and 2022, Biden over Bernie or Elizabeth Warren in 2020. It rarely challenges incumbents, rarely endorses candidates of color. (Yes it endorsed Alvin Bragg and Maya Wiley in 2021, which was an anomaly.)

But in the coup de grace, in the wide-open Congressional race in the new 10th Congressional District, which incorporates all of Manhattan below 14th Street, it chose Dan Goldman. Who is Dan Goldman? He is the billionaire heir of the Levi-Strauss fortune, a fact he has largely gotten erased from the internet. His claim to fame is that he was a lawyer on the Special Prosecutor’s team in the first Trump impeachment trial. He doesn’t support creating a public health insurance system—he opposes Bernie’s Medicare for All and the New York Health Act. He is opposed to the Green New Deal and other plans to sharply reduce greenhouse gases. He waffles on Women’s Right to Choose. He believes in using public funds to fund parochial schools and charter schools. Not a word out of him on campaign finance reform, LGBT rights, or proposals to expand the Supreme Court. And did I say this: he is a billionaire who is using his wealth to fund his campaign. VID has endorsed Goldman. This is an all-time low. There are a slew of progressive candidates running. Mondaire Jones, Yuh Line Niu, Joanne Simon are three of them. Instead they chose the Billionaire Candidate who stands to the right of their last major endorsements, Joe Biden and Kathy Hochul. VID is no longer the voice of the left. It’s not even clear if it is the voice of Greenwich Village. What a Shame.
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Meet the Candidates 2022:
Maria Danzilo for State Senate District 47

By Jason Curtis Anderson

After eight years of progressive leadership came to a boil in the summer of 2020, the call for “common sense” Democrats has finally returned to NYC—Maria Danzilo is just that. Like many of us, Maria is a socially-liberal lifelong Democrat. Her family has deep roots in NYC small businesses including her family members owning a local hardware store on Spring Street, and an eyeglass store on Christopher Street where her maternal great uncle and his partner lived and worked for decades. She is a fierce pro-choice fighter for women’s equality, free speech, and the unique needs of seniors, including their safety.

Maria Danzilo ran for City Council in 2021 on the “common sense” platform at the behest of many distraught Upper West Side residents who no longer recognized their own neighborhood. With over eight candidates running Maria came in second place, which is no small feat for a first-time candidate. Today she is running for New York State Senate against Brad Hoylman, the proud architect of the controversial bail reform bill.

WestView: Maria please tell us a bit about your platform.

Maria Danzilo: Public safety is at the top of my platform because the most important job of a public servant is to keep people safe. We need to tighten bail reform laws, target hate crimes, address rampant shoplifting, and strengthen anti-gun laws. There is much more we can do to improve public safety like having working security cameras in our subways and commercial areas and improving security in areas hardest hit by crime. I meet with people in public housing regularly and their number one complaint is they don’t feel safe. They want security systems in their buildings and better lighting. We aren’t spending enough on sanitation, and it is causing an unprecedented rat infestation and public health crisis. We need to upgrade to rat-proof cans throughout the City, increase sanitation pick-ups, provide funding to groups that employ people to keep the streets clean (like the Doe Fund), and enforce sanitation laws. We also need to address the explosion of graffiti on abandoned storefronts and buildings.

WestView: You have been critical of Brad Hoylman for his leading role in bail reform. What will you change about this law if you get the chance?

Maria Danzilo: Brad Hoylman is a co-sponsor of the bail reform law, but New York is the only state to enact bail reform without allowing judges to consider whether someone arrested for a crime would be a public safety risk if released into the community without conditions, so we need to let judges determine dangerousness as every other state does. Whether people want to say it or not, dangerousness is a real thing, as is recidivism. Repeat offenders are committing a large percentage of crimes, so judges need to consider prior arrest records. Even NY’s District Attorney is frustrated by the fact repeat offenders are not detained. Governor Hochul has acknowledged the problems with the law and attempted to make some changes, but she did not have the legislative support to add the dangerousness standard and address recidivism. These common-sense reforms are widely supported by people living in the areas of the city hardest hit by crime and it is time we listen to them. At the same time, we can acknowledge that fixing the problems in the law is totally possible without disrupting very legitimate issues that reform addresses. I should add that it is important that New York invest in a safe, state-of-the-art pre-trial detention facility and that is why I support redeveloping Rikers Island.

WestView: What are your thoughts on education?

Maria Danzilo: Less than 14% of our most vulnerable kids are proficient in reading, writing, and math when they finish 8th Grade. Fixing education doesn’t fix our economy now but it does fix it for the future. Our abysmal education system is not preparing our own children to compete in the job marketplace of the future. If we don’t course correct, our kids will lose those jobs to people from places that understand the importance of education. This shouldn’t be a politicized issue, both sides of the aisle should be screaming from the rooftops about this.

WestView: You are friends with key figures of the political reform movement in San Francisco. What do you feel we can learn from that situation in terms of addressing homelessness, drug addiction, and criminal justice reforms?

Maria Danzilo: SF has many deep and intractable problems that will take time and commitment to fix, but they do have some outstanding community leaders, and they just successfully recalled an unpopular District Attorney whose policies were undercutting public safety. Like NY, special interests have an outsized influence, and voter turnout is low. Some neighborhoods, like the Tenderloin, have become high-crime areas filled with open-air drug markets and tent encampments. City leadership does not seem to have the ability to restore public safety. I highly recommend Nellie Bowles’ excellent article in The Atlantic, “How San Francisco Became a Failed City” and the book San Francisco by Michael Shellenberger. Is there hope for the American City in 2022? I do believe studying the mistakes made in other cities will give us the insights, knowledge, and information we need to avoid the same pitfalls.

WestView: Any other final thoughts?

Maria Danzilo: I am pro-choice, support LGBTQ+ rights, and strict gun laws. On cultural issues, I am probably close to my opponent. But we have very different views on other issues though, and I believe the progressive policies he supports on safety, education, homelessness, mental illness, and the economy have failed New York miserably and it’s time for a reset. There are a lot of things with the electoral system that I’d like to change but the one I feel most passionate about is bringing open primaries to NYC. There should be one primary, all parties, every New Yorker can vote for whomever they want, then the final five candidates go on to the general. Arguing about the extremes of both parties isn’t helping our city. We need to do everything we can to make sure the best person for our city always gets the job. How great would that be?

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VOTE FOR BETTER

- Change bail reform to add a dangerousness standard & keep repeat offenders off the streets
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Tighten oversight of homeless shelters to address dangerous and unsafe conditions
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Expand the scope of Kendra's Law to those who are a danger to themselves and others
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Support school choice because schools are failing our kids—less than 14% of vulnerable kids are reading, writing or doing math at grade level
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Lower taxes to address inflation pressure on New Yorkers and small businesses and stop the exodus from New York
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Enact Term Limits for all elected officials in state
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Franchise independent voters in primaries to expand voting rights
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: No

- Support LGBTQ+, abortion rights and gun control laws
  - Maria Danzilo: Yes
  - Candidate B: Yes
News that’s easy to digest: Northwell Health Brings Endoscopy and Colonoscopy Services to the West Village

By Arun Swaminath, MD

In a city as diverse as New York, full of people with unique backgrounds, personalities and life experiences, there’s at least one thing we can all agree on: stomach problems are no fun. It’s maybe not as much of a relatable topic as the housing market being a complete nightmare right now—but we have all at one time or another suffered through a stomach bug, indigestion, or a bout of diarrhea.

As a gastroenterologist with over 15 years of experience, it’s my mission in life to help people with all kinds of stomach and intestinal issues—from minor difficulties like heartburn and constipation to serious problems like inflammatory bowel disease and gastric cancers. That’s why I’m extremely excited to announce that as part of Northwell’s ongoing commitment to bring more clinical health services to the West Village, this month, we have opened a brand new, state-of-the-art endoscopy and colonoscopy suite at Lenox Health Greenwich Village (LHGV).

The LHGV Endoscopy Center is set in a 3,000-square-foot space and includes two procedure rooms equipped with the latest technology to conduct a variety of endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures, as well as with patient friendly pre-op and recovery areas. It is situated within the facility’s Surgery Center, which opened last year. With a prominent and diverse team of gastroenterology experts, we are able to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care to all of our patients.

Endoscopies are typically used to investigate symptoms like acid reflux, difficulty swallowing, abdominal pain or bloating, bleeding and inflammation. In addition, they can aid with early detection of esophageal and gastric cancers. Colonoscopies allow doctors to view the entire length of the large intestine to help evaluate unusual growths, inflamed tissue, ulcers, hemorrhoids and abnormal bowel movements. As colon cancer is the third most common cancer in the U.S., colonoscopies are recommended for anyone over the age of 45—and earlier for those with a family history of cancer.

Since LHGV is part of Northwell Health, New York’s largest healthcare provider, after confirming a diagnosis, we are able to provide patients with access to a vast multidisciplinary network of outpatient, inpatient and surgical programs at convenient locations throughout Manhattan and beyond. All of our hospitals, treatment centers and physician practices share electronic medical records to allow for efficient, seamless and integrated care.

On behalf of my team, I want to express how happy we are to move into the neighborhood and serve the West Village community. Remember, if you’re experiencing unusual gastric or digestive symptoms that last more than a few days and don’t resolve with over-the-counter medications—or if you’re due for a colonoscopy—it’s best to see an expert right away, as early diagnosis can significantly improve health outcomes and quality of life. If something doesn’t feel right, there is no need to suffer. Trust your gut—literally—and give us a call.

Cleopatra: The Last Greek Queen and Ruling Pharaoh of Egypt

By Anastasia Kaliabakos

Cleopatra VII was born in 69 B.C. in Alexandria, the ancient city founded by Alexander the Great. An important queen of ancient Egypt, she is still a famous historical figure. Despite a lack of primary sources from the ancient world, historians have pieced together much that has allowed her legacy to carry on for thousands of years.

Cleopatra was a daughter of Ptolemy XII and a descendant of Ptolemy I Soter, one of Alexander the Great’s generals and the founder of the Ptolemaic line in Egypt. When Alexander had gone east from Macedonia, he’d conquered many lands and put Ptolemy in charge of Alexandria. Thus, Cleopatra’s family line is evidence of her Macedonian and Greek heritage.

In ancient times, ruling families rarely got along—most were destroyed from the inside by competition for the throne, often resulting in conspiracy and murder. This trend began for Cleopatra’s family after the death of Ptolemy XII in 51 B.C., when the throne passed to 18-year-old Cleopatra and her 10-year-old brother, Ptolemy XIII, who became her husband and soon plotted to oust her from power.

Cleopatra wanted to strengthen Egypt’s friendship with the Romans, potential allies during a civil war in Egypt. Her main ally was General Pompey. Although Cleopatra wished to protect Egypt, her diplomatic maneuvers led Ptolemy XIII to accuse her of treason, forcing her to flee Egypt. However, she demonstrated her relentless resolve, even in exile, by acquiring an army of mercenaries and, in under a year, fighting Ptolemy XIII at Pelusium. Her brother then killed General Pompey, believing it a strategic way to get Pompey’s rival, Julius Caesar, to join him. Ironically, Cleopatra gained Caesar’s support, defeating Ptolemy XIII and taking back the throne. Caesar remained in Egypt with Cleopatra for a time, and around 47 B.C. she gave birth to Ptolemy Caesar, known as Caesarion by the Egyptians.

Soon after, Cleopatra brought Caesarion to Rome. It is suggested that Cleopatra hoped Caesarion might have a leading role in Roman society one day because of his connection to Caesar. However, after Caesar was murdered in March, 44 B.C., Cleopatra and Caesarion returned to Egypt. Cleopatra’s desire for notoriety and power was not over though. She declared Caesarion her co-regent, and began to associate herself with the Egyptian goddess Isis. Her power in Egypt became more secure than it had ever been.

A new conflict in Rome had begun with the dawn of a war between the second triumvirate (Mark Antony, Octavian, and Lepidus) and Caesar’s assassins. Both sides sought Egypt’s support, but Cleopatra assisted the triumvirate. In 42 B.C., after winning the Battle of Philippi, Mark Antony and Octavian divided power in Rome. After the battle, Mark Antony agreed to protect Egypt and Cleopatra’s crown and sought their affection. One of the most famous continued on page 25
That’s why we bring the world-class resources of Northwell, New York’s largest health system, to the heart of your community.

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Northwell.edu/ForTheVillage
**A View from the Kitchen**

By Isa Covo

Until recently we had some very pleasant weather for the beginning of summer, then, mid-June, things changed abruptly with global temperatures rising to unprecedented highs, with no sign that cooler days would be coming soon. It is at this exact time that Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia pulled back from the already scaled back Climate and Tax talks. Treasury Department Secretary Janet Yellen worked for a year to complete a proposal and rally other countries. Now the whole thing has blown up. Apparently, there are still talks to save some parts of the package, but it will be a much smaller one. President Biden had planned to Build America Back, but politics will not allow him to do that now.

When the whole world applauded efforts to protect the earth against climate change, and Greta Thunberg became a hero, it was thought that most nations would establish some sort of program to fund to protect the planet. I think that with things being what they are now, each of us should make the decision on how we can protect our environment that is deteriorating and has done so for years. We should try to make the necessary changes, so that we and our descendants will be able to live happily ever after.

Roasted Carrots with Ricotta and Spicy Honey

*Suitable for a light lunch or a first course*

- 8 medium carrots
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- ½ pound whole milk ricotta
- ½ cup honey (preferably wildflower)
- ½ - 1 tsp red pepper flakes (depending on level of spiciness desired)
- Roasted pumpkin seeds (optional)

Serves 2-3 as an appetizer or side dish

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### Roasted Carrots with Honey and Red Pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Cut carrots into halves, lengthwise.
3. Place carrots on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
5. Roast for 20-25 minutes, or until carrots are tender and slightly brown.
6. In a small bowl, mix together ricotta cheese, honey, and red pepper flakes. Adjust to taste.
7. Serve roasted carrots with the ricotta mixture on top.

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**Ingredients**

- 8 medium carrots
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- ½ cup honey (preferably wildflower)
- ½ - 1 tsp red pepper flakes (depending on level of spiciness desired)
- Roasted pumpkin seeds (optional)

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**Preparation**

1. Wash carrots and trim off any bruised ends.
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
3. Cut carrots into halves, lengthwise.
4. Place carrots on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
5. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
6. Roast for 20-25 minutes, or until carrots are tender and slightly brown.
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8. Serve roasted carrots with the ricotta mixture on top.

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**Serves 2-3 as an appetizer or side dish**

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**Photo by Isa Covo.**
The Right Pick

By Gabriela Beavers and Teddy Capsis

There is no feeling quite like the crisp air and tranquility of the West Village on an early Saturday morning. As the birds chirp and the sun peeks through the clouds, the impending excitement of a beautiful summer day fills the air. You've worked overtime this week, and after a good night's sleep, you've mustered up enough energy to kick off your day with a breakfast date. This month's date spotlight is none other than one of our favorite French restaurants in the village, Tartine. Located on West 11th and West Fourth, this quaint bistro seats twelve indoors and is positioned in a sun-drenched corner of the block. Adorned with painted wood paneling, model schooners, and buoys, visitors are greeted by a bright nautical theme as they enter. Nestled along the exterior of the building, six small tables are perfectly positioned for people watching and are conveniently equipped with awnings. One of its best attributes, the BYOB policy, may not be necessary for brunch but is something to keep in mind for your next visit! If you wish to frequent Tartine after the date with a larger party, you will find additional seating under cozy string lights.

Owned and operated by chef Thierry Rochard, Tartine's brunch cuisine features quintessential breakfast classics paired with the traditional flavors and pairings of French cuisine. To start, we suggest ordering their frothy latte or iced coffee depending on your preference. Upon browsing the menu, there may appear to be dishes that you have never heard of, but these are arguably the best on the menu! Our first selection, eggs Norvégienne, consists of two delicious poached eggs topped with thick-cut gravlax and creamy hollandaise on a toasted English muffin. Similar to an eggs benedict, this dish is decadent and for smoked salmon lovers, the best thing since sliced bread. Their croques-mon-sieur and madame's buttery home-baked brioches melds perfectly with the ham and swiss filling and the optional poached egg topping adds a rich touch. If you're not in the mood for something savory, their apple pancakes are fluffy and light while maintaining a crispy outer shell. With these dishes, one can select crispy roasted potatoes or mixed greens with their light house dressing on the side. To complement the less daring, Tartine offers breakfast staples like their customizable omelette, BLT, and bacon topped French toast. If you'd like to plus-up your meal, a la carte options like their three-piece sausage and applewood smoked bacon are great for sharing.

After you're heavily caffeinated and stuffed to the brim, take a stroll along West Fourth and do some window shopping before heading to Hudson and catching the energetic brunch crowd. Important to note, Tartine does not take reservations, but do not let that discourage you. An earlier date time will certainly beat the vibrant crowds exploring the neighborhood on the weekends.

EGGS NORVEGIENNE. Photo by Gabriela Beavers.
Two Businessmen Talking About The Village Summer of ‘22

JAMES DROUGAS IN FRONT OF HIS NEW BOOKSTORE, which is next to his old bookstore. Photo by Yiping “Holly” Wang.

By Roger Paradiso

We have been following Jim Drougas who runs the highly popular Unoppressive Non-Imperialist Bargain Bookstore at 34 Carmine Street in the West Village. After years of COVID and rent moratoriums, Jim hit the crossroads and his landlord asked him to leave by July 1 of this year. Jim is fortunate that the owner of “Temperance”, a wine bar right next door at 40 Carmine Street, offered Jim a room where he can put together a nice big chunk of his collection of accessibly priced unusual secondhand books ranging from the poetry of William Blake to the many books of Village poets and pop stars like Bob Dylan.

It works for now, Jim is still putting his tables of books outside the Wine Bar when weather permits. It’s almost like he didn’t leave. I asked Jim what he thought of the future and here is what he wrote.

“How I feel now is apprehensive dismay about the newest variant bio threats and the rats abundant and the crime waves by and against homeless and the protection of guns and the assaults on Asian folks and innocent unprotected small children and the legislative war on womankind, and the enormous threat of an ending of democracy if the next presidential election is as dismally encumbered by more of all of the same.

And yet still rather heartened by the potential for humans who are so resilient and resolute. That they will flock to the right books when I present them in unfathomable proportions just by simply putting the books out there for people to discover the great writers and poets of the past. My mission on earth isn’t done.”

I talked to Paul Rizzo, the owner of The Bitter End, and he said “Business is slowly coming back. You have to realize that the crowd, which is 25 and under, don’t care about COVID. The older crowd, which I get also, is still a little skeptical about COVID. We have a great landlord and the government gave me the PP and other monies. We also got a great response from fans of the club to a “Go Fund Me Page” so we made it through ok.”

“I’m more worried about the conditions on the streets of the West Village and the City in general. The muggings and stab-bings are turning people off. We’ve had shootings in the area. There was gunfire going off the other night. We had a stabbing by the West 4th Subway Station. A friend of mine got jumped on 3rd Avenue between 29th and 30th because he didn’t have a cigarette to give to this man.

I asked Paul about the sheds crowding up the sidewalks and the streets. “The sheds are a problem. The city has got to do something about them. The residential buildings can’t get the garbage picked up on schedule. The sheds become homes for the rats. And they cause a lot of traffic and parking problems.”

Paul is concerned that the crime, the inconvenience to parking and the concerns about going into subways are going to turn people off who want to come to his club. He says, “The music scene has spread out to the Boroughs and Jersey where it is cheaper to operate and people don’t have to travel into Manhattan which is expensive. Now the only thing people come into Manhattan for is Broadway, museums and some restaurants.”

Mom & Pops Suffer Loss of St. Vincent’s

Interview with Caravansary co-owner, Bill Johnstone, July 2010

By Kathryn Adisman

For weeks I’d walk by, see the gated storefront and pretend: “They’re on vacation.” As weeks turned to months: “They’ll be back in time for Easter.”

Never peering past the gated window, where a few unplugged toys on satiny red paper stood still (like time), into the dark recesses of the shop, I held onto my belief the way a kid holds onto faith in Santa, un-willingly.

I was sharing a bench with Jane Street neighbors; talk turned to the “demise” of the neighborhood and the Christmas shop around the corner. They found out from the “Clock Lady” next door: Caravansary, on Greenwich Avenue, closed.

I was shocked. But why would I be? You couldn’t walk a block in the West Village without passing an empty storefront. On 7th Avenue they stood three in a row like graves. Paper Works and Jessie’s, victims of St. Vincent’s closure, both had posted signs. It was a long goodbye for regulars to whom these stores meant refuge and community.

Caravansary was too small and crowded with things (jewelry, novelties, antique toys, ornaments, lava lamps, snow globes), to be a place for hanging out. Often, I’d stand outside transfixed by the toy carousel spinning in the window, but not until that July, making the rounds of local businesses in the wake of the hospital shutdown, did I venture inside to interview co-owner Bill Johnstone. In addition to being a major healthcare resource, he said St. Vincent’s was an “economic engine” for the neighborhood.

Q: Do you think we’ll end up with high-rises and no hospital?
A: (Mentions Trump Hotel on Varick Street.) That’s a real possibility.

Q: How will that impact our community?
A: We’ll have more housing for the very wealthy.

Q: If you left the neighborhood, you’d have trouble relocating?
A: That’s a general problem smaller entrepreneurs are having in New York these days, with or without a hospital. So many people feel sad when stores that have been around a long time are no longer economically viable. You lose something that was woven into the pattern of life.

Q: How would you describe your shop?
A: We have gifts and furnishings of style and whimsy. We are an oddball store. It’s not programmed or set up; you have to do a lot of thinking when you come in here. We have a focus on Christmas and Christmas ornaments—because our public has that focus—and we enjoy being here…We like the ambience of the neighborhood…It’s not a transient experience for us.

Q: You’ve been here 30 years?
A: Almost. (Johnstone and partner Paul Kissel opened Caravansary—meaning an inn, where, in the central courtyard, caravans traded things—when the practice of “layaway” was common. “You put so much down on an object until you pay it off. That’s how women cleaning at St. Vincent’s, with three-grandchildren, could afford to buy crystal.”) The idea of relocating isn’t attractive to me, not at this point…It’s a force of economics and the value of space is something I don’t set, maybe the landlord doesn’t set; it’s set by supply and demand and zoning considerations—forces that create a certain amount of change. Lately, change has been rather rapid and devastating.

Q: Because of the loss of the hospital?
A: Also, because the Village has now attracted very large-scale retailers, so that’s put an upward pressure on rents.

Q: Any way to preserve that balance—what people come to your store for?
A: That’s a real possibility.

Q: What was here before you?
A: (Face lights up.) It was the most wonderful store! (STAY TUNED…)

Kathryn Adisman writes about neighborhood places and people. She has lived in the West Village since 1984.
GVLL Competes in Sectionals for Little League World Series

By Anthony Paradiso

Recently, Greenwich Village Little League’s 10 U Little League World Series team won the District 23 tournament title before reaching the Sectional tournament final where they lost to South Shore Little League. To put things in perspective, Greenwich Village Little League was one win from going to the New York State tournament and if they had won that, they would have earned a spot in the Little League World Series.

This GVLL World Series team made history for the program, winning Districts for the first time since an earlier 10 U did so in 2011. Meanwhile, GVLL’s 12U Softball team won Districts in 2019. The President of GVLL, Peter Marino described how the Little League World Series and Travel teams work at GVLL.

“When the spring season ends, we select a Little League World Series team at a couple of age groups. Basically anybody who plays in GVLL during the spring has a chance to play for us on our LLWS team, which starts at the end of June.”

There was a tryout and the league heads formed two teams, a ten and 12-U team, that would represent Greenwich Village on this big stage.

“When we got to this tournament this year, we had a lot of good nine, ten-year-old players and they quickly jelled together. They went undefeated in the district tournament and went onto Sectionals, where they ran into South Shore, who is frankly one of the best Little League teams in the country. [Our team] fought hard but ran into a juggernaut.”

Marino suggested I talk to Ms. ToniAnn Bonade, a GVLL parent and coach who has helped expand GVLL’s travel program since 2021, up to four teams in the spring and two in the Fall.

Bonade discussed how GVLL formed its Little League World Series team earlier this summer.

“The kids kind of already knew each other and practiced twice-a-week, the coaches were fantastic and it felt like there was a great camaraderie on the team. I was surprised when we started competing with the Manhattan teams and then we went to the Bronx and competed...I’d never been part of a little league world series team and to go that far was an awesome experience.”

It must have been fulfilling for Bonade and Marino, who have worked hard to put GVLL’s travel program on the map, to see a team represent GVLL do well against other leagues in Little League World Series qualifiers but, the work does not end there. Bonade explained that there is still work to be done to help GVLL’s kids who play rec get more opportunities to play games so they too can step up to travel.

“For the kids who didn’t get to travel, I’m hoping we can provide more than one game in the Fall. The only thing is the field-space, you know it’s Manhattan and field space is so hard to come by but we’re not giving up!”

Pro & Con: Con Edison

By Roberta Russell

On June 30th the New York State Supreme Court decided that the Good Cause Eviction bill that would allow free market tenants in New York State to stay in their apartments after their leases were up, at a rent raise determined by the government, not the landlord, was declared “null and void as they are in direct conflict with state law and thereby preempted.”

This decision was a boon for landlords and a disappointment for tenants. As for me, a long-term West 9th Street townhouse owner, I had stopped renting and decided to get out of the landlord business in what was—with the perils of COVID, rising interest rates and taxes, and the scarcity of help—an increasingly inhospitable environment for landlords.

My last tenant told me that she would be relocating by March, at the end of her lease. Since the Good Cause Eviction Law was pending then, I did not try to re-rent her apartment because I feared that I would lose the freedom to run my building as I saw fit. I had planned to wait it out in peace and not rent until the law was decided on. Nevertheless, my real estate woes re-surfaced when Con Ed started billing me erroneously calculated amounts for estimated service to the now-empty apartment. Although they had made appointments to change the meter to function automatically without on-site readings or estimates, they did not show up on schedule, either for readings or meter changes. No notice or apologies were proffered.

Adding to my frustration and feelings of powerlessness, an ominous postcard-sized alarming missive: “If we do not hear from you by July 11, 2022, we may be required to apply to the court for an Order of Seizure to permit the city marshal to enter the area.”

This draconian threat was activated because the vacated tenant’s meter was now being monitored by actual up-to-the-minute photographs of her meter, taken by both my building superintendent and me. We sent the photos in the service of replacing the inaccurate estimates that caused Con Ed to determine wildly fluctuating charges.

I had been getting bills for the unused empty apartment, with only the refrigerator running, ranging from $257.05 as of June 21st to $1,265.32 a week later!

My attempts to correct the bill proved to be a formidable undertaking, ending today, months after I started, when I paid an updated bill that just arrived in the mail. The saga took endless hours of waiting on the phone, spread over many weeks, while listening to repetitions of “Thank you for your patience...” Ms. Clara Kaufman, a very human, intelligent, and refreshingly unscripted Con Ed representative, finally explained that workmen can inadvertently miss appointments without notifying the tenant or landlord in advance because not all representatives have work phones. Installations of new meters are often outsourced. Really! Couldn’t this debilitating and costly misuse of customer time and well-being be fixed?

Con Ed is a monopoly, not subject to the same economic forces that govern competitive businesses. Can you imagine Amazon with its current $135 billion net worth and 1,298,000 employees (2020), the largest internet company by revenue of our time, not informing the customer if a delivery date was changed?

Trust is vital, particularly in the case of Con Ed, an investor-owned energy company providing service for 10 million people in New York City and Westchester County, with $13.8 billion in annual revenue and $63.1 billion in assets in 2021. Accountability is vital, particularly for a monopoly. Consumers’ costs are rising because Con Ed’s profits are. According to New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, “It’s completely unacceptable that New Yorkers are paying significantly more for power while Con Edison brings in surpass profits.”

Speaking up to preserve trust, responsibility, and order is more important than ever. Go on the internet. Let your voice be heard.

A Pedestrian Crossing at Google West Street

ONE OF THE ONLY CITI BIKE DOCKS LOCATED WITHIN HRP is here at the tennis courts (right) just south of Houston Street. A new crosswalk is proposed and scheduled to be installed across West Street just beyond the docks at the center of this photo view, looking east toward Google construction on the left, and the Department of Sanitation garage on the right. How will the added traffic be handled? Credit: Brian J. Pape, AIA.

LOCAL STREETSCAPES
By Brian J. Pape, AIA

Public hearings at a Community Board 2 of Manhattan (CB2) meeting revealed plans to add a new crosswalk on Highway 9A, aka West Street, but, borrowing a trick from long midtown avenues, this one will be in the middle of the long block between Houston and Spring Streets.

Hudson River Park (HRP) and Google are cooperating with the state DOT (Department of Transportation) to work out the best configuration across West Street. Although there are half a dozen other similar crosswalks at intersections adjacent to this new one, the difficulty seems to be where the crosswalk will “land” on the west side of West Street, abutting Hudson River Park.

Google is asking for the crosswalk due to the anticipated thousands of workers who will soon be commuting to their new headquarters when construction is complete next year. Many are expected to walk to work or use bicycles to commute, or may simply want to take a mid-work stroll along the riverfront. The existing small Citibike dock next to the tennis courts in the park will likely be overwhelmed if it is not expanded. The landscaped plaza next to the bike dock is cherished by current users, who may be doomed due to its popularity.

On Google’s side of the street, there is a space between buildings (it doesn’t quite line up with the Charlton Street ROW, or right-of-way) that is being paved and landscaped through to Washington Street as a driveway and drop-off for Google. On the HRP side, the tennis courts won’t be moved, but the bike docks can be. Once the crosswalk lands at HRP, then it is up to HRP to redesign the area where people enter from the crosswalk.

The crosswalk construction is scheduled for this fall, which is very soon, so stay tuned for final decisions about HRP’s redesign.

By Mark M Green

A Pedestrian Crossing at Google West Street

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A Remarkable Man

Abstracted from
A Scientist’s View of Almost Everything
By Mark M Green

As I prepare this article the evening of July 19, 2022, it is shortly after watching the PBS NewHour, which presented a segment on the attempt by Congress to pass a bill allotting billions of dollars for enhancing the manufacture of the chips necessary for the production of everything using computer technology. The urgency as explained by the Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo is the security of the United States both militarily and commercially. She explained how dangerous it is for us that these ubiquitous chips, although manufactured using technology invented in the United States, are now manufactured elsewhere, Taiwan for example, and therefore their shipment to our factories could be blocked. She gave one of many examples of a car manufacturer in the United States having to close down for a shortage of necessary chips.

There follows the story of Arnost Reiser, a professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, now New York University Tanenbaum School of Engineering, who played a critical role in understanding the field of microlithography, the fundamental technology behind the manufacture of these chips. The story begins in Czechoslovakia.

Arnost and Ruth Reiser had long been under suspicion by the Soviet Union controlled Czechoslovak authorities. Although not a victim of the several purges in the early 1950s, Professor Reiser was known to have been friends with several people who had been purged and moreover, although given the opportunity, he had never joined the “Party.” The Reisers were suspected of harboring dangerous views. Perhaps the secret police even imagined that Arnost and Ruth’s escaping from the gas chambers in Auschwitz during World War II was not because they were useful (slave) laborers to their captors, which they were. In the twisted minds of these secret police they might have imagined that Ruth and Arnost, who had met in the camps, somehow held anticommunist views, and therefore were looked on favorably by the Nazis. Remarkably in the face of this suspicion by the authorities, Arnost and Ruth were able to pass through a sieve of multiple assurances by all kinds of “authentic” communist authorities and neighborhood groups and police, meant to filter out people such as themselves. Passing through this multiple filtering process, they were given papers allowing them to take a vacation trip out of the country to East Germany and a cruise in the North Sea off the coast of Denmark. The first phase of their plan to escape was in place.

The last words Arnost Reiser heard while he was still under communist control and after watching Ruth and his son Jan, a moment before, jump from the East German vacation ship “Sceebad Albeck,” was “Ja was ist den de los.” Arnost then twisted away from the man suddenly grabbing his jacket and he, holding his infant son Paul, jumped into the cold North Sea. Paul was awakened suddenly by the shock of the cold ocean water and the baby’s shriek was the only sound heard as everyone on the ship was startled into silence. Arnost, with his infant son in his arms, seeing Ruth and Jan ahead of him approaching the dock at Gedser, began swimming the one hundred meters to freedom. The East German guards were hesitant to fire their weapons, perhaps from their humanity, but maybe also because the ship was in Danish waters and that Danes were watching all this on the nearby dock, looking directly at them and their weapons.

Arnost Reiser had been professor of physical chemistry in the Technical University in Prague. Influential scientists in England who knew Arnost learned what happened and contacted Niels Bohr, the most famous scientist in Denmark. Bohr’s word was enough to allow the family to leave their immigration status in Denmark and to move to England where they eventually became English citizens.

Shortly after arriving in England in 1960, Dr. Reiser was hired at the Eastman Kodak Company working on imaging technology where he remained for many years, rising to a distinguished position for his accomplishments, even winning an award from the Queen. On retiring from Kodak, nearly 30 years ago, he moved to the United States accepting an offer to organize an institute at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn for exploring the chemistry responsible for microlithography, the technology responsible for the manufacture of the chips in our computers—important stuff.

The original chemical process that has evolved to produce computer chips started in the 1950s at a chemical company in West Germany and an accidental observation of what happened to a chemical mixture on exposure to sunlight. The areas on a specially made film exposed to the light could be dissolved away (become soluble) from the rest of the film, which would not be affected. An image therefore be formed by controlling the parts of the film to be exposed, just as an image is formed in photography by exposing silver salts to light, which are then changed while leaving the rest of the film unaffected. But this new process allowed imaging technologies not possible with photography.

For forty years, until Professor Reiser’s investigations, the light in this new process was thought to cause a chemical reaction that released an acid substance, which was thought to be responsible for making the light-exposed film soluble. Gradually, it was discovered that controlling, with great precision, where the light shone on the film one could form the microscopic lines on a chip, which directs the flow of electrons that control a computer.

Reiser’s investigations showed that the long believed mechanism of what the light was doing could not be correct. Instead his research revealed that the area exposed to the light underwent a chemical reaction that gave off a great deal of heat, and it was the heat that caused the film to become soluble. He showed that the reason behind the solubility was that the heat disrupted a kind of chemical interaction, hydrogen bonding, that is the most important phenomenon in the molecules that are responsible for life—but here encountered in a system that has nothing to do with biology.

Professor Reiser published his results showing that lithographic processes including the microlithography behind chip production could be made simpler by allowing the light to bring in the necessary heat directly—using lasers and infra-red light, the light that carries the warmth of the sun’s rays. Large corporations, Kodak, Polychrome, Agfa, Fuji and Mitsubishi, immediately jumped on the discovery and fought each other in their claim to priority.

A remarkable man Arnost Reiser, although no longer with us, has left an important legacy in his wake.

By Brian J. Pape, AIA
Novogratz Moving in to 114 Waverly Place

By Brian J Pape, AIA

Celeste Martin would not be pleased. But then, she was a relative newcomer to the ‘hood. Celeste had lived in her home at 114 Waverly Place, or in other nearby apartments, even before her real estate agent father Edmond Martin’s death in 1985, when she inherited eight buildings from him. She had loved sharing the hot pink palace with her artist friends, often at no rent charge. Celeste died in December of 2018 when she was 98 years old; she had been known as the eccentric “Queen” of the Village.

The Novogratz family started their restoration project in mid-2020, and expected “Novogratz Place” as they named it, to be completed by the summer of 2021. A model unit is already built out in the project to start sales.

Since our report in January, the west podium base has had its glass curtain wall enclosed, and scaffolding has come down on the west side of the project. Finishing touches aren’t expected until the winter of 2024.

Brian J. Pape is a citizen architect in private practice, LEED-AP “green” certified, serving on the Manhattan District 2 Community Board Landmarks Committee and Quality of Life Committee (participating solely in a personal, not an official, capacity). He is also co-chair of the American Institute of Architects NY Design for Aging Committee, a member of AIA NY Historic Buildings and Housing Committees, and is a journalist specializing in architecture subjects.

One High Line

By Brian Pape

As WestView News reported in January, exterior work has resumed at 76 11th Avenue in Chelsea, between West 17th and 18th Streets, adjacent to the High Line Park. Now, we can report that the Witkoff Group has renamed the 26-story and 36-story mixed-use towers, formerly known as The XI, as One High Line, with new signage around the construction site.

Designed by Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) with Woods Bagot as architect of record, the 900,000-square-foot complex will yield 236 condominium units, 137 hotel rooms, 85,000 square feet of retail space, and a public plaza, as reported by Michael Young in the July 8th issue of YIMBY. Steve Witkoff purchased the property for $900 million at a foreclosure sale, and partnered with Access Industries and Monroe Capital to complete the stalled project. A model unit is already built out in the project to start sales.

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How to Age in Place


A New York Times July 20, 2022 article, “Square Feet” by Linda Baker, explores “expanding options for senior housing.” In it, statistics are presented that show only 11 percent of the population over 75 years old living in senior housing, and that percent was reduced during the pandemic. One of the proponents of senior housing facilities said, “Coronavirus revealed a pandemic of loneliness and isolation. Aging in place harms society by presenting the choice to live with others as a failure.” Yet, nearly 90 percent of the population would rather continue living in their own family home. And one of the reasons given is that their family, friends, or daily acquaintances are there for socializing.

WAYS ARCHITECTS CAN BECOME AGE-FRIENDLY

Older adults want and should be able to live actively and independently for as long as possible. Age-friendly design takes into account their physical changes that occur over time, reducing physical and psychological barriers and the potential for injury. It enables older adults to maintain and maximize their physical capabilities and continue to live independently. Some examples are:

1. Design building floor plans that are clearly understood and easily navigable. Access to spaces must be clear and intuitive. Avoid complicated circulation patterns and provide wayfinding markers (forms, color, texture, light, sound, landmarks, etc.) with obviously-located adequately-lit directories and wayfinding signs. To accommodate a wide range of abilities, literacy, and language skills, use a multiplicity of modes to provide essential information (pictorial, verbal, tactile).

2. Design for the scale of a range of individuals and how they experience an environment: eye level, pace of walking, views, clarity of information, flexibility of use, etc.

3. Emphasize qualitative aspects of design: comfortable eye-level stimulation with aesthetic variety that is not overwhelming or confusing (contrast in color and shapes, elements with varying textures to respond to sight and touch, ample amount of ambient light, non-glare finishes), control of ambient noise.

Future articles will address individual features of the guide booklet.

By Brian J. Pape, AIA, LEED-AP

WeCycle

By Ede Rothaus

On the very short block of Varick Street between Downing and West Houston Streets, a new resource has opened for eco-conscious West Villagers and the larger metro community. WeCycle, a 24/7 clothing dropoff site opened its doors—or in this case its two chutes, earlier this Spring, wedged into a tiny former storefront next to a pizza slice shop, this small outpost of a larger enterprise has big ambitions and its own vision of how to contribute to helping solve the global environmental crisis of clothing no longer wanted being either incinerated or dumped into landfill.

I spoke with Norman Cohen, a young entrepreneurial principal in WeCycle, a 25-year-old for-profit textile recycling company who manages the Varick Street site about how and why the Southwest Village was chosen for its first Manhattan location.

“We were looking for a small location that could be outfitted into a 24/7 ‘drop spot’ that had good visibility and foot traffic.”

With Google opening a nearby campus and becoming a bit of a ‘tech hub’ with a sizeable young forward-thinking population.

Our mission is a green one: to reuse, recyle and upcycle unwanted clothing keeping it out of the landfills.”

When asked how WeCycle earns its profit—we were told “cents on the dollar” for sale of what it collects and has a presence in Africa, Lithuania and Sri Lanka. This reporter would not be surprised if a very favorable lease was also a key factor in choosing the site.

It is estimated that while the petroleum industry is the world's most polluting, the clothing industry comes in second with estimates as high as 10% of all greenhouse gases emitted worldwide. In addition to an approximate 60 million tons or one fifth of all plastics produced annually around the world.

Facts relating to recycling garments:
• It will take hundreds of years for synthetics to decompose
• Only 15% of consumer used clothing is recycled
• Almost 100% of clothing and textiles is recyclable
• The United States itself generates more than 15 million tons of used textile waste each year.

In addition to its Manhattan Varick Street drop site, WeCycleNYC offers several ways for collection for the greater Tri-State area all at no charge. WeCycle can provide collection boxes of various sizes for private homes, apartment houses, businesses, schools, community centers, property managers and religious institutions, and can help to organize, set up and pick up a clothing drive and arrange for scheduled pickups on a regular or one-time basis. They will even come to your small apartment to collect your individual donation regardless of size.

By Brian J. Pape, AIA, LEED-AP

In 1960 nine percent of the U.S. population was over 65 years old, but by 2030 older adults will account for roughly 20 percent of the U.S. population, and by 2060 it will be 24 percent.

On average, life expectancy has increased from 47 in 1900, to 68 in 1950, to 77 in 2000. This life expectancy varies by genetic makeup, as well as geographic location; Summit County, Colorado averages 87, while in McDowell County, West Virginia it's 70.

Architects and designers are working to best achieve form and function for everyone, regardless of age or ability. The passage and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (ADA) and the adaptation of the theory of Universal Design are two examples of how. Architects, product designers, engineers, and environmental design researchers, led by Ronald Mace at North Carolina State University, developed Universal Design in 1997 as the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood, and used by people to the greatest extent possible, regardless of their age, size, or ability.

With nearly 1.4 million adults age 60 and older living in New York City, a number projected to increase by 40 percent (to almost 2 million) by 2040, the need for age-friendly residential buildings has never been greater. Architects and the building community play an important role in ensuring that the city remains a safe place to grow old.

In collaboration with the NYC Department for the Aging, the AIANY Design for Aging Committee released the Aging in Place Guide for Building Owners in 2016. A 21-member advisory panel of city agencies, design professionals, nonprofit organizations, community partners, and businesses assisted with the creation of the guide. It offers a wide range of recommendations for renovations and improvements that protect the safety of older tenants and improve the quality of life for all residents. Using the guide, building owners can help residents remain in their homes as they age—safely, comfortably, and independently.
**Then & Now:**

*East Building of NYU*

By Brian J Pape, AIA, LEED-AP

**THEN:** George Borgfeldt & Co. built its headquarters ca. 1892 at 18-24 Washington Place, southwest corner of Greene Street, filling its 100’ x 100’ lot with its “fire-proof construction.” Moses King described it as “one of the most elegant and commodious business edifices of New York City.”

The Borgfeldt company had quickly outgrown its smaller quarters downtown, since its modest establishment in 1881. The “importing commission” firm handled “European, Oriental and domestic novelties” from “almost every civilized country on the globe.” It was reported that over 500,000 samples of international workmanship and novelties were displayed there, including “notions, fancy goods, stationery…dolls, toys, albums…bronzes, art goods…china, glassware…etc.”

The distinguishing features of this “aristocratic” 8-story (plus two stories below grade) industrial loft is the bold verticality of the pilasters on the corner bays, terminating with keystone arches. Then the top two floors repeat this verticality with miniaturized pilasters and arched top windows, beneath a deep heavy cornice, again limited to the corner bays only. Note how the far end on Greene Street at the left repeats the corner theme, without the cornice elaboration, tying the plain utilitarian intermediary bays with the whole composition.

But some of the most outstanding features are at pedestrian level. Here we see the Egyptian style columns, partly engaged, bowed out from the base, tapering, then flaring at the broad capital, supporting an entablature and brackets at the second floor line, all the way from one end of the building to the other end. Judging by the tonality of the black and white photo, from 1893, these columns would have had polychromatic color schemes, copying the discoveries of ancient Egyptian temples. What a grand gesture these columns must have made.

**NOW:** The good news is that the body of this building has been preserved in many details and materials by its new owner, NYU. The bad news is that the storefront base has been defiled beyond recognition. Behind the rectangular plate-glass windows between square boxed-out walls, the lobby is furnished like a lounge, and original cast iron columns within the lobby remain exposed; it seems open and airy and welcoming.

Perhaps to differentiate this part of Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development from the other parts, NYU chose the unimaginative name of East Building for the former Borgfeldt building, and also gave it the address of 239 Greene Street on their maps, although the lobby/lounge is entered on Washington Place.

Other NYU buildings now occupy the abutting lots on the right and left, as well as every surrounding block, but the fine detail of the upper stories of the East Building can still hold its own with some dignity.

One can’t help but wonder if the boxed columns were simply wrapped around the ornate columns, or were the original columns destroyed in the process of modernizing the storefront? Do any of our readers know?

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Brian J. Pape is a citizen architect in private practice, LEED-AP “green” certified, serving on the Manhattan District 2 Community Board Landmarks Committee and Quality of Life Committee (participating solely in a personal, not an official, capacity. He is also co-chair of the American Institute of Architects NY Design for Aging Committee, a member of AIA NY Historic Buildings and Housing Committees, and is a journalist specializing in architecture subjects.
Outdoor Comforts

By Molly Carew

Remember 2019, the city was abuzz, New York seemingly functioning at a higher frequency than ever before. I don’t need to remind anyone what came in 2020, and then some in 2021, which brings us halfway through 2022. Still seeking reminders of the comforts we had, before a global pandemic upended everyone’s normal. Along with the many changes our dear city has endured since 2020, outdoor dining seems a common topic of discussion, no matter which borough you call home.

A temporary solution, that enabled many people to return to work and serve you your favorite dishes, desserts & drinks now has our communities divided, between those who enjoy the benefits of outdoor dining and those who are affected by business owners taking advantage of the additional space with no consequence of mismanagement.

Since the introduction of outdoor dining, no legislature or regulation has been introduced to manage these outdoor structures in the long term or require businesses to maintain otherwise regulated restaurant and bar DOH (Department of Health) requirements. It has become a game of departments pointing fingers in opposite directions or stepping up to take fault.

Some of my favorite restaurants continue to maintain beautiful outdoor dining spaces, but many have not. And it is this that I wish to focus on. Instead of grouping all outdoor dining spaces as haphazard shantytowns, let’s look to holding the business owners who aren’t maintaining their space accountable. Just as they can be if their indoor spaces were maintained at the same level. We must find a balance for communities and restaurants to cohabitate on our streets and roadways in a conscious, functional way.

I believe this begins with ensuring all structures are DOT (Department of Transport) compliant with the guidelines specified in June 2020, which includes an 11pm curfew as well as structural and safety requirements. In line with being DOT-compliant, I believe it is equally as important to maintain DOH (Department of Health) compliance, which includes active pest management. Maintaining closure of holes in barriers filled with sand as well as weekly/biweekly pest control. Business liability insurance should also be enabled for the additional space to ensure both businesses and patrons are protected. Ensuring there is at least five inches of gutter space along the street side to allow for active flowing rainwater as well as monthly removal of flooring to power wash and discard detritus guaranteed to build up under any structure. Sanitation companies are also affected by COVID-19 disruptions and could then acquire new business, in turn creating additional sales tax, payroll tax, and income tax collections. It is my hope that all New York City agencies can join forces in collaborating on a unique regulation to maintain our city’s new outdoor dining capacities.

This is not going to happen overnight, but with commitment from our community, representatives and City agencies I strongly believe that those who are truly committed to maintaining our City streets and the opportunities these structures afford so many businesses, that we can find a balance. If penalties are introduced for misconduct (For example, two written strikes and then removal of outdoor space at the cost of the business with a three-month probation period prior to gaining access to reapply for the Outdoor Dining Program at an additional fee paid directly to the City) and rewards (For example; no renewal fees) to those who maintain their structure per the legislation and guidelines yet to be implemented.

We have faced so much change in these past few years, and the façade of New York has changed too. These outdoor structures mean staying open for so many small businesses, their employees, and local patrons. To hastily remove them would be the last nail in the coffin for so many.

Growing Up in Greenwich Village

By Grady Carson

Folks I have met along the way often exclaim, “You grew up in Greenwich Village?!” As it is just where I grew up, their amazement has always struck me.

The Village was my little world, isolated from the rest of the Big Apple and everything else. When left to my own devices, I didn’t go above 14th Street, rarely made it past Fifth Avenue, and never got much past Leroy Street; and we had to stop at the water (back then it was so polluted that we joked that you could walk across it). Those are the boundaries of the Village, which I didn’t know then.

My parents bought our house on Jane Street in 1964 and they brought me home in 1966. They were in the theater. Our proximity to Broadway, a 10-15 minute cab ride, was important. My father worked as a stage manager and my dear friend and mentor, Robert on Horatio Street.

As I walked, ran, skateboarded, and rode my bike through the angled/non-conforming Village streets, I was in my world. While passing the Corner Bistro, Bill (with his huge cigar) would come out and say, “Hi!” or wave me in to ask about how my mom was. I knew the pizza guys at Joe’s on Eighth Avenue, I made deliveries for Pops at La Marionetta, or on the way home from school Simone or Victor would wave me in to Walter’s Meat Market to run a meat delivery (or for a slice of bologna). I house-sat and walked the neighbors’ dogs. My first summer job (age 14) was offered to me by Hugh Malone, who owned Division Water Systems, after he rang our doorbell and introduced himself. On Thanksgiving, I always wanted to take the plate fixings to Ray, who worked in the garage across the street. We looked out for each other...it took a Village and it was our Village.

Small in territory, the Village was big in experiences for kids to explore and to watch out for. There was politics, art, music, crime, and social revolution all around. I was just a kid doing kid things, and thought nothing of the older couple who rode their bikes in their flowing purple outfits, the lady with the 7-10 pug dogs you could hear coming from over a block away, eating dinner out next to Ed Koch, spotting John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd in a local movie theater and getting a wave from them, or zig-zagging my way through the freedom revelers as I crossed Christopher Street and Seventh Avenue.

I learned to play sports on cement, roller hockey (garbage cans as goal posts), touch football (“Button Hook at the blue car”), running bases (the manhole cover and the blacktop patch were bases), and stoop ball (over the cars was a homerun). At PS 41 we climbed the fence to play basketball and stick ball. One day, while playing out front, a bloodied man came out of nowhere and grabbed me. Before I could register what was happening, three neighbors were out and shouting from windows, coming to my aid.

As all things do, the Village started to change. “They” were taking my Village from me without my consent. I was outraged at Benny’s Burritos replacing Walter’s Meat Market and Heller’s liquor store closing (no more check cashing, but a Chase moved into where Wendell’s magazine store was). The Greenwich Market turned into a Blockbuster Video. One day there was a line to get into the Corner Bistro. And on and on. But eventually, I had a burrito, opened an account at Chase, rented movies, and waited on line for a burger.

I moved out of the Village 26 years ago. When I visit, I still stop by the old haunts that remain: a burger at the Bistro (Bill’s not there) and a slice at Joe’s (all “new” guys). If I’m lucky I get to say “Hi” to my former neighbors who are holding out in rent controlled apartments, and they never fail to tell me that they moved the sound of us playing out on the street. I’m still in touch with a few of the “old” neighbors/life-long friends, like the Bahms who we shared a backyard with and open back doors for over 30 years, and my dear friend and mentor, Robert on Horatio Street.

The Village was weird, it was important, it was real, it was fun, and, yes, it was where I grew up!!

Sevilla
Restaurant & Bar
Authentic Spanish Cuisine
62 Charles Street Corner of West 4th Street
(212) 929.3189 or (212) 243.9513
romances of the ancient world thus began. In 40 B.C., after Antony returned to Rome, Cleopatra gave birth to twins. A few years later, Antony returned to Cleopatra in Egypt, slighting Octavian and his family. Antony publicly declared Caesarion as the rightful heir to the Roman throne and awarded land to each of his children with Cleopatra. This angered Octavian; in 32 B.C., the Roman Senate stripped Antony of all his titles, and Octavian declared war on Egypt.

Octavian’s army defeated Antony and Cleopatra in the Battle of Actium. A rumor that Cleopatra had killed herself prompted Mark Antony to kill himself just before he could be informed the rumor was false. After burying Antony, and pressured by the threat of public humiliation, imprisonment, and death at the hands of the Romans, Cleopatra closed herself in her chambers with two female servants. It is said she used a poisonous snake to commit suicide.

The poet Horace's moving poem, Ode 1.37, offers a Roman's perspective on Cleopatra. Horace portrays her as a mad-dened woman. She knows she will be forced to march through Rome in shame. The outcome of the Battle of Actium would undoubtedly lead to an embarrassing end to her reign and her life. To preserve her legacy and avoid shame she elects to end her life on her own terms. Horace allows readers to see this side of Cleopatra:

But it diminished her frenzy when there was scarcely one ship unburst by the flames, and Caesar Octavian returned her mind, crazy with Marotic wine, to true fear, flying from Italy with straining oars, like a haw [hunts] tender doves or a swift hunter [hunts] a hare on the plains of snowy Thessaly, to put in chains that deadly monster, cab, wanting to die more nobly, did not have a feminine dread of the ruord, nor find hiding shores with her swift fleet, but, having ventured out to see her palace lying in ruins, with a tranquil face, was brave enough to handle harsh serpents and drink their black venom into her body.

Horace focuses on Cleopatra's humbling defeat instead of Octavian's victory. She seems more human than her Roman enemies. She doesn't let them deprive her of her dignity, but heroically chooses her fortune, thereby exposing the almost hollow triumph of Octavian over Cleopatra: it was not Octavian or the Romans who killed her, but the snakes she set upon herself.

Cleopatra exemplifies strength and intelligence. Although she faced countless obstacles, she aided her homeland: she bolstered the Egyptian economy and became a popular ruler by embracing Egyptian culture, despite her Greek heritage. Her legacy lives on, and will continue to in poetry, film, music, and stories for generations to come.

Cleopatra continued from page 14
DAILY BEACH PASSES

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON
Daily Beach Passes are available for purchase for $30 per day
PIKES BEACH 769 Dune Rd, Westhampton Dunes | 7 Days a week
PONQUOGUE BEACH 276 Dune Rd, Hampton Bays | 7 Days a week
TIANA BEACH PAVILION 90 Dune Rd, Hampton Bays | 7 Days a week
MECOX BEACH 335 Jobs Ln, Bridgehampton | M-F
SAGG MAIN BEACH 1200 Sagg Main St, Sagaponack | T-F
FOSTER MEMORIAL 1000 Long Beach Rd, Noyac | 7 Days a week

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
Daily Beach Passes are available for purchase for $50 a day using the ParkMobile App
EAST HAMPTON MAIN BEACH Lot 2 | M-Th after 1 PM
TWO MILE HOLLOW BEACH | M-Th after 1 PM

HAMPTON JITNEY STOPS

WESTBOUND
AMAGANSETT In front of the Round Tree Inn at 273 Main Street, across from the Amagansett School
BRIDGEHAMPTON 2368 Main Street opposite of the Bridgehampton Community House
EAST HAMPTON 95 Main Street in front of the LVIS Building, across from the Huntting Inn/Palm Restaurant
MONTAUK 34 South Euclid Ave near the Police Station
SAG HARBOR 90 Main Street in front of the Sag Harbor Movie Theater
SOUTHAMPTON The Hampton Jitney's main location at the OMNI, 395 County Road 39A, across from the Southampton Car Wash
WATER MILL 760 Montauk Highway at the Hampton Jitney sign, just east of the Watermill Shoppes. Look for the glass enclosed bus shelter
WAINSCOTT 364 Montauk Highway in front of La Capannina Pizzeria

EASTBOUND
AMAGANSETT In front of the Amagansett School, across from the Round Tree Inn on Montauk Highway
BRIDGEHAMPTON In front of the Bridgehampton Community House on Main Street
EAST HAMPTON In front of the Huntting Inn/Palm Restaurant on Main Street
MONTAUK On the Corner of S. Euclid Avenue & S. Embassy Street, near the Police Station at the Suffolk County Bus stop
SAG HARBOR In front of the American Hotel on Main Street
SOUTHAMPTON The Hampton Jitney's main location at the OMNI, 395 County Road 39A, across from the Southampton Car Wash
WAINSCOTT On the corner before the Wainscott Post Office on Montauk Highway
WATER MILL In front of the Water Mill Community House on Montauk Highway, across from the Water Mill shopping center
LIQUOR STORES & CIGAR LOUNGES
Herbert & Hampton | 850 County Rd 39, Southampton
Sag Harbor Liquor Store | 52 Main St, Sag Harbor
Wainscott Main Wine & Spirits | 354 Montauk Hwy, Wainscott
Churchill Wines & Spirits | 2489 Main St, Bridgehampton
McNamara Liquors | 2102 Montauk Hwy, Bridgehampton
Besim’s Fine Cigars | 30 Jagger Ln, Southampton
Park Place Wines & Liquors | 84 Park Pl, East Hampton
Amagansett Wine & Spirits | 203 Main St, Amagansett
Montauk Liquors & Wines Inc. | 29 The Plaza, Montauk
Water Mill Wine and Spirits | 760 Montauk Hwy, Water Mill
Race Lane Liquors | 21 Race Ln, East Hampton
The Wine Stand at Wölffer Estate | 3312 Montauk Hwy, Sagaponack

FOOD & DRINK
Pierre’s | 2468 Main St, Bridgehampton
Le Charlot | 36 Main St #4811, Southampton
The Palm | 94 Main St Suite 1800, East Hampton
Cittanuova | 29 Newtown Ln, East Hampton
Nick & Toni’s | 136 N Main St, East Hampton
Dopo Argento | 15 Main St, Southampton
The Montauket | 88 Firestone Rd, Montauk
Gosman’s Restaurant | 500 W Lake Dr, Montauk
Montauk Brewing Company | 62 S Eerie Ave, Montauk
Duck Walk Vineyard | 231 Montauk Hwy, Water Mill
Wölffer Estate Vineyard | 139 Sag Rd, Sagaponack
Channing Daughters Winery | 1927 Scuttle Hole Rd, Bridgehampton
Topping Rose House | Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton
The Stephen Talkhouse | 161 Main St, Amagansett
Bobby Van’s Steakhouse | 2393 Montauk Hwy, Bridgehampton
Lulu Kitchen & Bar | 120 Main St, Sag Harbor
Tutto il Giorno | 16 Main St, Sag Harbor
Pier 90 | 1980 Montauk Highway, Amagansett
La Pergola | 44-48 NY-27A, Southampton
Suki Zuki | 688 Montauk Highway, Water Mill

QUICK EATS & COFFEE
Golden Pear | 99 Main Street, Southampton
Citarella Gourmet Market | 20 Hampton Road, Southampton
Provisions | 7 Main Street, Sag Harbor
Hampton Coffee Company | 869 Montauk Highway
Tony’s Market of Montauk | 541 West Lake Drive, Montauk
Schmidt’s Market & Produce | 120 North Sea Road, Southampton
Porco’s Country Deli and Pizza | 926 Noyack Road, Southampton
Schiavoni’s Market Inc. | 48 Main Street, Sag Harbor
La Capannina | 364 Montauk Highway, Wainscott,
John’s Drive-In | 677 Montauk Highway, Montauk

RENTAL LISTING
Amagansett | $150,000 June to Labor Day | 3 BD 3 BA 1.7 ACR
Bridghampton | $55,000 June-Labor Day | 3 BD 1.5 BA 0.4 ACR
Bridghampton | $66,000 June-Labor Day | 4 BD 2.5 BA 1.26 ACR
Bridghampton | $97,500 August-Labor Day | 5 BD 5.5 BA 0.5 ACR Pool
East Hampton | $40,000 July | 3 BD 3 BA 1 ACR Pool
Sagaponack | $55,000 July | 7 BD 4 BA 3 ACR Pool
Sag Harbor | $40,000 July | 3 BD 3 BA 0.4 ACR Pool
Sag Harbor | $80,000 June-Labor Day | 3 BD 2.5 BA 4 ACR
Southampton | $16,000 June, 22,000 July | 5 BD 2 BA 0.4 ACR
Southampton Village | $30,000 July | 2 BD 3 BA 2.6 ACR Pool
Southampton Village | $55,000 July | 4 BD 5.5 BA 2.6 ACR Pool
Southampton Village | $150,000 June-Labor Day | 4 BD 2.5 BA 6 ACR Pool
Southampton Village | $160,000 July | 7 BD 6 BA 7 ACR Pool
Wainscott | $20,000 June, $50,000 August | 3 BD 3 BA 1.04 ACR Pool
Wainscott | $35,000 August | 3 BD 2 BA 0.5 ACR Pool

SALES LISTING
51 Arbuthnute Rd | Southampton | $4,495,000

7 BD | 6.5 BA | 6.5K SF | 1 ACR | NEW CONSTRUCTION

TENNIS
Sportime Amagansett | 320 Abrahms Path, Amagansett
East Hampton Indoor Tennis | 174 Daniels Hole Road, East Hampton
East Hampton Tennis Club | 178 Montauk Highway, East Hampton
Future Stars Tennis Club | 1370A Majors Path, Southampton
Gotham Tennis Academy | 91 South Fulton Drive, Montauk

GOLF
Montauk Downs State Park | 50 South Fairview Avenue, Montauk
Poxabogue Golf Center | 3556 Montauk Highway, Sagaponack
Sag Harbor State Golf Course | Barcelona Point, Sag Harbor
Southampton Golf Range | 668 County Road 39, Southampton
Whitney Museum Independent Study Program: More Artists to Infiltrate the Village

By J. Taylor Basker

Something new and exciting is coming to our neighborhood, announced the Whitney on July 27th, when Westbeth Artists Housing hosted the museum’s meeting with members of the West Village community who live near Roy Lichtenstein’s studio at 745 Washington Street between Bank and Bethune Streets. Since it is right across from Westbeth, many of its artists came, along with upscale well-coiffured neighbors who own homes close by, and people from this area’s expanding art scene, which includes distinguished galleries such as White Columns.

Adam Weinberg, the Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum, proudly announced that Roy Lichtenstein’s studio has been generously donated to the museum by his widow, Dorothy Lichtenstein. It will be transformed into an exciting permanent home for its successful Independent Study Program (ISP), which will be much expanded. Founded in 1968, the ISP has an influential history of cultivating successful artists including Donald Judd, Ron Clark, and Julian Schnabel who also has a studio in the neighborhood. Alumni of ISP include artists Jenny Allora, Gregg Bordowitz, Tony Cokes, Danielle Dean, Mark Dion, Andrea Fraser, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Renee Green and Jenny Holzer.

Ms. Lichtenstein stated, “Thanks to Roy, this building has been the site for artistic and intellectual endeavors, both for himself and for the people who have long gathered here. I can’t think of a more meaningful use for the studio than for the Whitney to carry his legacy far into the future, building on and expanding the role of the foundation in supporting contemporary art and artists.”

The goal of the ISP is to support the vision of the Lichtensteins—a place for artists to gather, dialogue, and create in community. Students engage in studio art, curatorial work and art history scholarship, and critical writing. They probe the context of artworks through historical, social, and intellectual factors that drive production. A select group of fifteen students are chosen for the studio program, four in curatorial, and six in the critical studies program.

The magical transformation of Lichtenstein’s studio into the ISP permanent home is under the baton, cranes, and jackhammers of the distinguished architectural firm Johnston Marklee, known for its art projects such as the renovation of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and the UCLA graduate art studios campus.

The meeting at Westbeth was called not only to inform, but also to assure fears the neighbors may have about noise and disruption caused by construction. The plan was thoroughly explained: building additions, subtractions, and alterations required to provide an appropriate space for the goals of the ISP. Floor plans, site plans, and reconstructions of exterior elevations were shown.

One neighbor was concerned about the structural security of the expansion—adding a new level to the building—but was told that engineers were conducting thorough tests to assure that the framework would support it. The building was originally built in 1912 as a factory metalworking shop and is likely sturdy enough for the additions. Another neighbor was concerned about the aesthetics of the new façade, that repeated the brickwork but only had two windows, while the lower floors had a pattern of multiple windows (see illustration). Weinberg said they needed wall space for the artists, but would investigate the possibility of adding another window in the design.

Several neighbors repeated concerns about construction inconvenience and requested that work not begin until 8:00 a.m. It was explained that the larger construction of the addition would be limited to a few months during the winter when windows would be closed. The schedule is optimistic, with plans for completion by summer 2023, the year of Roy Lichtenstein’s centennial. Neighbors with questions were told to contact Jane Carey, senior officer of Community and Government Affairs at 646-666-5522 or jane_carey@whitney.org.

During the summers, when not in use by the ISP, the museum expects to use the building for a diverse set of educational programs, including residencies, teacher training, and teen programs, under the competent leadership of Chair of Education Chris Scorza.

Westbeth artists offered their support and professional expertise, possible housing, mentorships, and apprenticeships. Our neighborhood continues to be enriched by art institutions, pioneered by Gertrude Whitney, who opened the Whitney Studio in Greenwich Village in 1914, presenting exhibitions by living American artists ignored by mainstream art institutions. She assembled a collection of more than 500 pieces by 1929. After her offer of these as a gift to the Metropolitan Museum of Art was declined, she set up her own institution with a mandate to focus exclusively on the art and artists of this country. The neighborhood was full of artists such as Edward Hopper, Ad Reinhardt, Philip Guston and Frank Stella. However, today’s rents price out most artists, and Westbeth remains their lone bastion for housing, although its rents are also rising steeply after it left HUD and became rent stabilized.

Dorothy Lichtenstein’s generosity to the Whitney is extended by her donation of the Lichtenstein sculpture on the roof, visible across from Westbeth, many of its artists and the community among artists. Perhaps the ghosts of former artists who hung out here in the past will hover over the newcomers, helping conjure up innovative imageries for the future.

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Sinclair Lewis and 69 Charles St. (1909-1913)
Designated a historic literary site in 2014

By James V. Gambone, Ph.D.

To kick off a monthly series of short stories about Sinclair Lewis written by members of the Sinclair Lewis Society, here is what we know about Lewis’ time at 69 Charles Street, home of WestViewNews.

While living there he published his early novel Aeroplane under the pseudonym of Tom Graham.

The brownstone was Lewis’ first apartment in the Village. He came to New York after leaving what he considered a “boring job” in Washington D.C. working on a magazine for the deaf. Not a great deal is known about this early period of his life, but the people who know more than anyone else are his biographer, Richard Lingeman (Sinclair Lewis: Rebel From Main Street), Sally Parry, the Executive Director of the Sinclair Lewis Society, and Dave Simpkins, Lewis’ life-long admirer and editor of the Sauk Centre Herald for many years. Here is what these experts had to say.

Lewis was attracted to NYC and the Village because both were quickly becoming the literary centers of America. Greenwich Village was even called the “Republic of Dreams.” When he lived in the brownstone apartment, he was working as an editor at Frederick A. Stokes publishing. Lewis had worked with Stokes' son on the Literary Review at Yale, and that was obviously a good connection.

He moved in with two other Yale men, George Soule—who also worked for Stokes—and William Rose Benet, an aspiring writer and poet. Another boader was the noted Bohemian Harry Kemp—the Hobo Poet—who made a living selling verses to various magazines.

Richard says Lewis jumped into Village life with both feet and admired celebrities who also lived there like Emma Goldman and Theodore Dreiser. However, he wasn’t really accepted in the Bohemian culture of the Village. Kemp wrote an autobiography where real people appear under fictional names. Lewis' name was Red Flatman. In one scene, some Villagers discuss Flatman. One sniffs, “Red Flatman, though he has his qualities just doesn't BELONG.” Another character adds, “He doesn't get us at all.” And a third chimes in: “You bet he doesn't—strives so hard to be 'Bohemian.'” And then the character called Janice (based on the radical feminist Henrietta Rodman) drives the final nail in Red’s social coffin: “He is, and will be, to the end, I’m afraid—essentially a small-town product.” Lewis retorted that Kemp was nothing more than a “professional Bohemian.”

George Capsis for years has told the story about how Lewis had popularized the word “brunch” in New York City. The story goes that Lewis told his buddies they could save some money combining breakfast and lunch—which he called brunch—where they ate at the first outdoor café in NYC across the street from 76 Charles St. And proud New Yorkers believe the word originated from the amazing breakfast and lunch choices after a night on the town, the word was first used in the publication Hunter's Weekly by Guy Beringer in 1895. This is a publication Lewis would have been familiar with.

Thanks George for keeping the legacy of Sinclair Lewis alive in your paper.

If you want to know more about 69 Charles and Sinclair Lewis, please go to: english.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/ the_society/documents/SLSN-Full-14.pdf

Surviving Greenwich Village in 2022

By Richard Eric Weigle

Honking horns, loud drunks and diners on our streets, litterers, car alarms, trucks beeping when backing up, roaming musicians, residents who do not move their cars for the street cleaners, and people who allow their dogs to relieve themselves in our tree-wells killing our plants and trees. It’s enough to drive one crazy.

What to do? That is the question.

Do we yell out of our window and add to the noise that is already there? Do we remind people politely to pick up after their dogs and not to let them kill our plants and flowers? Should we have to? Really?

Yoga has helped me and having an understanding husband with whom I can vent once in a while is important. I have also found that the key for me is to be aware and concerned, but not to hold on to the anger.

Let’s face it, one of the challenges of getting older is to not become a grouchy, negative, and angry senior who only talks about the good old days. Very few people, especially younger ones, want to hear that.

Being President of The Grove St. Block Association for over 20 years and living on Grove St. for 48 years, I have seen it all, the good the bad and the ugly. Yes, there were nice things about the past when we could afford to shop on Bleeker St. and there were inexpensive and moderately priced restaurants in abundance, but we must be able to adapt to our current reality or we will surely be the complaining, always negative people we fear becoming.

I am not a therapist, nor would I presume to tell anyone else how to live their lives, but maybe I can point out a few positive things about the present for which we can all be grateful.

Trees, gorgeous trees, more than ever before, tree-wells planted beautifully with iron wickets put in place to protect them, Bishop Crooks Lampposts, bike paths and promenades along the waterfront with lovely piers and park areas in which to relax, brownstones restored to their former glory and parks such as Abingdon Square, Christopher Park and Jackson Square looking better than ever. These are just a few of the improvements over the years that make Greenwich Village still such a desirable place to visit and live.

Maybe we can’t change the whole city, but we can make a difference on our own blocks. Here are a few things that each of us can do to be a better citizen and neighbor.

Call 311 to make a legitimate complaint. You can request a new tree or alert the city to dangerous tree branches, or streetlights that may be out. There are a whole host of services available to us. There should be no litter on Village Streets.

If you don’t want to pick up litter on your block, at least kick it to the curb so the street sweepers can remove it.

Since so many people purchase items online, tear down your boxes to help your building supers so they can be put out neatly for pick up.

Businesses and residents should take responsibility for keeping the sidewalks in front of their property neat and clean. It’s a sad reflection on a business or residence to have dirty sidewalks and garbage in front. Even if it is not yours, you are responsible for it.

Know which days are garbage pick-up days on your block and which night is appropriate to leave large pieces of furniture out for next day pick up. Join your block association. If your block does not have one, start one. Change, whether we like it or not, is inevitable. You can choose to live in the past or accept the present and try to enjoy it the best you can. Many people in the world would give anything to live here. Greenwich Village is still one of the most tolerant, creative and liberal places on earth with movie theaters, Off Broadway and Off Off Broadway Theaters, concert and jazz venues, some of the best restaurants and cafes in the world and a waterfront where we can watch the sunset whenever we choose. It ain’t all bad, my friends, it ain’t all bad.
Hair—The Dawning of the Age of Aquarius

By Robert Heide

I was in a state of shock when I picked up the New York Times to read that James Rado whom I always regarded over the years as a good friend and cohort in the theatre had passed away at age 90. The day of his death, June 21, 2022 was also the longest day of the year. I often saw Jimmy in the good old days in Hoboken where he lived. Many incidents and memories of late come flashing into my mind such as watching a performance of Hair in Central Park, sitting with him as he furiously scribbled notes on a yellow pad and afterwards joining my partner John Gilman and another colleague, Larry Myers and going up on stage for the ‘be-in’, audience and cast dancing together, shouting and singing. We, my partner John Gilman and I, sat together again with Jimmy and his long time friend Andy Coughlin at another production of Hair, this one in the East Village, with a cast of ‘old-timers’ that included the three sisters Jayne Anne, Eloise and Mary Lou, of the storied Harris family theatre tribe—one of their brothers was Hibiscus, the founder of The Cockettes and another, Michael Walter, was in the original cast of Hair on Broadway.

One pre-pandemic Hallowee’en, found us having supper with Jimmy at the Waverly Restaurant on 6th Avenue, where two of our WestView News colleagues turned up, the stunning Dusty Berke in a white, lace Miss Havisham ‘wedding’ gown covered with fake black widow spiders and the AIDS fighter Kambiz Shekdar PhD. There were many significant events that brought us together in recent years including two at La Mama etc., one in 2017 celebrating the musical Fountainhead and the anniversary of the 50th year of Hair, together at the Waverly Restaurant on 6th Avenue, where two of his best friends, Gerome Ragni and James Rado who had worked for years on the story and lyrics, joined forces with composer Galt MacDermot. The three of them proposed the musical to Joseph Papp, as the premier presentation of the new Public Theatre on Astor Place where it opened October 17, 1967. After an eight week run there a producer named Michael Butler opened the musical at a nightclub on West 53rd Street for a limited run. Ragni and Rado did extensive rewrite and with the addition of the La Mama Acting Troupe director Tom O’Horgan, the musical opened on April 29, 1968 at the Biltmore Theatre. With an almost completely unknown cast (two of my friends were in it, Michael Walter Harris, and Marjorie Lipari—whose brother Victor had been in my play Moon at the Caffe Cino) the show received raves led by New York Times critic Clive Barnes who declared it “brilliant, fresh, sweet, new, subtle,” and “sheer fun.” Some other critics, in the minority, expressed shock, horror and indignation. It ran for 1,750 performances and concurrently ‘standing’ shows opened all over the country, and eventually, the world. Marge Lipari told me that “it has been seen by billions” and “it has affected the lives of millions.” 1968 was, not insignificantly, the year Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated. After being shot by Valerie Solanas even Andy Warhol died that spring, but was fortunately revived on the operating table. Riots, looting, and burning occurred in over one hundred cities. There were anti-Vietnam War demonstrations and riots in Chicago at the Democratic National Convention. The Beatles psychedelic movie Yellow Submarine opened and young people were seeking self-discovery with gurus in India, and with mind-altering drugs of every description like marijuana, mescaline, hashish, LSD, uppers, downers, methamphetamine, and more. “Where’s Harry” was the question I heard often from Jimmy or Jerry looking for dramatist H. M. Koutoukas who lived across Christopher Street from me—he was their sometime inspiration and, as well, their main drug connection.

Hair was about pharmacological experimentation as well as sexual liberation, opposition to the Vietnam War, racial integration, and just plain joy at being alive. The anti hero Claude was played by Jimmy who ended up burning his draft card—Jerry played Berger, his best friend, a high school drop out—Jimmy later said about his relationship with Jerry “We put the drama between us onstage” and has also been quoted as saying he was “omnisexual.” The other characters of the ‘tribe’ which was obviously antiestablishment, and definitely pro-love, pro-drugs, and pro-sex were played by many including Diane Keaton, Robert I Rubinsky, Lynn Kellogg, Jonathan Kramer, Melba Moore, Shelly Pimpont, the aforementioned Marjorie Lipari and Michael Walter Harris, the later the youngest cast member who dropped out after a year to join his brother Hibiscus to celebrate the real ‘flower power’ hippie revolution going on in San Francisco. In the show the actors attended be-ins, scared tourists, protested at draft induction centers, smoked pot, mingled with the audience and took off all their clothes for a bit. And they sang the songs that told the story and among them is Hair, recorded by the Cowsills, which became the biggest single of their careers, the rock hymn Aquarius which with the show’s finale The Flesh Failure—Let the Sun Shine In, were both huge hits for the Fifth Dimension, Good Morning Sunshine recorded by Oliver, Easy to Be Hard, a hit for Three Dog Night, Ain’t Got No and I Got Life, a medley performed by Nina Simone, Husbib, Solomyn, Air (about air pollution), Frank Mills, Colored Spade—Dedicated to: Aunt Jimina, Stepin’ Felitchit, and Amin’ n’ Andy, and What a Piece of Work is Man? with lyrics from Shakespeare!!

Men landed on the moon a year later in 1969, the Village hosted the birth of gay pride at Stonewall, music and social interaction blended astoundingly at Woodstock Through the years I attended the famed parties and salons held at Tom O’Horgan’s (“the Busby Berkeley of the Acid set”) loft at 840 Broadway at 13th Street where I met people from the show who remained one big tribal family, and Norman Mailer, Beverly Sils, and Susan Strasberg among many others. Throughout the turbulent years of 1967, ’68, ’69 and ’70 I continued working off Broadway at the Caffe Cino, La Mama, Theater for the New City and other venues with John Gilman and Linda Eskenas on my plays Moon and At War With The Mongols, both of which were performed, at one point, on a double bill at the Cherry Lane Theatre. My plays, Robert Heide 25 Plays are published by and can be ordered from Fast Books in Silverton, Oregon fastbook-press.com and at Amazon.

Dana Costantino
Creative Productions Presents:
“Taurean Tags and the Phoenix Rises”
A Solo Fine Art Exhibition Featuring
AnnCharlotte Tavolacci

Curated by Marissa Gouldsbury of VAS Gallery and Designs

Village Works Gallery
90 E, 3rd St. NYC
8/19/22 5pm-10pm

TWO OL’ PALS, James Rado (left) with Robert Heide, together at the Waverly Restaurant on Sixth Avenue after the Halloween Parade, 2019. Photo by John Gilman.
Bonfires of the American Dream

By Daniel Shaviro

As William Faulkner famously wrote: “The past is never dead. It's not even past.” Public food fights about such topics as the 1619 Project, and what we should teach children about the history of American slavery and racism, reflect this assertion’s truth. It’s not just that owning the past gives you more control over the present. In addition, what we were like as a country is likely to have a great deal in common with what we are like. Such continuity over time makes cultural studies a powerful tool for understanding our present, not just our past.

In my new book, Bonfires of the American Dream in American Rhetoric, Literature, and Film, I therefore can take an enjoyably circuitous route towards addressing the question: Why are things so awful in the United States today, in so many dimensions? For example, how could social solidarity have so collapsed that we cannot even cooperate in fighting a pandemic? And what cultural factors, including but not limited to racism, have made us the type of country in which, for example, the rates of infant mortality and food insecurity significantly exceed those in peer countries?

In a word (or rather two), I think a large contributing factor is what we call the “American Dream”—the view holding that anyone can succeed, through hard work backed by the requisite intelligence, self-discipline, and talent. Today this is false for many Americans, held back by narrowing economic opportunity and by the barriers of race, gender, and class. But it also helps us to keep it together in our day to day. Who or what represents the BOH for you? For some of us it can be our family, our spiritual beliefs, for others it may be our dreams or our art. With a unique and creative perspective, we are seeking for work that provides inspiration on what this unseen force looks like on your life.

The exhibition will be up for the whole month of August.

Curated by Fernanda Uribe & Matteo Prodani

The restaurant industry has always been a backbone of NYC. We are all deeply connected to it directly or indirectly. As servers, bartenders, or diners, we experience the life of this city through its existence. And it is through it that many of us freelancers, artists and dreamers can afford to live in this magical—yet very expensive island.

The back of house, or BOH, is a term used for the behind-the-scenes action that happens in a restaurant. It is the unseen force that holds everything together.

In a broader view, the BOH becomes a metaphor. One of many examples of what helps us to keep it together in our day to day. Who or what represents the BOH for you? For some of us it can be our family, our spiritual beliefs, for others it may be our dreams or our art. With a unique and creative perspective, we are seeking for work that provides inspiration on what this unseen force looks like on your life.

The exhibition will be up for the whole month of August.

Fernanda Uribe-Horta Studio Inc
67 West St. Suite, Brooklyn, NY 11222
+1 9172508004
Fernanda.uribe@gmail.com
Monkey Pox continued from page 1

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Five days later, WHO advised that men who have sex with men temporarily limit their number of sexual partners. Men who have sex with men account for 98% of cases worldwide.

The following guidance is taken directly from NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOH) at nyc.gov/site/health/health-topics/monkeypox.page:

COMMON SYMPTOMS:
• The most common symptom of Monkey Pox is a rash or sores over the whole body or certain parts including inside the mouth, genitals or anus for two to four weeks.
• Scarring of the eye, mouth, anus or urethra can also occur.

MONKEY POX MODE OF TRANSMISSION:
• Sex including oral, anal and vaginal sex.
• Hugging, kissing, cuddling and massage.
• Coming in contact with bedding or other items that have the virus on them during or after intimate activity.
• Other intimate activities.

MONKEY POX INFECTION RISK & PREVENTION:
• Having sex or other intimate contact with multiple or anonymous people (such as those met through social media, dating apps, or at parties) can increase your risk of exposures.
• Chubs, raves, saunas, sex parties and other places with skin-to-skin or face-to-face contact with many people may also increase your risk of exposure, especially if people are wearing less clothing.
• If you or your partners are sick with Monkey Pox, especially if you or they have a new or unexpected rash or sores, do not have sex or close physical contact. Avoid clubs, parties or gatherings until you have talked to a health care provider.
• If you choose to have sex while sick with Monkey Pox, avoid kissing and other face-to-face contact. Also, cover all sores with clothing or sealed bandages. This may help reduce—but not eliminate—the risk of transmission.
• Wash your hands, sex toys and bedding before and after sex or other intimate activities.

HOW TO PROTECT OTHERS IF YOU HAVE MONKEY POX:
• Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked by a provider.
• Stay home and separate from other people in your household.
• If you cannot fully separate from others in your household, wear a face mask and avoid physical contact. Wear clothing that covers your lesions when in shared spaces.
• If you must leave home for essential needs or medical care, cover your rash and lesions with clothing and wear a face mask.
• Do not share or let others touch your clothing, towels, bedding or utensils. Do not share a bed.
• Do not share dishes, food, drink or utensils. Wash dishes with warm water and soap or in a dishwasher.
• Wash your hands and clean shared surfaces, such as countertops and doorknobs, often. Household members should also wash their hands often, especially if they touch materials or surfaces that may have come in contact with lesions.

U.S. and state officials are working to make Monkey Pox vaccines available as soon as possible. To get text alerts about vaccination appointments and other monkeypox updates for NYC, text “MONKEYPOX” to 692-692. Currently, to qualify for a vaccine in NYC you must meet all of the following criteria: 1) be gay, bisexual, or other a man who has sex with men, and/ or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary, 2) have had multiple or anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days, and 3) be 18 years of age or older.

NYC DOHMH must be commended for being transparent and sharing up-to-the-minute factual information about Monkey Pox. A natural human response to any infectious disease is the fear of catching it. Panic ensued during the height of AIDS because useful and actionable information about risk and prevention was not available. Unlike AIDS, Monkey Pox is not deadly and stockpiles of vaccines already exist. Especially during this crucial window where the community’s actions can impact the trajectory of the new pandemic, accurate, timely and complete information is vital for individuals and our community to make the most informed decisions.

While it is unfortunate that we have to deal with a new infectious disease after four decades of AIDS and on the heels of COVID, there is much reason for optimism. Science and technology are making breakthrough advances at record speed. Just look at how the world developed and deployed multiple vaccines for coronavirus within a year since the emergence of COVID-19. Similarly, whereas once AIDS was a certain death sentence, a steady trickle of patients have now been cured of AIDS using innovative stem cell therapies. The first patient ever cured of AIDS was reported more than 15 years ago in 2007. Just last month on July 27, 2022, the 4th and 5th patients were reported cured. Whereas today we may be living with infectious disease, including sexually transmitted disease such as HIV/AIDS, herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis and now Monkey Pox and others yet to come, I am certain we are not too far away from a world without any of these. What is needed is a national response that is as swift, vigorous and unabating to research, develop and implement globally accessible treatments and cures.

Village Diary:
Brother Ben is Missing

By Pago Habitanis *

The last time I saw my elusive friend Brother Ben was late spring in Washington Square. He was headed east on his skateboard and I was headed west on foot. I was curious to solve the mystery of his “home address,” which he had just given me in terms of latitude and longitude: N 40.43.9708’ and W 74.60.6098’.

Ben, who enjoys a good riddle or conundrum, said I would find his “address” clearly displayed somewhere along Hudson River Park. He explained that, since he came from a long line of seafarers, conventional street addresses were just too landlocked and unimaginative.

That evening it didn’t take long for me to spot his “address” in navigational numeration on a sign for Drift In, the garden restaurant and bar across from the Christopher Street Pier. I’ve since found out that Drift In and sister restaurants are all on boats, next to water, or at least sport a nautical theme.

Anyone who has followed this diary column over the past nine months will know I only see Brother Ben occasionally when he seems to appear out of nowhere. He’s generous in sharing observations about life in the Village, both present and past, factual as well as imaginative.

As late spring became mid-summer I realized it had been far too long since I’d seen Brother Ben. I missed our chats and began to wonder what might have happened to him. My first thought was to return to spots in the Village where I’d seen him before: Washington Square; Hudson Park Library; Barrow Street School of Music; the Garden at St. Luke in the Fields; West 4th Street from Sheridan Square northward to Westbeth and the Bus Stop Cafe, and the length of Hudson River Park. Brother Ben was nowhere to be found.

I had just about given up hope when one day recently I was sitting in Abingdon Square. A woman of robust appearance sat on the next bench and began to whistle a tune I recognized. It was something I’d heard Brother Ben sing, and I began to remember the words:

Down, down,
Let us go down,
Down to the river
Where the poor folk drown.

Up, up,
Let us go up,
Up to the rooftop
Where the rich folk sup.

Asking the woman’s pardon, I inquired how she knew that tune. She answered, “We used to sing it when I was a child a few blocks from here on Gansevoort Street.” I explained that I had learned the song from a friend called Brother Ben, who seemed to have a long history in the neighborhood. Maybe she knew him?

Introducing ourselves, the woman gave her name as Mary Sullivan. Most of her childhood friends were long gone, she said, but she professed some curiosity about Ben. I described him as best I could: tall, of indeterminate age, youthful in spirit but also wise to the ways of the world. He usually wore a black cassock and camel-hair coat in the winter and dashikis in the summer.

Mary thought for a moment and then said, “Perhaps I can help you. I’ll contact my sources and see what I can find out.” With that she was gone before I could ask any more questions.

Out of curiosity I googled her. It turns out there was a prominent Mary Sullivan, one of the first female detectives in the New York Police Department. And she was born on Gansevoort Street in 1878. Now, there’s a conundrum Brother Ben would appreciate.

Needless to say, if any reader of this diary can offer clues to the whereabouts of Brother Ben, communication through the WestView News would be much appreciated.

“Village Resident” otherwise known as T. P. Miller.

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Rockefeller University alumnus and biotech inventor Kamibiz Shoakar, Ph.D., is the president of Research Foundation to Cure AIDS and Science & LGBTQ editor at WestView News. To support RFTCA, go to https://rftca.org/.
A BLUE JAY frolicking at the Bathing Rock in Central Park. Photo by Keith Michael.

By Keith Michael

A lightning flash. Bang. Crack. How I love summer thunderstorms! When it’s hot and humid, the air seems to thicken as the sunlight is sucked behind darkening clouds. Then, I hope for the flashing, rumbling, and trees thrashing in the wind to begin. Of course, I’m thinking of being able to run safely inside somewhere to watch the storm (or at least dash under a sidewalk construction shed) not being stranded on a beach as a lightning target or clinging high in a tree chancing to survive.

I often think about the weather extremes that birds endure in the course of a year. Their small bodies have the resilience to withstand the blizzards of winter, the heat waves of summer, and all the eccentric variations of wind, water, and temperature in between. But right now, it’s hot.

Birds don’t have the luxury of flipping on their air-conditioners to cool down, though their outdoor strategies are similar to ours. Shifting their schedules to be most active in the early morning and evening hours when it’s cooler helps. Many birds nest early in the spring to try to concentrate the Sisyphean efforts of feeding chicks before the triple-tiered fountain will be lined with pigeons, sparrows, starlings, and fancier local birds chilling in the cascading water.

My absolute favorite spot in Manhattan to watch bathing birds is the Bathing Rock at the southeast corner of The Pool in Central Park near West 103rd Street. Yes, it’s a man-made waterfall, but the pitch and depth of the water burbling through a variety of wading pools on the natural rock is intoxicating to birds. This spot should be studied by landscape architects as a perfect confluence of human aesthetics and avian desires.

It’s summer. Slow down, turn off your phone, and go watch birds cooling off. You’ll be cooler because you did.

Visit keithmichaelny.com or follow @newyorkcitywild on Instagram.

Embrace the Absurd

By Siggy Raible

Choice: when is an individual’s right to choose an accepted right? Today, the meanings of choice and life are up for grabs and increasingly in conflict with our country’s ideals—the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—as expressed in our Declaration of Independence.

For instance, to be mandated to wear a mask to protect the health of all human life during the era of COVID is considered by many people in the United States to be an intrusion on their individual rights. It is argued that the right to wear a mask should be left up to the individual. I would argue that your right not to wear a mask should not adversely impact my life.

Now, compare this perceived right to unmask to two recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions rendered during the last week of June: the right to an abortion and the right to bear arms in public.

First, there is the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. This decision, rendered in a six-three vote, overturns a right long-held (almost 50 years) whereby women/persons of childbearing age could decide whether to terminate a pregnancy. Without getting into the weeds of the decision, suffice it to say that states will now determine whether, and how a pregnancy is to be terminated. The right of a woman (herein I will use woman to also refer to “persons of childbearing age”) to determine what happens to her body won’t be hers, but rather the precinct of state legislators.

During the same week, in New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen, the same court ruled again in a six-three decision that law-abiding citizens of New York State should not be required to show proper cause to carry a concealed pistol in public. The court ruled that states cannot impinge on the Second Amendment right to bear arms, whether in the home or in public. Well, it seems to me that, my right to life, free from the fear of a pistol-packaging mama (or more likely, papa), is impinged upon unless I too decide to carry. (Which brings up the next question, is my pistol the equivalent to your AR15?)

Speaking of the Second Amendment, why does any individual need to carry a firearm in public? The amendment reads as follows: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” Today we have several levels of well-regulated militias—federal, state, and local policing authorities. So, I would argue, why in heaven’s name do we need more armed men and women when we presumably have enough deputized men and women who carry weapons and are empowered to carry out the laws we had a hand in creating? Does right make might, or might make right?

So, for your consideration I offer the following conundrum: Why is it that we find acceptable the fact that individual decision-making is okay when masks are involved, not acceptable when a woman’s body is at issue, and acceptable for those who choose to bear arms (in a country where we all presumably live under the rule of law)? Embrace the Absurd!

Strokes of Genius

Lee Krasner Helen Frankenthaler Elaine de Kooning

STROKES OF GENIUS a new play

“Strokes of Genius is a new play about the abstract expressionist painters Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, and Helen Frankenthaler, who struggled to be recognized in a patriarchal art world, overshadowed by their famous husbands, Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. Told through their own words, this memory play explores their courage, perseverance, and creative process, as they prepare for the ground-breaking “9th Street Show” in 1951 Greenwich Village. Written and directed by Prasad Paul Duffy, this world premiere plays September 13-18, 2022 at Theater for the New City, 155 First Ave. For more information visit www.dreamupfestival.org

Visit keithmichaelny.com or follow @newyorkcitywild on Instagram.
Failure is an Option

By Jacob Jansen,
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Being a physical therapist for more than a decade, I have come to terms with the fact that not all patients will be able to reach their full potential and return to their prior level of function. Recovery after an injury or surgery is difficult and often requires intense physical activity to regain mobility and muscle loss. Despite knowing the importance of physical activity, many do not embrace it in a way to have a meaningful impact. There are several barriers limiting incorporation of daily physical activity into our lives: time, motivation, lack of results, injury, boredom, difficulty; the list goes on. Sadly, for many, failure becomes an option.

The good news is there are things we can do to maximize our chances of success. Each barrier to physical activity has an answer to help overcome it. If a lifetime of independence and mobility is important to you, then you must integrate physical activity into your daily discipline to maximize potential throughout the lifespan.

If there is not enough time, find a way to make some. Start with just 10 minutes of physical activity everyday for two weeks. It will eventually have an impact and grow. As physical challenges start getting easier as a result of the new routine, use this for the motivation to continue growing forming a strong foundation. Lack of results is usually a result of short-sighted vision. Change takes time, and the best and most lasting type of change for the body is slow and steady. Modify goals into smaller sub-goals to help create the feeling of continued achievement.

Many people want to rush to get results, but end up derail their program with chronic soreness, overtraining, and injury. Patience is important to success with an exercise program, as there will be disruptions at some point down the road. Existing injuries may limit full activity. It is important to discuss with your doctor or physical therapist about program modification to avoid exacerbating an existing injury. There are many work-arounds for people with injuries and disabilities, it is just a matter of finding what works and is safe.

Over time, it is possible to lose interest in an exercise program. Take an exercise class, join a walking group, watch fitness content online for new ideas, hire an expert. Find a way to embrace physical activity. Exercise can be challenging, but it doesn’t have to be. It is important when starting out to make it easy on yourself. Start with a small foundation and build.

Here are three exercises to create a strong foundation.

**SIT TO STAND**
- Begin close to edge of chair
- Lean forward and rise to standing
- Slowly return to sitting
- Repeat for 3 sets of 10 repetitions
- Use your arms or raise the seat height as needed

**HIGH KNEE MARCHING**
- Standing upright, lift your knee to belt level
- Slowly lower and repeat on the other side
- Repeat for 3 sets of 10 repetitions
- Use your arms for support as needed

**MINI SQUATS WITH REACHING OVERHEAD**
- Bend your knees into a comfortable mini squat
- Stand tall reaching arms overhead
- Repeat for 3 sets of 10 repetitions
- Have a solid structure near for balance support as needed

Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot!

By Dana Jean Costantino

The past two weeks in New York City, we have experienced record-breaking summer heat: temperatures of nearly 100 degrees multiple days in a row. While many of us love the heat, others have a harder time dealing with it. While many of us love the heat, others have a harder time dealing with it.

Below I explore some tips and tricks for staying cool while the “Summer Sun” is shining!

1 – DRINK LOTS OF WATER…
Personally, I tend to struggle with this one but, on average on days as hot as these, most of us should be drinking between four and eight, eight-ounce glasses of water per day (height and weight play a factor in how much we should consume).

2 – ICE BATH…
Fill your bathtub with cool water and drop in some ice cubes along with several drops of lemon and orange essential oils. This will not only help you keep cool but will give you soothing feel for your muscles and mind.

3 – FRESH FRUIT ICE POPS…
Buy a do-it-yourself ice pop mold and blend water, fresh berries and juice. Pour into the molds and place in the freezer. Healthy and delicious as well as cooling and fun!

4 – GO TO THE LIBRARY…
Library is opened 1-5pm on Sundays.

Enjoy one of the many gorgeous NYC parks, such as Hudson River Park. You can Kayak for free, sit under the shade of a tree and have a picnic and if you are a kid or young at heart, you can run through the joyful waterpark at Pier 51.

Stay Cool My Friends and Enjoy the Second Half of Summer.
Summer-loving New Yorker’s True Confession

By Penelope Karageorge

Summer in New York. You raise your perspective head to breathe, but soot gets in your nostrils. Millions spend millions to escape, fleeing for the French Riviera or the nearer, but almost as difficult to reach, sands of the Hamptons. I wish a fond adieu to these escapees, and exult in having more of the city to myself, a secret vice one is almost loathe to admit to, like a preference for warm Coca-Cola or strange sexual quirks.

Summer was the season when I first discovered New York and Greenwich Village. My sister Helen was sharing a studio apartment with two other women at 110 Bank Street. As a recent college graduate, I arrived with my suitcase for an overnight visit, but was graciously invited to move in with them, making it four gals in an un-airconditioned studio. How could I leave? The city was rife with possibilities.

The building itself would prove a communal beehive of existential angst. On the elevator, one asked a fellow traveler, “How are you?” and you really wanted to know. This was precious to me, along with what I expected the city to be: loaded with seekers of the Holy Grail that only NYC could offer.

At night the apartment’s stifling heat necessitated cool walks around the Village, whose streets offered an abundance of entertainment with fascinating characters, bearded weirdos, as well as beautiful women and men. Of course, I fell in love with an aspiring novelist who paid a pittance for his apartment on MacDougal Street. (I do not remember Ed’s last name.) He had little to say but communicated with his dark blue eyes. Somewhat, I considered his lack of articulation sexy and deep—Villagey. The women in the House of Detention would scream down at us from their open windows. The White Horse Tavern, where I learned to drink dark beer, was a favorite stop. Who needed ocean breezes when all these possibilities of exploration and flirtation were available?

Back in the apartment, we kept the lights low and played music, West Side Story and Candide being the records of choice. The apartment was strictly pre-television. Nobody made enough money to buy a TV, and who wanted to look at one when so much was happening outside our door, and inside? One of the roommates, a would-be ballerina who worked at Macy’s, met a brilliant physicist who worked at Bell Labs at the incinerator. Later, we were all treated to a wedding.

Although I moved uptown eventually, the Village has remained one of my favorite destinations. I no longer drink, but that does not rule out a visit to the White Horse. The Morgan Library, just a few blocks from where I live, has opened a garden, and MOMA is offering a special Matisse exhibit, good for a third and even fourth visit. I plan to embark on some new ferry rides, and I’m working on self-publishing a mystery novel, “Lovers and Other Killers.” If you check out my website you can learn more about it.

Journalist Penelope Karageorge's articles have appeared in publications ranging from Cosmopolitan to Odyssey magazine. She is the author of two novels, “Murder at Tomorrow” (Walker) and “Stolen Moments” (Pinnacle Books), and two poetry collections, “Red Lipstick and the Wine-Dark Sea” (Pella Publishing) and “The Neon Suitcase” (Somerset Hall Press).
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